

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, ON MONDAY,
25 FEBRUARY , 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,
C McCarthy, P O'Leary and D Richardson

Others present: One member of the public (part)

Clerk Mr WP Falkenau
Deputy Clerk: Miss S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs C E C Dickson, Mrs J E Nunn-Price and Major J Sibbald.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2019

The minutes were approved and signed.

27. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

28. Allotment Matters

(a) Report on recent allotment site visits by the Deputy Clerk

The Deputy Clerk reported on the recent inspections that had been carried out on all five allotment sites. A few letters had been sent out regarding non-cultivation and a follow-up inspection was to be made. An audit had been carried out to identify all plots that house a shed or greenhouse and the information has been added to the allotment plans.

(b) Other allotment matters

A complaint had been received about brambles on Plot 32 at Grove Road. The Deputy Clerk reported that the plot had been offered for rent.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Goodman
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that if plot 32 was not rented out, the brambles should be removed.

Action: Deputy Clerk

The member of the public left the meeting.

29. Cemetery Matters

(a) Cemetery Art Project

The planning application for the art items to be installed at the vehicular entrance to the cemetery was still under consideration by the District Council.

(b) Conifer trees on left hand side of road entrance

Some of the trees appeared to require attention. A high proportion of trees are on the highway verge and clarification was required as to who was responsible for which trees.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(c) Report on cemetery safety review

The Clerk and the Deputy Clerk had recently carried out a safety review at the cemetery. A few areas of the path and access road had been identified as requiring remedial work. Quotes for the work were to be obtained.

Action: Deputy Clerk

The path that leads to Wantage CofE School (rear of St Gabriel's) has a couple of areas that have sunk. The maintenance responsibility lies with the management company responsible for St Gabriel's. The Deputy Clerk was to contact it to remind it of its obligation.

Action: Deputy Clerk

A couple of headstones had been identified as being loose, and were laid down. The families will be notified where possible.

Action: Deputy Clerk

On the east/west access roads, the laid down bollard and the bollard socket, put in to stop vehicles using the roadway, represented trip hazards. The bollards had been subjected to vandalism and the need for them had diminished.

ON THE PROPOSTION OF Councillor Goodman
SECONDED by Councillor Mabbett

IT WAS RESOLVED that the laid down bollard and the bollard socket be removed.

Action: Deputy Clerk

The shingle car parking area at the top of the hill needed to be refilled to bring the surface up to the same height as the adjoining concrete road. A contractor had been instructed to carry out the work.

(d) Other cemetery matters

None.

30. Town Centre Matters

(a) Seasonal change of use for west end of the Market Place, including consideration of request from Mr Mitchell to hold a mini folk festival in the area on Saturday 16 June 2019.

Letters advising of the proposal to close the area on Sundays over the summer had been distributed to local businesses, residents and licensed taxi drivers. The only responses had been received from residents of The Cloisters seeking assurances that they would have access to and from their properties. It was noted that access via Church Street would be maintained. Consideration was given to the request from Mr Mitchell to hold a mini folk festival in the area on Sunday 16 June. It was agreed that this should proceed.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(b) Update on purchase of phone box/defibrillator in Market Place

An updated quote had been received from Community Heartbeat for the purchase and installation of a defibrillator, with a locked cabinet, of £2120.00.

ON THE PROPOSTION of Councillor Mabbett
SECONDED by Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that the defibrillator be purchased and installed.

The Deputy Clerk was to research replacing the existing telephone sign with a new sign reading 'defibrillator'.
Action: Deputy Clerk

The ownership of the defibrillator that is located on the wall of The Beacon is uncertain.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mabbett

SECONDED by Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Town Council take responsibility for the defibrillator and that it be added to the Council's insurance policy.
Action: Clerk

(c) Salt bins and consideration of recent requests for new bins

A number of requests for salt bins had been received from Wantage residents during the recent days of snow. The Deputy Clerk had forwarded the requests to Oxfordshire County Council for its consideration. The areas were: Stockham Park, Garston Close, West Hill, Mably Grove, Humphries Green, Larkdown and Barwell play area (footpath 13). The Deputy Clerk was to arrange delivery of a few bags of salt to a resident of Humphries Green who had agreed to store bags for use of the residents.
Action: Deputy Clerk

