

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held at the Oakwood Centre
on Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 8 pm**

Present: *Councillors D. Bragg (Chairman); K. Baker; G. Bello; A. Chadwick; K. Charles Bey; J. Cheng; Y. Edwards; D. Errawalla; M. Firmager; K. Gilder; L. Guttridge; M. Holmes; R. Horskins; C. Jewell; V. Lewis; M. Nagra; B. Rowland; J. Sartorel; P. Singh; B. Soane; A. Swaddle; J. Taylor*

Officers present: *K. Murray, Town Clerk; M. Filmore, Deputy Town Clerk;*

Also present: *8 members of the public*

1. *Before the meeting commenced, representatives from the following organisations, who were awarded a Community Grant at the Strategy & Resources Committee meeting held on 16 April 2024, addressed the Council to provide details of the projects their grants will go towards funding:*

- *Woodley Bowling Club*
- *Woodley Festival of Music & Arts*
- *Woodley Photographic Club*

Councillor Sartorel adjourned the meeting to enable photos to be taken of the grant recipients. Four members of the public left the meeting.

2. *A maximum of 30 minutes was set aside before the start of the meeting for members of the public to pose questions to the Council in the Town Forum. As there were no members of the public wishing to address the Council the Town Forum did not take place.*
3. *Prior to the meeting Sally Gibson (Manager – Keep Mobile) addressed the Council to provide an update on the organisation’s activities.*

Sally provided Members with the background of the charity and that they provide four main door-to-door services; Dial-a-Ride, shopping trips, day excursions, and group transport.

Membership for life costs £1, with a £12 per annum rate for Dial-a-Ride membership and £24 to include excursions. Keep Mobile have an agreement with Wokingham Borough Councils for users to be able to pay for trips with their bus passes; it was noted Bracknell Forest Borough Council do not permit this.

It was noted that the number of transport requests refused by the organisation has increased in recent years, with the organisation unable to meet an increase in demand. Sally explained that this was mainly due to Council’s cutting spend on public transport, increased awareness of the organisation’s services from marketing activities, and people are living longer. It was noted that Keep Mobile face no challenge recruiting drivers, and currently have a waiting list.

Councillor Sartorel thanked Sally for attending the meeting. Two members of the public left the meeting.

4. **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR**

The existing Mayor, Councillor Sartorel, addressed the Council. She noted this was the end of her third and final year as Mayor, during which time she had met and interacted with so many people, and stated it had been an honour to serve the residents of Woodley. She thanked Council Officers for their support during her tenure, along with the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Anderson. Councillor Sartorel also highlighted that, during the past year, £1,546.35 had been raised for her chosen Mayor's Charity, Woodley Lunch Bunch, thanking those who supported her event.

The Councillor Sartorel called for nominations for the office of Town Mayor for 2024/25.

It was proposed by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Swaddle and

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To elect Councillor Anderson to the office of Town Mayor of Woodley for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Voting: For: 21 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 1

It was noted that Councillor Anderson was absent for this meeting and, in light of this, Councillor Sartorel advised Members that she would continue to chair the meeting until the Deputy Town Mayor is elected.

Councillor Sartorel read out a pre-prepared speech from the newly elected Mayor, Councillor Anderson, thanking Members for her election.

5. **TOWN MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Sartorel confirmed the Town Clerk would arrange for Councillor Anderson to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Town Mayor as soon as possible after the meeting.

6. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Anderson, Kennedy and Smith.

7. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

8. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

It was proposed by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Sartorel, and

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To elect Councillor Bragg to the office of Deputy Mayor for the 2024/25 municipal year

Voting: For: 19 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2 No Vote Registered: 1

The newly elected Deputy Mayor, Councillor Bragg took over as chair of the meeting.

9. **COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note that Councillor Charles Bey has resigned from the Labour group and is now an independent Councillor.

- ◆ To note the current composition of the Council:
 - Conservative Group – 17 Councillors
 - Labour Group - 5 Councillors
 - Liberal Democrat Group – 2 Councillors
 - Independent Councillors – 1 Councillor
- ◆ To note that the change to the composition of the Council does not impact the proportional split of Councillors on any of the Council’s existing committees.

10. **POLITICAL GROUP LEADERS**

10.1 **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillor Soane as Leader of the Conservative Group, and that no Deputy Leader would be appointed.

10.2 **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillor Taylor as Leader and Councillor Edwards as Deputy Leader of the Labour Group.

10.3 **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillor Jewell as Leader and Councillor Rowland as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.

