

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, ON
MONDAY, 14 JANUARY, 2019, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Committee members present: Councillors S Trinder (Chairman),
C S Dickson, J Goodman, Mrs M Gradwell, Mrs J T Hannaby,
K A Harris, B Mabbett, Mrs J E Nunn-Price and Major J
Sibbald

Others present: Two members of the public (part)

Clerk Mr WP Falkenau
Deputy Clerk: Miss S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs C.E C Dickson, P O’Leary and
C McCarthy.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2018

An amendment was made to the minutes. Item 17 (b) “Grove Road” was changed to
“Lark Hill”. The minutes, as amended, were approved and signed.

22. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

23. Allotment Matters

(a) Track/surfacing at Naldertown allotments

The re-surfacing of the track had been completed.

(b) Allotment sites as Assets of Community Value

The land at Grove Road allotments has been entered on to the list of Assets of
Community Value and will remain so listed for a period of 5 years from 26 November
2018.

Oxfordshire County Council was willing to renew the lease for the land at Lark Hill but
would retain the right to terminate the lease on 15 months’ notice. As the site had been
registered as an asset of community value, the landowner is unable to dispose of the land
without following the statutory procedure, and is required to notify the Council of a wish
to dispose of the land.

(c) Clearing of vacant plots

An allotment plot had been cleared and sheeted at the Grove Road and Lark Hill sites.
One plot at Stockham Park was due to be cleared and sheeted. It was decided not to
sheet any available plots at Naldertown and Letcombe fields at this time.

(d) Letcombe Fields review

Three plots had recently been let to new tenants. No further review was required at this time.

(e) Review regarding height of fruit trees and impact on other allotment holders

It was decided to monitor the impact of the new height restrictions for fruit trees. Any issues would be dealt with as they arise.

(f) Shed Bond – to review the resolution adopted on 4 October 2018.

At the Council meeting on 10 December 2018 the following resolution had been approved. “The resolution made by the Leisure & Amenities committee on 10 September 2018, and subsequently adopted by the Town Council at its meeting on 4 October 2018, be referred back to the committee for review and in the meantime the shed bond revert to the amount of £50 which applied prior to the above resolution.”

The committee agreed to defer any review of the shed bond amount and therefore it would remain at £50.

The previous resolution to increase the shed bond to £150, was founded upon the cost involved in removing a concrete base on which a shed might stand.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Dickson

SECONDED BY Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that in future only sheds that stand on removable slabs, or other easily removable material, be permitted.

Action: Deputy Clerk

The allotment policy documents were to be updated accordingly.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(g) Other allotment matters

A willow tree at the Grove Road site has been removed. Inspections at all allotment sites were to be carried out at the end of the month. An audit of sheds will be carried out.

Action: Deputy Clerk

The members of the public left the meeting.

24. Cemetery Matters

(a) Cemetery Art Project

The Deputy Clerk updated the meeting on the progress with the project. The wall and site has been cleared. An application for planning permission had been submitted by the District Council. It was agreed that all responsibility for the project rested with the District Council.

(b) Arrangements for seeking quotes for ground maintenance contract in 2019 season

The draft document to contractors, specifying the work required and requesting a quote for the work, was considered and accepted.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mabbett

SECONDED by Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Deputy Clerk was to seek at least 3 quotes for the contract to commence in March 2019.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(c) Other cemetery matters

It was reported that the large conifer trees on the left hand side of the road entrance to the cemetery required attention. The Deputy Clerk was to investigate this. The Clerk advised that the general safety of the cemetery needed to be reviewed and that he and the Deputy Clerk would be visiting the cemetery to conduct an inspection.

Action: Clerk/ Deputy Clerk

25. Town Centre Matters

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

Councillor Trinder and the Deputy Clerk had met with Mark Francis of Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department to discuss the possibility of closing off the west end of the Market Place to vehicular traffic over weekends during the summer. A note, with a list of considerations and options, including traffic/road closures and resources needed in order for this to be progressed, was considered. It was decided not to proceed with a full weekend closure that would involve a formal County Council traffic order but to go for trial closure for one or two Sundays during the summer months, seeking the more limited closure order issued by the District Council for street parties. It was agreed that the taxi rank would be temporarily re-located to the car parking areas adjacent to the Statue. Letters will be distributed to local residents and businesses advising of the intention and requesting any comments relating to this.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(b) Update on Markets

The markets were being advertised on the Wantage Town Council's website and on social media.

(c) Update on purchase of phone box/defibrillator

The Deputy Clerk reported that listed building consent had been granted for installation of a defibrillator.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mabbett
SECONDED by Councillor Dickson

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk be given delegated authority to purchase and install a defibrillator in the telephone box at the east end of the market place.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(d) Weed killing

The Deputy Clerk had distributed the weed killing schedule. The schedule was for 3 treatments per year.

(e) Market Place bollards/white lines

The bollards had been installed and the white lines re-marked. Three of the new bollards had been damaged, possibly by a vehicle, and had been replaced with bollards from other areas of the town. The Deputy Clerk had reported the damage to Thames Valley Police and was seeking replacements from Oxfordshire County Council.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(f) Update on relocation of bus stop in the market place

The Clerk updated the meeting. It was intended to split the work into 3 phases.

Phase 1 - Install a set-down only stop on the north side of the market place to be used by buses arriving from Faringdon and Challow.

Phase 2 - Remove the disabled parking spaces from the south side of the market place and replace with a set-down only stops for buses arriving from Oxford. The redundant bus stop in Newbury Street would be replaced with disabled spaces. Consideration will need to be given to the relocation of the existing bus shelter.

Phase 3 – The existing stops outside the Bear Hotel will become a single departure stop for all buses.

It was intended that the first phase will commence shortly.

(g) Review of Christmas lighting arrangements

The canopy lights had failed towards the end of the festive period. It was unfortunate that due to hirers of access equipment not working during this time, it was not possible to repair the lights. Most of the lights had now been removed.

(h) Request for a new salt bin

A request had been received from a member of the public for a salt bin on Footpath 13, to be located at the children's play area near Barwell. The Deputy Clerk was to contact Paul Wilson of OCC to see if there was a salt bin available. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(i) To consider the purchase of the trolley used by the VC Forecourt Attendant

Consideration was given to the reimbursement of the cost of a trolley purchased by the Forecourt Attendant for use in the Market Place and for the Town Council to take ownership of it.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Trinder

SECONDED by Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Town Council reimburse the Forecourt Attendant £1,120 for the purchase of the trolley and take ownership of it.

The attendant was to be advised that any future purchases would require prior approval of the Council. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

26. Other business

None.

The meeting closed at 8.54 p.m.
