

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, ON MONDAY,
24 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.45P.M.**

Committee members present: Councillor J T Hannaby (Chairman)
Councillors A Duveen, T Gilhome, E L Johnson, A C Menzies,
J E Nunn-Price, P O’Leary, I L Sheldon and Major J Sibbald

Others present: Two members of the public.

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor J Goodman.

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2020

The minutes were approved and signed.

28. Statements and Questions from the Public

A member of the public stated she understood that Wantage Memorial Park had previously been owned by Wantage Town Council but was handed to the District Council. The member of the public enquired whether it could be handed back to Wantage Town Council.

The member of the public also made reference to The Beacon and its viability – would it be closed?

The chairman commented that the Town Council had been offered the control of Wantage Memorial Park in the past but the opportunity was not financially viable. She also commented that there was no intention to close the Beacon.

29. Allotment Matters

(a) Current status of allotment plot availability

The Deputy Clerk reported on current availability of allotment plots across all five sites. There was a small waiting list of people looking for specific plots.

(b) Re-location of access gate to Grove Road Site.

Work to move the gate was due to take place in the next few weeks.

(c) Request for scalplings for the track at Lark Hill site

It was estimated that 20 -25 bags (800kgs) at a cost of £36 each would be required to create a track to enable vehicles to access the plots for the purpose of unloading. It was agreed that this should be considered at the next meeting of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting.

(d) Other allotment matters

It was agreed to refer any allotment matters relating to climate change to the Climate Emergency Sub-Committee.

It was noted that the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils had become members of the National Allotment Society. The secretary of Grove Road Allotment

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Association asked if Wantage Town Council would follow this example and become members. Councillor Sheldon agreed to research the cost and benefits. **Action: Sheldon**

30. Cemetery Matters

(a) Cemetery Art Project

The artwork had been installed.

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

There was no update.

Action: Chairman

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

Two quotations had been obtained. £10,566.28 & £8,949.90. It was agreed to proceed with the lower quotation.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Nunn-Price
SECONDED BY Councillor Johnson

IT WAS RESOLVED to instruct Oxfordshire & District Business Services to carry out the repairs to the cemetery approach road at the cost of £8,949.90 **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Planting of saplings along border of new cemetery land.

The Deputy Clerk reported that a mix of trees had been planted by The Conservation Volunteer Group (TCV) in 2017. The growth was to be monitored by the Deputy Clerk.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(e) Other cemetery matters

None.

31. Town Centre Matters

(a) Purchase of tables and chairs/storage space

There was no update.

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

In order to progress the installation of a Changing Place facility within the Portway public toilets, the Deputy Clerk was to write to the District Council to request the current building plans and the drawing up of a proposed extension, to ensure sufficient space was achievable. On completion of the drawings an estimate of the cost would be requested.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(c) Purchase of bus shelters for two locations in Charlton Road

The bus shelters were due to be installed on 16 and 17 March 2020.

(d) Town Centre Flags

It was noted that several of the wooden poles had snapped when they were removed from the flag holders. It was agreed to replace the broken wooden poles with metal poles on a rolling programme. It was agreed to use the same contractor as 2019 and install the Union Jack and Wyvern flags around the town. The cost of installation (£325) had not changed from last year.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Sheldon

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IT WAS RESOLVED TO Instruct L Smith Window Cleaning to install the flags before St George's Day (23 April 2020). **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- (e) CCTV – to receive questions to be referred to the District Council officers

It was agreed to ask the following question: What is the criteria for installation of a camera?

- (f) To consider whether to proceed with weedkilling treatment across the town.

A quotation had been received for the weed control of the whole town at a cost of £775 per treatment.

ON THE PROPOSTION OF Councillor O'Leary

SECONDED BY Councillor Johnson

IT WAS RESOLVED to keep the same arrangement as 2018/19 and to instruct Charlton Environmental Limited to carry out three whole town treatments.

- (g) Other Town Centre Matters

A working party was to meet on 25 February 2020 to discuss the pedestrianisation of the west end of the market place. Oxfordshire County Council were working with bus operators regarding the configuration of the new layout of the bus service.

32. The Great British Spring Clean

The Deputy Clerk was to contact Sustainable Wantage regarding the 2020 Great British Spring Clean. Wantage Town Council would support the event by helping to advertise it, if Sustainable Wantage were to facilitate the event. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

33. Other Business.

None

The meeting closed at 9.10pm