11. **ELECTION OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL**

11.1 It was proposed by Councillor Gilder, seconded by Councillor Swaddle and

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To elect Councillor Baker as Leader of the Council for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Voting: For: 14 Against: 2 Abstentions: 5 No Vote Registered: 1

11.2 It was proposed by Councillor Gilder, seconded by Councillor Baker and

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To elect Councillor Swaddle as Deputy Leader of the Council for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Voting: For: 14 Against: 0 Abstentions: 7 No Vote Registered: 1

12. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Deputy Mayor advised Members that, if no changes were to be proposed to the terms of reference, known as Powers and Duties, of the Standing Committees then it would be expedient to approve these en masse. No Members proposed any changes and it was

12.1 **RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To approve the Powers and Duties of the three standing committees - Strategy & Resources, Leisure Services, Planning & Community - for the 2024/25 municipal year, which includes setting the number of places on each standing committee at 10.

Voting: For: 20 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 No Vote Registered: 1

12.2 **Strategy and Resources Committee**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Anderson, Baker, Bello, Chadwick, Gilder, Horskins, Kennedy, Nagra, Rowland and Swaddle to the Strategy and Resources Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year.

12.3 **Leisure Services Committee**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Edwards, Errawalla, Firmager, Gilder, Horskins, Jewell, Kennedy, Lewis and Smith to the Leisure Services Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year, with one Labour group place remaining vacant at the current time.

12.4 **Planning and Community Committee**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Baker, Bragg, Guttridge, Horskins, Jewell, Lewis, Sartorel, Singh, Soane and Taylor to the Planning and Community Committee for the 2024/25 municipal year.

13. **MEMBERSHIP OF SUB COMMITTEES, TASK & FINISH WORKING GROUPS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Under Standing Orders 6.4a, 6.5a and 6.6a respectively, members of the parent standing committees considered the terms of reference as follows:

13.1 **Strategy and Resources Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Gilder and

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the terms of reference for all committees for whom the Strategy & Resources Committee is the parent committee, as follows:
 - Investments Sub Committee – 4 places
 - Risk Management Sub Committee – 4 places
 - Standing Orders & Financial Regulations Sub Committee – 4 places
 - PR & Marketing Sub Committee – 4 places
 - Personnel Sub Committee – 4 places
 - Woodley Town Centre Partnership – 3 places (including 1 substitute)

Voting: For: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 0

13.2 **Investments Sub Committee:**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Anderson, Baker, Bello and Bragg to the Investments Sub Committee for the municipal year.

13.3 **Risk Management Sub Committee:**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Bello, Bragg, Guttridge and Horskins to the Risk Management Sub Committee for the municipal year.

13.4 **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations Sub Committee:**

RESOLVED:

- ♦ To note the appointment of Councillors Baker, Kennedy, Nagra and Swaddle to the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations Sub Committee for the municipal year.

13.5 **PR & Marketing Sub Committee:**

RESOLVED:

- ♦ To note the appointment of Councillors Baker, Errawalla, Swaddle and Taylor to the PR & Marketing Sub Committee for the municipal year.

13.6 **Personnel Sub Committee:**

RESOLVED:

- ♦ To note the appointment of Councillors Anderson, Kennedy, Singh and Soane to the Personnel Sub Committee for the municipal year.

13.7 **Woodley Town Centre Partnership:**

RESOLVED:

- ♦ To note the appointment of Councillors Baker, Holmes and Singh to the Woodley Town Centre Partnership for the municipal year.

Following a vote, it was

RESOLVED:

- ♦ To appoint Councillor Singh as a named substitute on the Woodley Town Centre Partnership for the 2024/25 municipal year.

Voting for named substitute:	For Councillor Baker: 0
	For Councillor Holmes: 0
	For Councillor Singh: 4
	Abstentions: 0
	No Vote: 4

13.8 **Leisure Services Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor Firmager, seconded by Councillor Horskins and

RESOLVED:

- ♦ To approve the terms of reference for all committees for whom the Leisure Services Committee is the parent committee, as follows:
 - Community Youth Partnership – 4 places
 - 3G Pitch Steering Group Sub Committee – 4 places
 - Woodford Park Leisure Centre Development task & finish working group – 4 places
 - Youth Support Services task & finish working group – 4 places

Voting: For: 7 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 0

13.9 **Community Youth Partnership:**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Bragg, Edwards, Gilder and Holmes to the Community Youth Partnership for the municipal year.
- ◆ To note the appointment of the following voluntary sector representatives to the Community Youth Partnership for the municipal year:
 - Graham Sumbler (Woodley Baptist Church)
 - Trina Farrance (Bulmershe Gymnastics)
 - Steve Outen (Woodley United FC)
 - Sam Milligan (Just Around the Corner)
 - Dylan Harman (1st Woodley Boys' Brigade)
 - Chas Randal (2nd Woodley Scouts)
 - Chinyere Davies (Me2 Club)

13.10 **3G Pitch Steering Group Sub Committee:**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Bragg, Firmager, Lewis and Taylor to the 3G Pitch Steering Group for the municipal year.

