

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Present** Jane Hartley (Chair of Amenities), Isabelle Bray, Matt Walker, Pat Sutlieff, Rob Jones and Neil Durrant (Caretaker)

**Apologies**

**Absent** Narinder Ryatt

- 23/685 OPEN FORUM** – Two residents attended. One requested the Council consider improving the facilities for the youth. The village is becoming much more vibrant and young with additional homes yet there has been no provision of new equipment for youngsters. The park at East Park Farm is deteriorating and depressing. Simon Bartlam of Wokingham Borough Council previously created a forest school for the primary school and has suggested that now it is not used that the area be flattened and possibly changed into a bike track. The Councillors thanked the resident for attending and will consider the request.
- 23/686 To approve the Minutes of Amenities Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at the Charvil Village Hall** – The minutes were approved by the committee and signed by Cllr Hartley as Chair of Amenities.
- 23/687 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE ASSISTANT CLERK** – None.
- 23/688 Review the Usage Reports for the Facilities.**  
The numbers are tracking in line and look positive. Tennis pass numbers are where they are expected for this time of the year. The fixtures for the football matches are yet to be received.
- 23/689 Consider Park Inspection Weekly Reports**  
These have been received, reports of graffiti on various pieces of equipment and fencing and a post on the corner of the East Park Farm park is rotten but not causing a hazard. The graffiti is being removed as quickly as possible after it is reported.
- Other items for consideration**
- 23/690 To approve the change of operating hours at the East Park Farm car park to winter timings (open 7am and close 6pm) to start in October half term when the clocks go back.**  
This was approved by the committee and the change to come into effect the Sunday of the clock change. It was requested the change be advertised on social media with a few reminders before the date so ensure maximum coverage of the new timing.

- 23/691 To note the acts of recent vandalism – graffiti, broken fence rail, damaged tennis court fencing and the fire damage to the path outside the pavilion.**  
The committee was informed of issues and that they had been reported to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team at Wokingham Borough Council, it was also confirmed that some of the damage had been reported to the police. The committee were informed that the contractors working at the pavilion had offered to make repairs to the path outside the pavilion and to assist in replacing the broken fence rail. In future it was suggested it may be worth considering logging all vandalism problems to the police via the online tool.
- 23/692 To note the latest status of the refurbishment of the pavilion and estimated reopening date.**  
The committee heard that the refurbishment project was on schedule and that the building is set to reopen w/c 25<sup>th</sup> September. There are a few minor setbacks – it is not possible to have the sophisticated thermostats for the heating without a complete rewire of the building so plan will revert to individual heating controls, parts for the permanent solution for the step between the showers and changing rooms has not arrived yet, there is a temporary measure in place until the part arrives. The painting of the outside of the building will commence w/c 25<sup>th</sup> September and some external drain work needs to be completed. The full drainage change is not required, after investigation it was found that a faulty valve had been causing some of the blockages issues, all such valves in the building will be changed to avoid future problems.
- 23/693 To formulate a plan for the redevelopment/possible relocation of the children's play park at East Park Farm and the possible development of the land alongside it (behind the lime trees).**  
A unanimous decision to revamp the park was reached, whether this take the form of replacement of equipment where the park is located currently or a complete redevelopment of the park and location to be investigated further. A working party is to be set up to provide an options appraisal to include rough idea of cost, what set up (equipment & location) works best and what funding or grants may be available. Working party will be led by Pat Sutlieff and aided by Isabelle Bray and Matt Walker, Assistant Clerk will assist the group. All ideas to be listed and those not applicable to the play park can be considered for other areas in the village and added as potential ideas to the Five Year Plan. Group to give a status update at the next meeting.
- 23/694 A brief discussion on the action for members of the committee to consider any facilities or areas in need of repair / improvement in preparation for the winter budget meeting.**  
The chair ran through a list of areas that had been highlighted in previous discussions some of which are routine maintenance for the facilities and some that come under investment possibilities. Cllr Hartley to circulate the list to all committee members, the clerk and assistant clerk so the items can be considered/added to in time for the budget discussions.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm