

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

Committee members present: Councillor JT Hannaby (Chairman)  
Councillors A Duveen, 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: S Sanders

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor J Goodman.

**Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Nunn-Price declared an interest in item 14(f)

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

The minutes were approved and signed.

**11 Statements and Questions from the Public**

None

**12 Allotment Matters**

(a) Allotment site visits on 6 July 2019

Councillors Hannaby, Johnson, O’Leary and Major Sibbald had attended the site visits.

(b) Naldertown – update on Thames Water reinstatement

The fence which adjoins King Alfred’s Academy playing fields had been reinstated.

(c) Allotment site dedicated liaison Councillors

No councillors had come forward to be a dedicated liaison councillor for Letcombe Fields or Naldertown sites.

(d) To agree date for allotment holders’ meeting.

The allotment holders meeting was to be held at 6.45pm on Monday 28 October 2019.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(e) Current status of allotment plot availability

The Deputy Clerk reported on the current availability at each allotment site. It was agreed that the Council’s website be updated regularly to show available plots for each site.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(f) To consider review of allotment rents from September 2020

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Nunn-Price  
SECONDED BY Councillor Sibbald

IT WAS MOVED that any increase in rent should be determined by reference to the overall income and expenditure of the allotment sites.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O'Leary  
SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies

IT WAS MOVED that the proposition be amended to that any increase should be in line with inflation.

The amended proposition was defeated, two votes in favour, four against. The original proposition was approved. It was agreed that the financial information relating to the sites should be provided by the Clerk to enable a decision to be made. **Action: Clerk**

(g) Other allotment matters

The Deputy Clerk updated the committee regarding the work being carried out to construct a care home adjacent to Grove Road allotments and how these affected the site. The contractor had addressed issues raised by allotment holders.

There had been some questions received from the Grove Road Allotment Association. The Deputy Clerk was to deal with them. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

The member of the public left the meeting.

13 **Cemetery Matters**

(a) Cemetery Art Project

A contract had been drawn up and signed by the Clerk. A signed copy had not yet been received from the artist. The Deputy Clerk was to chase the artist for the signed contract.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

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

The Chairman had contacted Oxfordshire County Council highways department to ascertain who the trees belong to, as they require attention. She was to chase an answer.

**Action: Chairman**

(c) Update on repairs to the uneven areas on the cemetery approach road.

Two quotes had been received for the repair to the uneven areas on the approach road, £5033.44 and £1731.00. It was felt that the difference in the price was due to a difference in the specification of the repairs. It was agreed that councillors would assess the requirements during the scheduled cemetery visit. **Action: All**

The repair of the footpath leading to Wantage CofE School had been carried out.

(d) Cemetery "Friends" group

It was agreed that there was not a need to establish a friends group.

(e) Date for councillors' visit to cemetery

The date agreed was 28 September 2019.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(f) Other cemetery matters

A member of the public had made contact regarding the need for some foliage to be cut back in the lower half of the cemetery. It was agreed that this be assessed during the councillors' visit on 28 September 2019.

**Action: All**

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**Town Centre Matters**

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

Wantage Silver Band performed in the west end of the market place on Sunday 15 September. The event was a great success.

The Clerk was to provide information regarding the proposal for the part pedestrianisation of the Market Place that had been developed a few years ago.

**Action: Clerk**

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

Councillors were to meet for a photograph on 30 September 2019. The Deputy Clerk was to arrange for the telephone box to be painted.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(c) Arrangements for removal of town centre flags

It was agreed that the flags should be taken down as soon as possible. The Clerk was to confirm that he was happy with the health & safety arrangements. The purchase of additional flag holders was to be deferred until next year.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Update on relocation of bus shelter from Newbury Street.

The bus shelter had been relocated to Seesen Way.

(e) Update regarding Changing Place facility in the Town Centre

The Chairman and the Deputy Clerk had met with Mr Lear of the District Council regarding the possibility of adapting the current disabled facility in Portway car park. Mr Lear had not yet received the drawings of the current facility in order to determine whether this was possible. The Deputy Clerk was to chase.

**Action Deputy Clerk**

(f) Street light on Belmont footpath

A cheque for £3000 had been sent to the lighting team at Oxfordshire County Council. Once the cheque has been received the work will commence.

Councillor Nunn-Price left the meeting.

(g) Update on condition of bandstand at Manor Road Memorial Park

The repairs to slabs around the bandstand had not yet been carried out. The Chairman was to chase this. **Action: Chairman**

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

Three bollards ordered by Wantage Town Council had been received. The remainder to be purchased by OCC had not yet been received. The Deputy Clerk was to chase.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(i) Town Centre Manager update

The staffing sub-committee had met and agreed to move forward with the recruitment of a town centre manager.

(k) Salt Bins

The Deputy Clerk had contacted Oxfordshire County Council to confirm that salt bins, at locations previously requested, were to be provided.

(l) To consider the complaints received from stall holders concerning the attendance of the LIDL stall at the recent Farmer's Market

The Clerk had responded to the complaints by email. The committee agreed that no further action was to be taken.

(m) Other Town Centre Matters

The District Council had offered three free parking days in their car parks in December, one per week. The following days were agreed: Saturday 7, 14 and 21 December 2019. It was agreed that Bushbuy Ltd and Waitrose be approached to request that they suspend their parking restriction on 6<sup>th</sup> December for Dickensian Evening.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

A request had been received from a resident in the Charlton Heights area for a defibrillator to be located near the shops. The Deputy Clerk was to respond informing the resident that there was a defibrillator located nearby at the Wantage Community Support Centre.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**10. Other business**

None.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

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