13.11 **WPLC Development task & finish working group:**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Horskins, Kennedy and Smith to the Woodford Park Leisure Centre Development task & finish working group for the municipal year, with one Labour group place remaining vacant at the current time.

13.12 **Youth Support Service task & finish working group:**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Edwards, Firmager, Gilder and Kennedy to the Youth Support Service task & finish working group for the municipal year.

13.13 **Planning and Community Committee**

Cycling & Walking task & finish working group:

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the terms of reference of the Cycling & Walking task & finish working group for the municipal year, including that there be 5 places on the working group, 2 for Councillors and 3 for outside organisation representatives.

Voting: For: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 2

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Jewell and Taylor to the working group for the municipal year.
- ◆ To note the appointment of the following outside organisation representatives to the working group for the municipal year:
 - Steve Vale (Loddon Valley Ramblers)
 - Karen Robertson (Cycling UK Reading)
 - Alex Cran (Reading Cycling Campaign)

13.14 **Full Council**

Annual Town Meeting Sub Committee:

A query was raised as to why this committee was determined to be a sub committee, whilst the Cycling & Walking committee was determined to be a task and finish working group, with a defined end date for its activities set. The Town Clerk advised that the Annual Town Meeting committee had been setup as a sub committee as the delegated tasks were deemed to be required every year. It was commented that task and finish working groups tend to focus on defined actions. Members noted that task and finish working groups should not be obstructed by any end date, and can recommend an extension to the respective parent committee, or even convert into a sub committee if appropriate.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To approve the terms of reference of the Annual Town Meeting Sub Committee for the municipal year, including that there be 4 places on the committee.

Voting: For: 21 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 1

- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Anderson, Edwards, Horskins and Kennedy to the working group for the municipal year.

13.15 **Bulmershe Site of Urban Landscape Value (SULV) Joint Sub Committee**

Following a query as to when this joint sub committee last met and was likely to meet again, Members noted that this was an ad hoc committee, managed jointly between Woodley and Earley Town Councils, which meets as needed to consider matters such as planning applications which may affect the SULV, in order to formulate and joint response and approach.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the terms of reference of the Bulmershe SULV Joint Sub Committee.
- ◆ To note the appointment of Councillors Errawalla and Gilder to the committee for the municipal year, with one Labour group place remaining vacant at the current time.

No substitute appointment was determined for this sub committee as only two appointments were made.

14. **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

To expedite proceedings, the Deputy Mayor proposed that nominations would initially be sought for each outside body. Where there were more nominations than places, an individual vote would take place on that specific appointment. Otherwise, at the end of all nominations being made, an overall vote would be taken on all uncontested appointments. No concerns were raised with regards to this proposal.

14.1 **ReadiBus – 1 place**

Two nominations were made to be the Town Council's representative to Readibus; Councillor Baker proposed Councillor Guttridge, whilst Councillor Jewell proposed Mr Alex Heap. Following a vote it was:

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To appoint Councillor Guttridge as the Town Council representative to Readibus
Voting for: Councillor Guttridge: 14
Mr Alex Heap: 6
Abstentions: 0
No Vote: 2

14.2 Following a vote after the nomination of all other for outside body representatives, which were uncontested, it was

RESOLVED:

◆ To appoint the following Town Council representatives to outside bodies:

Voting: For: 19 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 No Vote Registered: 2

14.3 **ARC – 2 places**

Councillor Gilder and Mrs S. Flower

14.4 **Citizens Advice Wokingham – 1 place**

Councillor Lewis

14.5 **Friends of Woodford Park Committee – 1 place**

Councillor Horskins

14.6 **Highwood Management Conference – 2 places**

Councillors Gilder and Holmes

14.7 **Keep Mobile – 1 place**

Councillor Guttridge

14.8 **Poor's Land Charity – 2 places to serve until 2028**

Mrs S. Flower; 1 vacant place not appointed to

14.9 **Robert Palmer Almshouse Charity – 1 place to serve until 2028**

Councillor Bragg

14.10 **Sonning & District Welfare & Education Trust – 1 place**

Councillor Smith

14.11 **Wokingham Borough/Parish Working Group – 1 place**

Councillor Kennedy

14.12 **Woodley Bowling Club Management Committee – 1 place**

Councillor Gilder

14.13 **Woodley Volunteer Centre – 1 place**

Councillor Kennedy

14.14 Continuing representation on the following outside bodies was noted:

Poor's Land Charity – 2 places

Councillors Gilder and Holmes serving until 2026

15. **CHEQUE SIGNATORIES**

It was proposed by Councillor Baker, seconded by Councillor Gilder and

RESOLVED:

◆ To appoint Councillors Baker, Bragg, Kennedy and Swaddle as signatories to sign cheques and transfers on behalf of the Council for the municipal year.

