

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM, ON
MONDAY, 11 JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

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

None.

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2020

The minutes were approved.

21. Statements and Questions from the Public

Mr McPherson requested the following information on behalf of Grove Road Allotment Association.

1. What is the income from rents and expenditure for allotments in Wantage for the previous 12 month period?
2. What is the breakdown of expenditure on allotments for the previous 12 month period?

The information would be sent to Mr McPherson by email following the meeting.

Action: Deputy Clerk

22. Allotment Matters

(a) Current status of allotment plot availability

The Deputy Clerk reported that there were currently 31 Wantage residents and 4 non-Wantage residents on the waiting list for plots.

(b) To consider a request from Grove Road Allotment Association regarding dividing some existing plots into smaller sizes

The Chairman did not want to take this idea forward at the present time, however it was acceptable for a tenant to have an informal arrangement with someone wishing to help with the cultivation of a plot (current lockdown rules permitting) with responsibility for the plot remaining with the tenant.

- (c) Communal bench – Stockham Park site
The Deputy Clerk had identified a suitable bench for the area and was to circulate the specifications to committee members for consideration. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- (d) Additional water trough – Lark Hill site
The Deputy Clerk had not yet been able to identify the location of the water feed to the site. Further investigations were to be carried out. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- (e) Other allotment matters

The Chairman had received a proposal from Wild Wantage, following a meeting of the Climate Emergency Sub-committee, regarding ideas for allotments. The information was to be circulated to committee members. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

It had been reported by the Grove Road Allotment Association that there was a rotten fence post at the site. The ground maintenance contractor had visited the site and advised the Deputy Clerk of the work required to re-instate the fence. Two new posts would be required. It was agreed that the work should be carried out. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

23. Cemetery Matters

- (a) Planting of a hedge along cemetery border
The planting of replacement trees, and additional line of hedge to be created along the border with Wantage C of E school, was due to commence on 13 January 2021.

- (b) Arrangement for seeking quotes for ground maintenance contract in 2021 season
It was agreed that due to Covid-19 restrictions it would be difficult to seek quotes from prospective contractors.
ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies
IT WAS RESOLVED TO offer a further year's contract to the current contractor. The contractor had not increased his price for 2021. **Action: Clerk**

- (c) To consider the request from Wild Wantage to put some small nesting boxes around the cemetery

It was agreed to allow Wild Wantage to put up some small bird nesting boxes around the cemetery.

- (d) Garden of Remembrance – benches and trees
The Deputy Clerk was to circulate details of an appropriate bench to committee members. It was agreed that a site visit should be made to assess requirement for trees in the area. **Action: Deputy Clerk/ Hannaby**

- (e) Other cemetery matters

None.

24. Town Centre Matters

- (a) District Council Leisure Strategy (S106 funding)
There was no update.
- (b) Relocation of town entry sign – A417 east of town
Confirmation had been received from the Road Agreement Team (Oxfordshire County Council) that the location for the re-positioning of the sign, as suggested, was acceptable. Permission from the current landowner (St Modwen) had been received.
Action: Deputy Clerk
- (c) Street furniture maintenance
The noticeboards were to be painted and the plaque on King Alfred's statue was to be varnished/oiled as appropriate.
Action: Deputy Clerk
- (d) Street name plates
A list of name plates that need replacing was to be compiled and sent to the District Council.
Action: Deputy Clerk
- (e) Arrangements for Christmas decorations 2021
The Town Centre Manager (TCM) suggested some improvements could be made to the decorations. Extra lights/baubles etc and possibly involve school children in the design. Some businesses in Church Street had requested lights to be installed on their properties. It was agreed that the TCM would develop proposals regarding these possible additions.
Action: TCM
- (f) Arrangements for floral displays 2021
ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor O'Leary
SECONDED BY Councillor Sibbald
IT WAS RESOLVED TO keep the same arrangements as spring/summer 2020
- (g) Arrangements for weed killing 2021
ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies
IT WAS RESOLVED TO keep the same arrangements as 2020 (full town weed kill March/April, June and September).
Action: Deputy Clerk
- (h) Manor Road Memorial Park plan/vision
Wild Wantage was seeking approval from the District Council regarding its plans for the planting of trees. The trees would make a good barrier between the fields and Manor Road Memorial Park. It was hoped that the hedge planting would create a screen and the existing fence would be removed.
- (i) Alfred's Bath – planting of bulbs
It was agreed that the pathway through Alfred's Bath was to be planted with daffodils.
Action: Deputy Clerk

25. Other Business

A site meeting had taken place to look at possible modifications to the raised kerbing at the western end of the Market Place. A quotation had not yet been received.

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Oxfordshire County Council were due to install signs that read 'Unsuitable for HGVs', as well as raising the height of a 'keep left' sign, and install replacement island bollards at the eastern end of the Market Place. This was in response to the problems with HGVs entering the Market Place from Newbury Street.

The meeting closed at 8.17pm
