

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

Committee members present: Councillors JT Hannaby (Chairman), A Duveen, J Goodman,
E L Johnson, A C Menzies, J E Nunn-Price (part), P M O'Leary,
I L Sheldon and Major J Sibbald.

Others present: One member of the public (part)

Deputy Clerk: Miss S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

None

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2019

The minutes were approved and signed.

1. Statements and Questions from the Public

Alan McPherson introduced himself as the secretary for the Grove Road Allotment Association.

2. Allotment Matters

(a) Update on plot 32 at Grove Road Allotments

Plot 32 had been let.

(b) Report on plots vacant and waiting list

The Deputy Clerk gave an update on the available plots at all allotment sites. Land was available at the Naldertown and Stockham Park sites should there be a future requirement for further plots.

(c) To consider date for members to undertake allotment site visits

It was agreed that councillors would visit the five allotment sites on Saturday 6 July 2019 starting at Grove Road at 9.30am and continuing on to Lark Hill, Letcombe Fields, Naldertown and Stockham Park. The Deputy Clerk was to give notice of the visits to the allotment holders. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Other allotment matters

The Deputy Clerk reported that the pipe for fire hydrant for the new sports hall at King Alfred's Academy, West Site had been installed at the Naldertown site and the reinstatement by Thames Water had been carried out. Further reinstatement was to be carried out by McAvoy who were the contractors for the building. The Chairman agreed to chase this. **Action: Chairman/Deputy Clerk**

The member of public left the meeting.

3. Cemetery Matters

(a) Cemetery Art Project

The sign was in place at the cemetery entrance.

The artwork, to be placed on the wall, had not yet been installed. It had been intended that the Town Council have a passive role in this art project, however, Abi Brown of the District Council had requested, for administrative reasons, that funds be passed to the Town Council, so that the contract with the artist could be placed by the Town Council. The artist will invoice the Town Council £7,100, leaving an excess of £1,500 for ongoing maintenance.

ON THE PROPOSITON OF Councillor Major Sibbald

SECONDED by Councillor Goodman,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk should invoice the District Council for the funds of £8,600 and a contract be placed with the artist for £7,100.

Action: Clerk

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

The Deputy Clerk was to fill in a request on 'Fix My Street' for the trees to be assessed by Oxfordshire County Council.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(c) Update on actions from cemetery safety review

The car parking area had been graded off and new scalplings laid to level the area. The bollards had been removed and the area made good. Quotes were outstanding for work to rectify the uneven areas on the approach road. The Deputy Clerk was to chase. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

Berkeley Homes had agreed to send a representative from their technical team to undertake a condition survey of the footpath leading to the school and report back with the outcome.

(d) Other cemetery matters

There was discussion about whether there was a cemetery friends group; were any grants available to support the costs of maintaining the cemetery; would it be worthwhile seeking information and advice from local historians?

Action: Deputy Clerk

4. Town Centre Matters

(a) Seasonal change of use for west end of the Market Place – Continental Day Event 16 June 2019

Mr Mitchell was to hold a mini folk festival at the west end of the Market Place on Sunday 16 June. The Council would consider future events in this area based on the success of this event.

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

The planned installation date of the defibrillator was 22 May 2019. The Deputy Clerk had sourced a supplier for a sign reading 'defibrillator' to replace the existing telephone sign. It was agreed to consider the purchase of this once the defibrillator was installed.

Action: Deputy Clerk

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

A request had been submitted to Oxfordshire County Council for seven new salt bins in areas requested by residents. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Update on installing town centre flags

The flags had been installed in Mill Street, Grove Street, Wallingford Street, Newbury Street and the Market Place.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED by Councillor O'Leary

IT WAS RESOLVED that the quote from L Smith Window Cleaning for £325 to remove the flags in October be accepted. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

It was noted that in the event of a death of a dignitary the main flags would be flown at half-mast. It was requested that the procedure/policy for a death of a royal/dignitary in regard to the decorative flags be addressed. **Action: Clerk**

(e) Update on arrangement for installation of floral displays

The floral displays would be in place shortly. The Deputy Clerk was to make sure they were in place before the OCC Woman's cycle race on the 12 June 2019. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(f) Relocation of bus shelter from Newbury Street

An order for the relocation of the redundant bus shelter in Newbury Street had been raised by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). The cost of the relocation was to be met by OCC. Consideration was given to the new location for the shelter.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Nunn-Price

SECONDED by Councillor Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that the bus shelter be relocated to Seesen Way. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(g) Update on weeds on footpath by Betjeman Park

The weeds had been dealt with by a volunteer of the Letcombe Brook Project.

(h) Street light outside Shush, Newbury Street

The light was now working.

(i) Arrangements for the 2019 Christmas decorations in town centre

It was agreed that the same arrangements be used for the Christmas decorations, as in 2018.

(j) Update on incidents in the Town Centre on Saturday nights

The Deputy Clerk was to contact Thames Valley Police to request a representative from the police to attend the next full council meeting on 24 June 2019 to report on incidents in the Town Centre and policing in the area. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(k) Consideration of a request to provide a Changing Places facility in the town centre

The provision of public toilet facilities was not within the remit of the Town Council, however, the request was given support by the committee. The Community Toilet Scheme was discussed, Councillor Goodman agreed to take this initiative to the Chamber of Commerce for consideration. **Action: Goodman**

(j) Street light on Belmont footpath

There had been no progress on the installation of a street light on footpath 14. The Chairman was to contact the OCC electrical officer, to ascertain why there was a delay.

Action: Chairman

Councillor Nunn-Price declared an interest in this item.

ON THE PROPOSTION of Councillor Major Sibbald

SECONDED by Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that if the street light had not been installed by September, the sum of £1500 (a contribution from residents) be returned. **Action: Deputy Clerk/Chairman**

Councillor Nunn-Price left the meeting.

(m) Other Town Centre matters

The Chairman requested that CCTV (around the town) be added to the next Planning Committee meeting agenda.

A full town weed kill was due in June, The Deputy Clerk was to request it be carried out ahead of the OVO Energy Women's Tour on 12 June 2019 **Action: Deputy Clerk**

The Chairman reported that street lamps were slowly being converted to LED lamps.

The District Council waste team will be spending a few days in Wantage to perform a deep clean, from 1 July to 9 July, to include litter picking, sweeping, and removing of weeds/moss from pavements. The Council had been invited to highlight specific areas that it would like to be considered for inclusion in the schedule. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

5. Other business

None

The meeting closed at 9.06pm