Voting: For: 21 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 1

16. **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2024**

The Deputy Town Mayor presented the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 February 2024.

16.1 **Minutes 78.4 – Strategy & Resources Committee minutes: 23 January 2024**

In respect of discussions surrounding improving play equipment at Wheble Park, a query was raised regarding the comments made at the Strategy & Resources Committee meeting about spending money on land not owned by the Town Council. Councillor Baker responded to state that Town Council income is not infinite, with expenditure prioritised and generally limited to facilities owned by the Town Council. He noted Wheble Park is leased by the Town Council from Reading Borough Council, who have significantly more funds. He also highlighted that Reading Borough Council also own a large number of properties in the vicinity of Wheble Park, with tenants paying rent directly to them. Councillor Baker said, should the Town Council determine to spend money improving play equipment, this would require the reduction of expenditure on other, Town Council owned facilities.

Councillor Charles Bey stated that, having spoken to residents, there was an expectation that equipment is maintained and improved. He also suggested local volunteers might be sought to maintain the park. Councillor Baker stated this was a good idea and encouraged Councillor Charles Bey, as one of the relevant ward Councillors, to develop this idea, highlighting that permission might need to be sought from Reading Borough Council.

A comment was made that the Council currently spends money on Reading Road allotments which are also leased, with the service subsidised by the Town Council. Following a request that Leisure Services re-consider the matter, Members noted that the Town Clerk had already been tasked by the Strategy & Resources Committee to contact the Leader of Reading Borough Council to discuss taking on ownership of Wheble Park, after previous requests to Officers at Reading Borough Council had been turned down. The Town Clerk advised that this is captured on the actions and follow ups document for the Strategy & Resources Committee, with an update provided in due course. Members noted the previous Leader of Reading Borough Council has recently stood down, and the Town Clerk would be chasing the Deputy Leader for a response.

16.2 **Appendix D – Reports from Town Council Representatives to Outside Bodies**

Members noted that the reason Councillor Edwards had not submitted a report in relation to the Wokingham Borough Council Climate Emergency Working Group was she had not been invited to a meeting and, subsequently, the Town Council had been advised that Wokingham Borough Council have disbanded this working group.

Following a query raised about the placement of Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging points on Wheble Drive, highlighted in Councillor Kennedy's report regarding the Wokingham Borough/Parish Liaison Forum, it was agreed the placement of EV charging points should be raised as an item on the next Planning & Community Committee agenda.

16.3 Following a comment raised suggesting an internal audit report had highlighted that the Town Council was not spending as much of its reserves as it should on projects, the Town Clerk clarified that the Internal Auditor had actually commented that the Council had not been allocating enough funds to specific assets, with money instead remaining in the general reserve. Members noted that, following this report, the Council had increased its allocation to specific earmarked reserves relating to its facilities.

16.4 **RESOLVED**

- ◆ To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 February 2024 and that they be signed by the Deputy Town Mayor as a correct record.

Voting: For: 21 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Recorded: 1

17. **ACTIONS / FOLLOW UPS**

Members noted the update to actions and follow up items raised at previous meetings, as provided in the agenda.

18. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

18.1 **Minutes of the Planning and Community Committee: 27 February 2024**

Councillor Soane presented the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 27 February 2024.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 27 February 2024.

18.2 **Minutes of the Planning and Community Committee: 26 March 2024**

Councillor Soane presented the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 26 March 2024.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 26 March 2024.

18.3 **Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee: 2 April 2024**

Councillor Firmager presented the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 2 April 2024.

A comment was made that people viewing the online recording of this meeting would be unlikely to hear Members as Councillors were not individually miked. The Town Clerk confirmed the soundbar on the wall of the room was a mic suitable to capture the room, but also that, as highlighted in other meetings, options were being review to improve the sound quality, including installing sound proofing in the room.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 2 April 2024.

