

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES
COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM, ON
MONDAY, 6 JULY 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Committee members present: Councillor J T Hannaby (Chairman)
Councillors A Duveen, J Goodman, E L Johnson,
A C Menzies, P O'Leary, and Major J Sibbald

Other councillors present: Councillor A Dunford

Others present: A Yates - Town Centre Manager
One member of the public

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor I L Sheldon

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2020

The minutes were approved.

6. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

7. Allotment Matters

(a) Current Status of Allotment Plot Availability

The Deputy Clerk reported that 24 Wantage residents and 4 non-Wantage residents were on the waiting list for plots at Grove Road and Stockham Park. There was availability at Letcombe Fields and Naldertown.

(b) Allotment Inspections

Inspections were to be carried out between 7-10 July at all allotment sites.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(c) Other Allotment Matters

An area at the top of Grove Road allotment site had been re-dressed with scalpings as a goodwill gesture by the contractor building the care home adjacent to the site. The contractor was also due to re-dress the track.

There was currently not a requirement for scalpings at the Larkhill site.

8. Cemetery Matters

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

The County Council had advised that the trees were not their responsibility.

(b) Repairs to the uneven areas of the cemetery approach road

The repairs had been completed.

(c) Other cemetery matters

None.

9. Town Centre Matters

(a) Changing Place facility in the town centre

The Town Clerk was to raise with the District Council the issue of modifying or extending the Portway toilets to accommodate a Changing Place facility. **Action: Clerk**

(b) Vandalism in town centre

The Deputy Clerk was seeking quotations to repair the damage caused to King Alfred's axe caused by vandalism. New CCTV equipment was due to be installed in the police station in Abingdon. A camera had been requested for installation in Wallingford Street.

(c) Other town centre matters

The County Council were due to install cycle racks around the town centre and on Charlton Road.

The western end of the market place had been temporarily pedestrianised in response to COVID-19 and the requirement for reopening the High Street safely. The success of this initiative was to be monitored. A Chamber of Commerce meeting was being held virtually by Zoom on 9 July. Feedback from the meeting would be given to the Clerk.

10. Other Business

As part of preparation for Operation London Bridge, it was proposed that nets be purchased, to be placed around the statue to provide a floral tribute area. The nets would prevent the tributes being blown into the highway.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Sibbald
SECONDED BY Councillor Johnson

IT WAS RESOLVED to purchase nets, restraints and padlocks up to the value of £250

Action: Sibbald

A report was given on a project called 'Build a Better Oxford' where members of the public were invited to share ideas of how the city should look. It was suggested that Wantage could do a similar thing where pictures and drawings could be put forward showing what the town centre should look like in the future, and that the Vale and Downland Museum might take this on as a project. Councillor Cameron, the chairman of the museum, was to be asked if this idea could be taken forward. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

A meeting was to be arranged with the District Council's cabinet member for leisure to discuss the new leisure strategy and the utilisation of S106 funding. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

It was noted that local cycle routes were not signposted. Councillor Dunford agreed to ascertain where signage was required and report to the Deputy Clerk to raise at the next meeting of the Traffic Advisory Committee. **Action: Dunford**

The meeting closed at 8.07 pm