(d) Arrangements for installing town centre flags

The Deputy Clerk had sought a quote for the installation of the Union Jack and Wyvern flags around the town, but it had not yet been received. It was possible that Wantage Fire Station could carry out the work in return for a donation. New flags were to be ordered. Delegated authority was given to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to arrange installation.
Action: Deputy Clerk

(f) Arrangements for floral displays

A quote for £2,828 had been received from Window Flowers Limited, who had been used for last year's displays. This excluded the pyramid planter at the eastern end of the Market Place that had not been in place last year. The inclusion of this would bring the quote up to £3,208. The contractor had suggested that consideration be given to winter/spring displays that would flourish in the spring, prior to the installation of the summer displays. This would be at the same cost as the summer displays. It was agreed that consideration of this be deferred until after the elections in May.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor McCarthy

SECONDED by Councillor Mabbett

IT WAS RESOLVED that the pyramid planter at the eastern end of the Market Place be included and that Window Flowers Limited quote of £3,208 be accepted.
Action: Clerk

(g) Other town centre matters

It was thought that the first phase of the re-location of the bus stops would have been implemented by now. Cllr Mrs Hannaby agreed to chase Oxfordshire County Council.
Action: Cllr Mrs Hannaby

A member of the public had made contact regarding weeds at the bottom of Locks Lane. It was understood that weedkiller cannot be used too close to the brook. Cllr Goodman & Cllr Trinder offered to help her clear the weeds.
Action: Goodman/Trinder

It was reported that the toilets at Memorial Park were constantly blocked and the hand cleaning facilities not working. Responsibility lies with the District Council. Cllr Dickson had reported this.

A streetlight outside Shush in Newbury Street was not functioning. The Deputy Clerk was to report it to Fix My Street website. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

Arrangements for the 2019 Christmas lighting need to be sorted. This is to be referred to the committee meeting after the election. **Action: Clerk**

31. The Great British Spring Clean

Communication had been received from Jo Harvey of The Mix regarding the Great British Spring Clean, enquiring if the Town Council had plans to be involved. It was agreed that Wantage Town Council would support volunteers from The Mix with advertising the event and a donation.

ON THE PROPOSTION OF Councillor O' Leary

SECONDED by Councillor Goodman

IT WAS resolved that a donation of £100 be given to The Mix. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

32. Other business

ON THE PROPOSTION OF the chairman, Councillor Trinder

SECONDED by Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.

33. Consideration of ground maintenance quotes

Three quotes had been obtained. The annual costs quoted ranged from £6,590 to £20,962. The lowest quote came from a contractor based twenty miles away from the town. It was noted that the current contractor, White Horse Horticulture, was on occasions required to do ad hoc work at short notice. The contractor who was not locally based was unlikely to be able to give this level of support. Given this, and the quality of work undertaken by the current contractor:

ON THE PROPOSTION OF Councillor Goodman

SECONDED by Councillor Harris

IT WAS RESOLVED that the contract for grounds maintenance be awarded to White Horse Horticulture for the 2019/20 year at a cost of £8,430. **Action: Clerk**

34. Report on incidents in the town centre on Saturday nights

There had recently been serious violent incidents in the vicinity of the Cellar Bar in the Market Place. These involved the throwing of glasses and of barrels that were stored outside the Bar. The County Council had confirmed that the barrels were being stored on private land. had been thrown around injuring people and causing damage in the area. Clarification had been received from OCC that the area where the barrels were stored was not public highway and therefore was privately owned. It was agreed to write to the Neighbourhood Police Team and District Council Licensing Team to ask them to take whatever action was available to them to deal with the problem. The Clerk was to undertake a Land Registry check to try to determine who owned the land where the barrels were stored. **Action: Clerk/Deputy Clerk**

The meeting came out of confidential session.

The meeting closed at 9.06pm