18.4 **Minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee: 16 April 2024**

Councillor Swaddle presented the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting held on 16 April 2024.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To adopt the updates to the Standing Orders, as set out in the agenda.
- ◆ To adopt the updated Financial Regulations, as set out in the agenda.

Voting: For: 21 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0 No Vote Registered: 1

- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Strategy & Resources Committee meeting held on 16 April 2024.

- 28.5 **Minutes of the Planning and Community Committee: 3April 2024**
Councillor Soane presented the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 23 April 2024.
- RESOLVED:**
- ◆ To receive the minutes of the Planning and Community Committee meeting held on 23 April 2024.
29. **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SUB COMMITTEE**
Councillor Horskins presented the Report No. FC 3/24 of the Annual Town Meeting sub committee meeting, which took place on 5 March 2024. It was noted the report incorrectly stated the start time as 8pm, when it was in fact held at 6pm.
- RESOLVED:**
- ◆ To note Report No. FC 3/24 of the Annual Town Meeting sub committee meeting which took place on 5 March 2024.
30. **LEADER'S STATEMENT**
Councillor Baker, as Leader of the Council, read out a statement, included at **Appendix A**.
31. It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, seconded by Councillor Baker, and
- RESOLVED:**
- ◆ That as the business would not be completed by 10pm, the meeting continue until 10:30pm in order to complete the business set out in the agenda.
- Voting: For: 20 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 No Vote Registered: 1
32. **OUTSIDE BODIES**
The Deputy Mayor advised Members that he had not provided a report for the Robert Palmer's Almshouse Charity as he had been away when the previous meeting was held and minutes had yet to be circulated.
- It was commented that half of the outside body reports requested had not been provided, and that Members should make efforts to send reports, even if this is to note that no meetings had been held for that respective outside body.
- RESOLVED:**
- ◆ To note the written reports from Town Council representatives on outside bodies provided to Members at the meeting, and included at **Appendix B**.
33. **TOWN MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS**
Members noted the details of the events which the previous year's Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor had attended since the last Full Council meeting, as provided in the agenda.
34. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
There were no suggestions for future agenda items.
35. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**
There were no suggestions for publicity or website items.

Meeting closed at 10:02 pm

LEADERS STATEMENT

Cllr Keith Baker
7th May 2024

First of all I want to pay a massive tribute to the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Janet Sartorel. After three continuous years serving the people of Woodley she is finally “passing the baton on” to a new Mayor. I think this is probably the first time we have had the same person as Mayor for 3 continuous years. She has been an amazing advocate for Woodley and all its residents and business and most certainly be a hard act to follow. But I think we have found just the right person in Cllr Juliet Anderson to continue such a high standard. I want to give my most heartfelt thanks to Janet from both a personal basis and on behalf of all woodley residents.

I also would like to welcome Cllr David Bragg who has been voted into the role of Deputy Mayor. I have known David for many years and I know he will be doing a great job standing in for Juliet. I bet he did not realise he would be doing that so soon though!

Moving on to elections. As we all know there were Borough elections last week when several of you stood for their respective parties. Can I congratulate those who were successful and commiserate those who were not. Can I gently remind you that you were elected as a Woodley Town Councillor first so I hope you do not forget where you started – here. Residents and this Town Council will still need your full attention as we navigate the next few years.

Many of you have been on the Borough before so you know the massive time pressure on your time being a councillor there puts on you. Juggling both the Town and Borough Councils will be difficult and frustrating at times and I know you will feel the strain. But it can be done.

My final advice is a simple one. There will be times when the direction of your party is different to that of the residents here in Woodley. As an experienced politician of many years, I recognise it is difficult to deviate from your parties line but Woodley residents hope that you react to their views first before the party line which could be different. I did it several times much to the annoyance of the leaders of my group so you can do it if you have the conviction to represent Woodley first.

REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

OUTSIDE BODY	APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVE/S	REPORT PROVIDED	PAGE
ARC	Cllr K. Gilder Mrs S. Flower	Yes	1
Citizens Advice Wokingham	Cllr V. Lewis	-	-
Friends of Woodford Park Committee	Cllr R. Horskins	Yes	2
Highwood Management Conference	Cllr K. Gilder Cllr M. Holmes	Yes	4
Keep Mobile	Cllr L. Guttridge	-	-
Poor's Land Charity	Cllr M. Holmes	-	-
	Cllr K. Gilder	Yes	5
	Mrs S. Flower	Yes	6
	VACANCY	-	-
ReadiBus	Mr A. Heap	Yes	7
Robert Palmer's Almshouse Charity	Cllr D. Bragg	-	-
Sonning & District Welfare & Education Trust	Cllr D. Smith	Yes	9
Wokingham Borough/Parish Liaison Forum	Cllr M. Kennedy	-	-
Woodley Bowling Club Management Committee	Cllr K. Gilder	Yes	10
Woodley Volunteer Centre	Cllr M. Kennedy	-	-

