

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, ON
MONDAY, 2 JULY, 2018, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Committee members present: Councillors S Trinder (Chairman), Mrs C E C Dickson, C S Dickson, J Goodman, Mrs M Gradwell, Mrs J T Hannaby, K A Harris, B Mabbett, Mrs J E Nunn-Price, C McCarthy and P O'Leary.

Others present: Two members of the public (part)

Deputy Clerk: Miss S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors E C Goldsmith and Major J Sibbald.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2018 were approved and signed.

6. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

7. Allotment Matters

(a) Track surfacing at Naldertown allotments

The Deputy Clerk had received suggestions from an expert in driveways and paths as to the best solution for the surfacing of the track. A quote will follow.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(b) Use by Sustainable Wantage of land at Stockham/Naldertown

It was noted that the use of land was from volunteers rather than Sustainable Wantage. Councillor Trinder and the Deputy Clerk had met with one of the volunteers to discuss the intention to create a forest garden. There was concern about the long-term maintenance if the volunteers did not wish to continue in the future. It was suggested that current allotment holders should be consulted to gauge their opinion. The Deputy Clerk will contact the volunteer to seek further details.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(c) Allotment sites as Assets of Community Value

The Clerk had applied for the Larkhill allotment site to be an Asset of Community Value. The site at Grove Road has not been actioned yet. A member of the public expressed concerns regarding the possibility of Grove Road allotment site being developed upon.

(d) Clearing of vacant plots

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy

SECONDED by Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that one plot at each site should be cleared and sheeting laid so that there was always a plot ready to be rented out.

There was currently one plot available to rent at Grove Road, 3 available at Larkhill, 4 available at Letcombe Fields, 4 available at Naldertown and 2 available at Stockham Park.

(e) Review of allotment rentals

The allotment rentals were reviewed and it was agreed that there will be no change to the rentals. A review of the bonds concluded that a quote was required for the cost of clearing a shed. The bond for as shed is currently £50.00. The Deputy Clerk will obtain a quote.
Action: Deputy Clerk

(f) Date of annual visit to allotment sites by Councillors

The Councillors will visit the allotment sites on 7 July 2018 for the annual inspection. The Deputy Clerk will put up notices at each site.
Action: Deputy Clerk

(g) Fence on northern boundary of Grove Road allotments

It was agreed that a fence on the northern boundary was not necessary due to the land adjacent being developed on and, therefore, no livestock being present in the field.

(h) Change of use of plots 32a and 32b at Grove Road allotments

Plots 32a and 32b will be reviewed during the Councillors' visit on 7 July 2018.
Action: Deputy Clerk

(i) Other allotment matters

None.

8. Cemetery Matters

(a) Cutting back of overgrown foliage

The foliage at the cemetery will be reviewed during the Councillors' visit.

(b) Cemetery Art Project

The Deputy Clerk had contacted the artist, Suzanne O'Driscoll, to get an update on the public art to be installed at the cemetery. The design part had been completed but there were technical problems regarding the installation.
Action: Deputy Clerk

(c) Consideration of CCTV at cemetery

Councillor McCarthy updated the committee on quotes received for CCTV. The area had not seen any recent incidents.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goodman
SECONDED by Councillor McCarthy
IT WAS RESOLVED not to continue with the consideration of CCTV.

(d) Review of cemetery burial policy.

The cemetery burial policy was reviewed.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby
SECONDED by Councillor McCarthy

IT WAS RESOLVED that no amendments were necessary.

(e) Other cemetery matters

The bins at the cemetery had not been emptied for some time. The Deputy Clerk will instruct the contractor to empty the bins. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

9. Town Centre Matters

(a) Wantage Fire Station Community Wardens projects

The Deputy Clerk had made contact with the co-ordinator for the Wantage Fire Station Community Wardens regarding the work that had been carried out by King Alfred's Academy's Duke of Edinburgh students. The work had finished for the summer and will re-start at the beginning of 2019.

(b) Update on Markets

A quote was required for the cost of a skip for the disposal of old cones. These were to be replaced with new ones. The Deputy Clerk and Councillor Trinder were also to look at Christmas decorations. **Action: Trinder/Deputy Clerk**

(c) Update on defibrillators

The Deputy Clerk had opened communications with BT regarding adoption of the phone box. She had also contacted the planning department regarding change of use. Communications with Community Heartbeat had been made regarding the purchase of a defibrillator. It was decided to proceed with the adoption of the phone box regardless of its future use. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Income from parking fines

The report was noted.

(e) Feedback on attendance of May Fair

Issues of mobility were raised. Ideally, stalls needed to be arranged so that mobility scooters could access all areas. This would mean keeping drop kerbs clear, if possible.

Concerns had been raised by a member of the public regarding air pollution and this will be assessed when the fair next attends. The Deputy Clerk was to email the member of the public to advise them. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

The outstanding payment had not yet been received. Payment will be sought 4 weeks in advance for future fairs held in the town by the May/October Fair Riding Master.

(f) Salt/grit bins

The location of the Wallingford Street grit bin had been confirmed and will be installed along with one at Charlton Village Road near the church, Witan Way by the zebra crossing and in the Market Place near the Post Office Sorting Office.

(g) Other town matters

The west end of the Market Place had been used for tables and chairs during Armed Forces Day. It was suggested that it would be nice to close this area at weekends from June to September every year.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Dickson

SECONDED by Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED to contact Oxfordshire County Council to investigate the possibility of having a seasonal change of use.

Action: Deputy Clerk

A branch had fallen at Manor Park. The tree was being cut down on 6 July 2018.

There was a broken bench at Naldertown. The Deputy Clerk will obtain a quote for its repair or replacement.

Action: Deputy Clerk

There was an issue with regard to sewage at Letcombe Brook. It was decided to contact the Letcombe Brook Project Officer to find out which agency to contact regarding this.

Action: Deputy Clerk

It was reported that there was an unpleasant smell by the old Town Hall at the top of Grove Street. Councillor Trinder will speak to the Market Place Operative concerning this.

Action: Cllr Trinder

Following recent issues at the Willow Walk Nature Reserve, it was decided that bollards should be installed to prevent unauthorised vehicular access in future. The Vale of White Horse District Council was to be contacted regarding this.

Action: Deputy Clerk

An email had been received from Oxfordshire County Council, regarding two new bus stops on the Denchworth Road, asking if Wantage Town Council would be prepared to take responsibility for the bus shelters. The Deputy Clerk will provide information to Councillors Mrs Nunn-Price and Mrs Hannaby regarding the proposed locations.

Action: Deputy Clerk

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy

SECONDED by Councillor Mabbett

IT WAS RESOLVED that, subject to the bus stops being in the correct locations, Wantage Town Council would take responsibility for the bus shelters.

10. Other business

None

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.
