

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

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

Others present: Two members of the public (part)

Deputy Clerk: Miss S Sanders

**Apologies for Absence**

None

**Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Nunn-Price declared an interest in item 9 (f)

**Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2019**

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

None

**7. Allotment Matters**

(a) Arrangements for Councillors’ allotment site visits on 6 July 2019

Notices had been put up at each site. Councillors and the Deputy Clerk were to meet at Grove Road allotments at 9.30 am and continue to Lark Hill Letcombe Fields, Naldertown and Stockham Park.

**Action: Deputy Clerk/Councillors**

(b) Naldertown – update on Thames Water reinstatement

The Chairman and the Deputy Clerk had met at the allotment site to assess the re-instatement by Thames Water and McAvoy who were the contractors for the sports hall at King Alfred’s West site. The holes had been filled and two manhole covers remain on plot 20b. Part of the fence which adjoins King Alfred’s playing fields was to be reinstated in July by McAvoy. The Deputy Clerk was to check when this has been completed.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(c) Grove Road Allotment Association – request for dedicated liaison Councillor

Councillor Sheldon agreed to be the dedicated liaison councillor for Grove Road, Councillor Johnson for Lark Hill and Councillor Hannaby for Stockham Park. The Deputy Clerk was to ask if any other councillors would be interested to act as liaison councillors for the sites at Letcombe fields and Naldertown.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Other allotment matters

It was requested that a table showing the current status of allotments across all sites be available at future L&A meetings.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

The two members of the public were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

## 8. Cemetery Matters

### (a) Cemetery Art Project

Funds of £8,600 had been received from the District Council. Contracts were to be drawn up between the artist and Wantage Town Council. **Action: Clerk**

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

The Deputy Clerk had made a request via 'Fix My Street' for the trees to be assessed. There had been no action to date. The Deputy Clerk was to chase.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

### (c) Update on actions from cemetery safety review

A quote from SB General Building Services Ltd had been received to repair the uneven areas on the approach road (£1731.00 + VAT). The Deputy Clerk was to seek two further quotes.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

Berkeley Homes had confirmed that the repair and maintenance of the footpath leading to Wantage CofE School was the responsibility of the managing agents Gem Estate Management. Gem were progressing the matter.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

### (d) Cemetery "friends" group

The Deputy Clerk had made contact with a local historian to seek information and advice regarding cemetery friends groups. It was noted that there was a national federation of cemetery friends, but nothing locally. The Deputy Clerk was to ask the local historian to make contact with Councillor Sheldon to discuss ideas the Council have.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

It was noted that parts of the cemetery were being used by youngsters to congregate. It was agreed that any matters of concern relating to this should be directed to the Clerk or Thames Valley Police.

**Action: All**

### (e) Other cemetery matters

It was agreed that a visit to the cemetery at Chain Hill should be made by councillors. A date was to be arranged.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

## 9. Town Centre Matters

### (a) Seasonal change of use for west end of the Market Place – review of Continental Day Event 16 June 2019. To note proposal to hold Silver Band concerts once a month during next summer and request to hold other events in this area.

The Continental Day event was a success. It was felt there may be a need to invest in some more suitable chairs and tables for future events. Encouragement needs to be given to organisations to hold events as there were lots of opportunities. Help with organisation

would be offered. The committee wished to express its thanks to the Clerk, businesses, volunteers and others who worked hard to make the event a success.

Councillor Major Sibbald advised that Eileen Sykes from Wantage Silver Band had agreed to enquire whether there was a band available for the Battle of Britain Parade on 15 September 2019.

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

The defibrillator had been installed in one of the telephone kiosks in the Market Place and was live with the ambulance service. The location of the defibrillator can be viewed on the SCAS app. Councillors were to meet at the site of the telephone box on the 15 July 2019 to take a photo in front of the defibrillator. A temporary defibrillator sign will be placed on the kiosk until a suitable permanent one is found. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(b) Update on installing town centre flags

A publican had requested a flag to be installed above his premises. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should source suitable flag holders allowing for spares.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(c) Relocation of bus shelter from Newbury Street

In order for the bus shelter to be re-located in Seesen Way it was necessary for a bin to be moved to the right of the pole.

ON THE PROPOSITON OF the Chairman

SECONDED by Councillor Nunn-Price

IT WAS RESOLVED that, as a matter of courtesy, the Deputy Clerk was to write a note to the residents of Stirlings Road to inform them of this. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

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

PC Darren James of Thames Valley Police had accepted the invitation to attend the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting on 15 July 2019 at 7.30pm.

(e) Consideration of a request to provide a Changing Place facility in the Town Centre

The Deputy Clerk was to contact the District Council regarding finding a suitable location to build a facility. It was noted that grants could be applied for.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(f) Street light on Belmont footpath

The installation of the light was being progressed by the lighting team at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). The Deputy Clerk was to chase. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(g) District Council Waste Team deep clean

The Deputy Clerk had provided a list of areas to be considered for the deep clean to the waste team.

(h) Market Place bollards and arrangement with County Council to replace damaged ones

The Deputy Clerk had contacted OCC regarding the need for six bollards to replace missing bollards. OCC agreed to purchase three if Wantage Town Council would purchase the remainder.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Major Sibbald

SECONDED by Councillor Nunn-Price

IT WAS RESOLVED that three bollards be purchased from Glasdon UK at a cost of £551.19

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(i) Complaint re dog fouling of grassed area in Foliat Close

A member of the public had written to the Clerk regarding dog fouling on the green areas in Foliat Close and requesting a sign be erected. The matter was to be passed to the District Council who have responsibility for this. The Deputy Clerk was to acknowledge the correspondence from the member of public informing them of this.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(k) Other Town Centre matters

The future of the town centre was discussed. It was noted that S106 funds were available towards the position of the Town Centre Manager. This needs to be progressed.

**Action: Clerk**

**10. Other business**

The Chairman updated the committee on the progress of civil parking enforcement. A consultant, employed by OCC, will be looking at existing parking orders, costs and issues in Oxfordshire.

It was noted that the rear steps of the bandstand at Manor Road Memorial Park had been removed and due to health and safety regulations - bands were not permitted to use it. The Deputy Clerk was to ascertain if the steps had now been reinstated and the bandstand could be used. It was also noted that a tree had been damaged. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

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