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OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVE'S FEEDBACK FORM



MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023/24

This feedback report will be provided to Members at the next Full Council meeting

Name of Outside Body	ARC
Name of Representative	Shelagh Flower
Capacity appointed; e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustee
Number of formal meetings held / invited (since last report or 1 May)	Since January 2024 - 2 meetings
Number of formal meetings attended since last report (since last report or 1 May)	1
Reasons for not attending (if attendance below 50%)	
Please give a brief overview of the Outside Body for Members:	
ARC is an Adult and Youth Counselling Service based in Wokingham, it also offers support within schools and some GP surgeries. It has a regular surgery at the Oakwood Centre. Training and support is also offered to families and teachers.	
Please give a brief synopsis of the Outside Body's activities since the last report:	
Next meeting is 22 nd April 2024. I am unable to attend as another prior commitment Previous meeting on 13 th February reported on ARC's financial position and the need to increase charges of services to schools due to general increases in costs of service. The waiting lists have reduced due to new counsellors in training. A high proportion of adults are unable to pay, a knock on effect of the increased pressures on families. Workshops on 'Anxiety' for parents of primary school children have been well attended, increase in numbers of children diagnosed with ADHD.	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful:	

Representative:	Shelagh Flower	Dated:	22 April 2024
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OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVE'S FEEDBACK FORM



MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023/24

This feedback report will be provided to Members at the next Full Council meeting

Name of Outside Body	Friends Of Woodford Park
Name of Representative	Robert Horskins
Capacity appointed; e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Appointed
Number of formal meetings held / invited (since last report or 1 May)	Two
Number of formal meetings attended since last report (since last report or 1 May)	One
Reasons for not attending (if attendance below 50%)	@50% didn't appreciate that an invite was not sent: other than being held bi-monthly. So missed it! This has now changed so that a reminder invite is sent.
Please give a brief overview of the Outside Body for Members:	
<p>The Friends of Woodford Park (FoWP) are a group of volunteers who have come together to help improve Woodford Park. Their first job, as suggested at the Liaison Committee meeting by a Councillor member, was to create the flower bed near the War Memorial, celebrating late Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday. The official opening was performed by local MP the Rt.Hon. Theresa May in June 2016. 'The RHS Britain in Bloom' recognised their community involvement in gardening achievement with top awards when entered in 2016 and 2017.</p> <p>Funding for the group has reached £7000 over the years. This has been achieved by Sponsorship from local businesses, Donations from the public and fund raising by the sales of Greeting cards with pictures of the park (as made by a volunteer) and plant sales etc. In addition, a great many of the plants in the gardens have been obtained from public gifting or offered online. Often the plants purchased are from local businesses who are happy to discount. Some of the trees were even provided free by the RHS. In the initial years FoWP hosted public bi-monthly meetings which were very successful in attendance. However, the general feedback from the public was that no results were ever seen from the council hence since co-vid these meetings have not recommenced.</p>	
Please give a brief synopsis of the Outside Body's activities since the last report:	
<p>Much has been done to the beds they have created from the War Memorial round to the new play area in the park. In the yearly years FoWP maintained the Garden of Remembrance, but the Grounds staff now maintain and have reworked this area.</p>	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful:	
<p>This group of volunteers are a real asset to Woodley: not just Woodford Park! David Provins founded the group at the suggestion of the Deputy Town Clerk. Agreement being confirmed by the Leisure Services Committee in September 2015. The group does a great deal to encourage intergroup working: with The Rotary Group, Scouts and the local Sage company day volunteers. FoWP also liaise with Town Council Staff and the many members of the public that stop and speak. While FoWP volunteers carry out a great deal of gardening work in Woodford Park throughout the country Friends' groups are established as independent volunteer groups</p>	

with the purpose of being the principal forum for discussing views about a park and promoting more effective, beneficial usage to the wider community.

