

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES
COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM, ON
MONDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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

Other councillors present: I R Cameron

Others present: One member of the public

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Goodman.

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2020

The minutes were approved.

11. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

12. Allotment Matters

(a) Current status of allotment plot availability

The Deputy Clerk reported on the availability of allotments. Details were to be circulated to the committee. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(b) Allotment Inspections

Allotment inspections had been carried out at all five sites. It was noted that allotment renewals were to take place at the end of September.

(c) To consider a date for the annual allotment tenants meeting

It was agreed for the meeting to precede the committee meeting on 26 October 2020 commencing at 6 pm. Tenancy renewal letters were to be sent at the end of September; the letters were to include the date and time of the meeting. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Renewal of the lease for Lark Hill allotment site.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Sibbald

IT WAS RESOLVED TO accept the offer from Oxfordshire County Council to renew the allotment lease on a 21 year term on the same terms as the current lease. **Action: Clerk**

(e) Other allotment matters

None.

13. Cemetery Matters

(a) Maintenance of hedge along the new cemetery border

The Deputy Clerk reported that a large proportion of the hedge planted by The Tree Conservation Volunteers (TCV) had not grown well. The Deputy Clerk was to engage with TCV for advice and to also seek advice from the ground maintenance contractor. It was noted that the Woodland Trust offer advice and have grants available for this type of project.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(b) Other cemetery matters

The conifer trees were to be monitored and maintained by the ground maintenance contractor.

14. Town Centre Matters

(a) Changing Place facility in the town centre

An audit of property managed by the District Council was being carried out. Focus had been given to Abingdon and Wallingford. It was questioned why other towns were being prioritised.

(b) Meeting with the District Council regarding the new leisure strategy (S106)

The District Council's Leisure Strategy was being compiled. It was noted that a consultation had taken place some years ago by Wantage Town Council seeking ideas from Wantage residents about what leisure facilities they would like to see in Wantage. This was to be used as a starting point to produce a wish list.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(c) Arrangement for removal of town centre flags

The Deputy Clerk was to arrange for the town centre flags to be taken down at the beginning of October.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(d) Salt/grit bins

Oxfordshire County Council were due to re-fill the salt bins for the winter. The Deputy Clerk was to report any empty bins to Oxfordshire County Council. There had been no requests for additional bins.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(e) Community litter pick (Wild Wantage)

A litter pick was to be carried out by Wild Wantage 17-20 September 2020.

(f) Relocation of town centre entry sign –A417 east of town

It was agreed to relocate the town entry sign on the A417 (near the Nelson PH) closer to the parish boundary and the Kingsgrove development. A location had been agreed with Oxfordshire County Council. Quotations were being sought for the relocation.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(g) Other town centre matters

‘Build a Better Wantage’. It was suggested that ideas could be sought regarding how Wantage should look in the future. Members of the public could share their ideas by submitting drawings. Councillor Cameron had engaged with the Vale and Downland Museum regarding the possibility of its support. It was agreed that the project should be put forward to the Vale and Downland Museum once the strategy had been agreed.

Action: Deputy Clerk

A question had been raised by taxi drivers asking where they would be located in the event of the pedestrianisation of Newbury Street.

A consultation survey, is being undertaken about the closure of the western end of the market place and also seeking opinions about further temporary pedestrianisation. The survey is open until the end of October 2020.

The Deputy Clerk was to carry out an audit of current street furniture to ascertain any maintenance work that is required.

Action: Deputy Clerk

15. Other Business.

None

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.
