

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE PROMOTION, COMMUNICATION
AND EVENTS COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE USING
ZOOM ON MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30 P.M**

Committee members present: Councillor C Wills-Wright (Chairman)
Councillors A Crawford, T Gilhome, J T Hannaby, J E Nunn-Price
and Major J Sibbald.

Others present: S Milton - Community Development Officer
One member of the public

Town Centre Manager (TCM): A Yates
Town Project Coordinator (TPC): J Mitchell
Town Clerk: W P Falkenau.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O Curley, J Goodman and C Walters.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None.

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2020

The minutes were approved.

11. Statements and Questions from the Public

None

12. Introduction to Sophie Milton, Community Development Officer

Ms Milton was welcomed to the meeting. She reported that she had been in the role since July. The role covered the Kingsgrove development in Wantage and the Wellington Gate development in Grove. Her job was to welcome new residents and assist them in becoming familiar with and involved in the community. It was agreed that there would be value in her liaising with the TCM. Assistance could be given in preparing a welcome pack. The Clerk agreed to provide her with copies of the Town Guide. **Action: Clerk**

She was thanked for participating in the meeting and she left it.

13. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Foldable seats and tables

The Clerk had not yet ordered the chairs.

Action: Clerk

b) Large LED display board

Councillor Gilhome agreed to provide more details of the equipment being considered including a full analysis of purchase and ongoing costs.

Action: Gilhome

It was noted that all committees would be considering estimates in the next meeting cycle. Consideration would be given to including a budget for the LED display board at the next meeting. This would be subject to full cost information being available.

It was felt that Kings Wharf would be a more suitable location for the display, rather than in the Market Place conservation area. Committee members were invited to undertake a visit around town centre with the TCM to try to identify what sites might be suitable.

Action: All

c) Plaque to record Pride in Wantage recipients

The Clerk had not yet sought quotes for the provision of plaques. There was still a need to consider where the plaque could be displayed. **Action: Clerk**

The publication of the list of recipients on the website had prompted a recipient to come forward who had been omitted from the list in error. This had been immediately corrected.

d) Update re provision of Changing Places facility in town centre

The Clerk would be engaging with the District Council concerning the provision of a Changing Places facility in the toilet block in the Portway car park. **Action: Clerk**

e) Freedom of Wantage arrangements

The setting of a date in 2021, for a parade by the sailors of the Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier, was dependent upon when the carrier would be in port and the Covid-19 situation.

f) Revamping of Town Council's website

The Clerk had not yet arranged for a cloned copy of the Town Council's website to be available for Councillor Johnson to modify. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor Sibbald had continued to actively update the website. He reported that the website had recently been updated, by the providers, to make it compliant with statutory accessibility requirements

g) Love Wantage brand, website and relationship with Wantage.com and Town Council website.

The TCM continued to liaise with Mr Hill of Wantage.com.

14. **Review of draft newsletter**

The draft newsletter was considered. If final changes could be agreed at the meeting, the newsletter could be distributed during the following week.

The general form and content was regarded as suitable. There was discussion about whether the newsletter should include an update on the Community Hospital. It was felt that it was premature to give a report at this time, but this would change within a few weeks. There were also other matters that would be worthy of report prior to Christmas. It was agreed to remove "Quarterly" from the newsletter header to give flexibility regarding the frequency of publication. The following amendments were also agreed:

Front page: Third paragraph to read 'This includes weekly postings about the market stalls which are expected.'

Second page: Delete all party references (LD,C etc.) and add Councillors Caroline Wills-Wright and Chris Walters. A Crawford to be changed to Andy Crawford. Add MBE to Jean Nunn-Price. Add OBE to Jane Hanna.

Fourth page: Narrative on plan to be amended to replace upper case letters with lower case letters, where appropriate. **Action: TPC**

The TPC was thanked for his work in bringing the newsletter together.

15. Other business.

a) Artisan markets

The TCM had produced a proposal to hold artisan markets on Sundays in the lead up to Christmas. It involved a budget spend of £1,000.

A letter had been received just prior to the meeting from Ansaf Azhar, Oxfordshire Director of Public Health, about Covid-19 measures for public events taking place in parishes. It urged that Covid-19 safe practices were adopted. Although the letter did not directly relate to markets, it was felt the words of caution should be given regard.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Crawford

SECONDED BY Councillor Sibbald

IT WAS RESOLVED TO approve the holding of the artisan markets on the Sundays leading up to Christmas, subject to the TCM seeking the support and approval of the District Council's Environmental Health Department to the arrangements. **Action: TCM**

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.