Representative:

RJC Horskins

Dated:

25 April 2024

OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVE'S FEEDBACK FORM



MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023/24

This feedback report will be provided to Members at the next Full Council meeting

Name of Outside Body	Highwood Management Conference
Name of Representative	Councillors Kay Gilder and Mary Holmes
Capacity appointed; e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Appointed Woodley Town Council members
Number of formal meetings held / invited (since last report or 1 May)	One annual meeting in 2023, with one additional meeting convened in 2024 by the Dinton Pastures Country Park Rangers.
Number of formal meetings attended since last report (since last report or 1 May)	One annual meeting in 2023, with one other meeting convened in 2024 by the Dinton Pastures Country Park Rangers.
Reasons for not attending (if attendance below 50%)	-----
Please give a brief overview of the Outside Body for Members:	
The conference's members meet on an annual basis with an official of the Wokingham Borough Council and the Head Ranger of WBC's Dinton Pastures Country Park.	
Please give a brief synopsis of the Outside Body's activities since the last report:	
On 17th August 2023 – Councillors Kay Gilder and Mary Holmes joined the discussions in the Oakwood Centre with the Head Ranger Simon Bartlam regarding the continuing progress of the Wokingham Borough Council's work within Highwood and South Lake. These annual evening meetings are now preceded by a 2-hour site visit to both Highwood and South Lake.	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful:	
In addition, at lunchtime on March 13th 2024 members joined a Wokingham Borough Council Ranger for the unveiling of their new wooden notice boards at the entrances to both Highwood and South Lake. These high class information notice boards illustrate the wild life which the public can see at both sites. Afterwards, the members viewed the new tree which the Woodley & Earley Lions Club have recently planted on the northern side of the South Lake in memory of their valued member Tony Lomax. The members suggested that this young tree should be protected from possible vandalism.	

Representative:	Cllr Kay Gilder and Cllr Mary Holmes.	Dated:	30/04/24
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OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVE'S FEEDBACK FORM



MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023/24

This feedback report will be provided to Members at the next Full Council meeting

Name of Outside Body	Poors Land Charity
Name of Representative	Cllr Kay Gilder
Capacity appointed; e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustee
Number of formal meetings held / invited (since last report or 1 May)	
Number of formal meetings attended since last report (since last report or 1 May)	
Reasons for not attending (if attendance below 50%)	
Please give a brief overview of the Outside Body for Members:	
Please give a brief synopsis of the Outside Body's activities since the last report:	
<p>The meeting was attended by both Mary Holmes and Kay Gilder.</p> <p>At last the Cedar Tree replacement seems to be almost agreed, we are still awaiting a visit from WBC to come to agreement on position of this.</p> <p>We welcomed new tenant K. Woods who seems to have settled in nicely.</p> <p>A few of the residents attended a lunch at the Sonning Golf Club, this was such a success that it is hoped that this will be a bi-monthly event.</p> <p>A Legionnaires inspection was done, and found that all systems are clean.</p> <p>Lighting has all been changed to eco-friendly bulbs.</p> <p>The walnut tree at the Bungalow is to be removed, due to being too close to the house.</p>	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful:	

Representative:	Cllr Kay Gilder	Dated:	28 April 2024
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OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVE'S FEEDBACK FORM



MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023/24

This feedback report will be provided to Members at the next Full Council meeting

Name of Outside Body	Poor's Land Charity
Name of Representative	Shelagh Flower
Capacity appointed; e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Trustee
Number of formal meetings held / invited (since last report or 1 May)	3
Number of formal meetings attended since last report (since last report or 1 May)	1
Reasons for not attending (if attendance below 50%)	1 meeting not attended as emergency visit to A and E 1 visit another commitment
Please give a brief overview of the Outside Body for Members:	
<p>Alms houses for people in need from designated areas including Woodley, Sandford and Charvil. It also offers financial assistance to people in need via its Relief in Need fund.</p>	
Please give a brief synopsis of the Outside Body's activities since the last report:	
<p>The Charity continues to support applications from applicants to the Relief in Need fund. Interviews held for vacant flat. Maintenance issues remain ongoing in order to ensure flats are suitably safe and secure for residents. Future developments of site and properties under constant review.</p>	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful:	
<p>There are usually monthly meetings with regular contact via email outside of the meetings</p>	

Representative:	Shelagh Flower	Dated:	22 April 2024
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OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVE'S FEEDBACK FORM



MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023/24

This feedback report will be provided to Members at the next Full Council meeting

