

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, ON  
MONDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER, 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, C McCarthy and Major J Sibbald.

Others present: One member of the public

Deputy Clerk: Miss S Sanders

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Miss K Gill, E Goldsmith,  
Mrs J E Nunn-Price and P O’Leary.

**Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

None.

**Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2018 were approved and signed.

**11. Statements and Questions from the Public**

Alan McPherson commented that over a year ago the L&A Committee had agreed to make an application for the Grove Road site to be registered as an Asset of Community Value. He asked the Committee why there had been a delay in the application. He understood that the Larkhill allotments site had had an application submitted and asked why Grove Road had not.

The Deputy Clerk explained that the Larkhill application had been used to see whether an allotment site would be accepted before proceeding with another site. She reported that the Larkhill site had now been deemed an Asset of Community Value. The Grove Road site application was in progress, but there were some issues with regard to Land Registry records.

**12. Allotment Matters**

(a) Track surfacing at Naldertown allotments

A quote of £3,050 had been received from a contractor. The price was based on the contractor being able to gain access via an adjacent property. A quote had been requested from another contractor, but had not been received. Some questions were raised regarding the longevity of the surface and the on-going maintenance costs and further costs if access was not viable. The Deputy Clerk was to raise these questions with the contractor.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Chairman and the Deputy Clerk be given delegated to make a decision based on the answers received and to accept the quote for £3050, if appropriate.

**Action: Deputy Clerk/Trinder**

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

During the allotment visits, other allotment holders had been consulted and were not keen on the proposed forest garden. It transpired that the applicant for the use of the plots was a member of Sustainable Wantage but was acting as an individual rather than on their behalf. This raised the questions of maintenance and a succession plan. The applicant had, since the last meeting, asked if they should go ahead with their order for trees and pursue their grant application and they had requested a quick response. Taking all of these factors into consideration, along with the fact that the proposed forest garden would not comply with allotment policy, the applicant had been advised that the project could not be allowed at these locations.

(c) Allotment sites as Assets of Community Value

The Larkhill allotments had been accepted as an Asset of Community Value. The Clerk had written to Oxfordshire County Council seeking a renewal of the lease. Councillor Mrs Hannaby agreed to chase Oxfordshire County Council for a response.

**Action: Hannaby**

(d) Clearing of vacant plots

The contractor had previously quoted for clearing and sheeting an empty allotment plot but was now unable to hold the price due to the increased cost of the sheeting. He was not prepared to carry out the work for the price originally quoted. The Deputy Clerk was to seek an updated quote based on the increased cost of the material.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(e) Review of shed bond

The Deputy Clerk had sought a quote for the cost to clear an allotment plot of a shed following a tenancy being relinquished/terminated. Each plot would need to be assessed individually and quoted for accordingly, depending on the fixing (e.g. concrete base).

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Dickson

SECONDED by Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED to increase the shed bond to £150.00

It was agreed that plots with an existing concrete shed base should be offered out with the shed base intact, as it was thought that this would be an asset. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(f) Possibility of bee keeping at Stockham Park allotments

A request had been received from an allotment holder at Stockham Park, asking for the Committee to consider dedicating the unused area at the bottom of the allotment site to the keeping of bees. The applicant had intimated that it was not his intention to rent the vacant plots. Having regard to the greater ramifications, the Committee decided not to approve the request.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

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

It was agreed that plots 32a and 32b at Grove Road should remain as allotment plots to be let out.

(h) Review of annual visit to allotment sites by Councillors

The annual visit to the allotment sites was carried out on 7 July 2018 by the Deputy Clerk and several councillors. The visit was not completed on all sites due to time constraints. It was suggested that, because officers of the Town Council conduct inspections at regular intervals, it was no longer necessary for councillors to visit the allotment sites annually. Councillors could visit the sites at any time. The Deputy Clerk would inform councillors when inspections were due to be carried out.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Trinder

SECONDED by Councillor Dickson

IT WAS RESOLVED that annual allotment visits by Councillors should be discontinued.

(i) Date for annual tenants meeting

The annual allotment tenants meeting will take place on Monday 22 October at 6.30pm before the next committee meeting.

(j) Other allotment matters

The water pipe, running through Naldertown allotments, was being installed by Thames Water to provide a fire hydrant at King Alfred's West Site.

**13. Cemetery Matters**

(a) Cemetery Art Project

Before proceeding with the installation of the artwork, issues regarding the coping stones needed to be addressed. It was agreed to give consent for the Vale of White Horse District Council to proceed with the necessary work.

(b) Other cemetery matters

A quote had been received for repairing paved areas in the cemetery. The Clerk had agreed to the works and the contractor had been instructed to proceed.

**14. Town Centre Matters**

(a) Seasonal change of use for west end of the Market Place

The Deputy Clerk had made contact with Oxfordshire County Council regarding the possibility of seasonal change of use for the west end of the market place. A response had not yet been received. Contact had also been made with Cambridgeshire County Council, who operate a similar system, concerning which Order or Act it had applied.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(b) Update on Markets

Old cones were to be disposed of by Oxfordshire County Council. The Christmas lights were to be reviewed.

**Action: Trinder**

(c) Update on purchase of phone box/defibrillator

The contract between BT and Wantage Town Council had been signed. Arrangements were being made by BT to recover the telephony. A paint kit will be sent. Once the contract has been received the Deputy Clerk will apply for change of use of the listed telephone box to be used to house a defibrillator. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Attendance of fairs

Payment for the May fair had not been received. If the payment had not been received by 14 September 2018, the rules adopted by the Town Council would indicate that the October fair should not proceed. This was accepted by the Committee.

There was no evidence of air pollution during the September fair.

(e) Sewage at Letcombe Brook

Mark Bradfield of the Letcombe Brook Project had advised that there was no evidence of sewage present but believed mud may have been disturbed by ground works being undertaken nearby.

(f) Bus stops on Denchworth Road

The location for two new bus stops had been agreed. Oxfordshire County Council was waiting for a cost code to enable work to proceed.

(g) Other town matters

There was some discussion about when the weed killing around the town was due to be done. The Deputy Clerk was to ascertain whether there was a schedule for this.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**15. Other business**

Councillor McCarthy had been approached regarding the possibility of a memorial bench being placed at the Betjeman Millennium Park. Councillor McCarthy will contact the owners of the Park. **Action: McCarthy**

Bollards for the Market Place car park had been ordered to replace the existing old type ones. These were to be paid for from County Councillor Mrs Hannaby's Locality fund. A date for installation had not yet been received. **Action: Hannaby**

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

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