Name of Outside Body	Readibus
Name of Representative	Alex Heap
Capacity appointed; e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Director
Number of formal meetings held / invited (since last report or 1 May)	6
Number of formal meetings attended since last report (since last report or 1 May)	4
Reasons for not attending (if attendance below 50%)	
Please give a brief overview of the Outside Body for Members:	
<p>Readibus provides a dial a ride service for the elderly and infirm enabling them to access shopping, social and medical activities that they would be unable to access by conventional transport</p>	
Please give a brief synopsis of the Outside Body's activities since the last report:	
<p>The Readibus Board met on Tuesday 6th February 2024</p> <p>J Brindley had offered to take up the position of Hon Sec for an initial trial period. This was approved</p> <p>J Brindley had also offered to become the third signatory, replacing T Bottomley. This was also agreed. There was nothing to report as an update on the situation with West Berkshire Council.</p> <p>The audit group met on 18 January 2024 and presented their report, which had been circulated. The Chair thanked them for undertaking to review journals and bank recs on a periodic basis going forward, starting with a visit planned very soon.</p> <p>It was agreed that all decisions taken at the meeting were in accordance with policies.</p> <p>The launch of the new Readibus bus livery happened on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at the Readibus stop near John Lewis/M&S in Broad Street, Reading.</p> <p>The bus used for the livery launch was an existing low-floor bus, which we've had for a bit over a year and has until now been plain white, in preparation for its new livery. The new livery captures all the different colours of the mainstream buses - as Readibus goes to all parts of the town and so covers all of the different coloured routes. The Readibus logo in the livery is also in the same signwriting style as that used by Reading Buses, to further enhance the connection that Readibus is part of Reading's public transport network</p>	

The two new buses that will be arriving soon will also have this livery once they have been delivered. The existing buses will not have their livery changed, at least not straightaway, but each further new bus, as the existing buses are replaced, will have the new livery.

In other news/other brief updates:-

The first of the two new buses on order arrived on 12th April and the second is due in about 3 weeks.

We had to deal with 2 disruptions recently – the first left us without phones, e-mail and internet following a road traffic accident outside our premises and the second shortly afterwards knocked out our power supply as well as our phones, e-mail and Internet following an apparent fire in a local substation and stormy weather. Fortunately we came through all that without any interruption in actual service provision – just a lot of disruption!

Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful:

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 25th June 2024 at 6:30pm.

Representative:

Alex Heap

Dated:

27 April 2024

OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVE'S FEEDBACK FORM



MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023/24

This feedback report will be provided to Members at the next Full Council meeting

Name of Outside Body	SONNING AND DISTRICT WELFARE AND EDUCATIONAL TRUST
Name of Representative	DARREN SMITH
Capacity appointed; e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	TRUSTEE
Number of formal meetings held / invited (since last report or 1 May)	1
Number of formal meetings attended since last report (since last report or 1 May)	1
Reasons for not attending (if attendance below 50%)	None
Please give a brief overview of the Outside Body for Members:	
A charity helping those in need for Educational and Welfare in Woodley, Earley, Charvil, Sonning, Eye & Dunsden and Sonning Common	
Please give a brief synopsis of the Outside Body's activities since the last report:	
Meeting 27 th March 2024 - The trustees continue to review and make grants to local people, but the numbers are still relatively low. In this respect much of the last meeting focused on how we can update our website, design both an on-line and downloadable grant application form, and generally how we can improve our reach in the community. Our previous Treasurer (Brian Booker) has now handed over to our new Treasurer (Tony Walker) who is preparing a final draft for our FY23 accounts and looking at ways to improve our ability to make payments more easily, so we can respond more quickly to local people.	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful:	
Home - Sonning & District Welfare Trust (sonningwelfaretrust.org.uk)	

Representative:	Darren Smith	Dated:	27th April 2024
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OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVE'S FEEDBACK FORM



MUNICIPAL YEAR: 2023/24

This feedback report will be provided to Members at the next Full Council meeting

Name of Outside Body	Woodley Bowling Club
Name of Representative	Cllr Kay Gilder
Capacity appointed; e.g. trustee, director, observer etc	Management committee member
Number of formal meetings held / invited (since last report or 1 May)	
Number of formal meetings attended since last report (since last report or 1 May)	
Reasons for not attending (if attendance below 50%)	
Please give a brief overview of the Outside Body for Members:	
Please give a brief synopsis of the Outside Body's activities since the last report:	
<p>There is an Open Day on 11 May, all are welcome. Trainers must be worn if you wish to join in with the Bowls.</p> <p>The Club has received a £350 grant from WTC, which they are very grateful for.</p> <p>The Club considered applying for a temporary bar licence, but have now decided to apply for a new full licence as it is better value.</p> <p>The committee ask that consideration be given to a sign directing the public to the Bowls Club at the Haddon Drive end of Woodford Park.</p> <p>The Bowls Club have a new website manager and hopefully have a new website in approximately 6 weeks.</p>	
Please provide any additional information that fellow Members might find useful:	

Representative:	Cllr Kay Gilder	Dated:	28 April 2024
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