

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE PROMOTION, COMMUNICATION
AND EVENTS COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE USING
ZOOM ON MONDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30 P.M**

Committee members present: Councillor C Wills-Wright (Chairman)
Councillors A Crawford, T Gilhome, Major J Sibbald and
C Walters (part).

Others present: Councillors A Dunford and P O’Leary (part)

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

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Goodman and J T Hannaby.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None.

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2020

The minutes were approved.

23. Statements and Questions from the Public

None

24. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Large LED display board

Information obtained by Councillor Gilhome had been passed to all councillors. It was suggested that displays could be installed in four places where Town Council notice boards were currently located – VC Forecourt, Church Street by entrance to car park, Kings Walk and by Waitrose.

There were concerns about installing the displays within the conservation area. It was agreed that the District Council be contacted to get the views of the Conservation Officer and to obtain information about any planning obligations relating to the installation of displays.

Action: Deputy Clerk

It was felt that the best location for a display would be in the Kings Walk area. The owner of the area had expressed a reluctance to permit the installation of a sign, It was agreed that the TCM should contact the owner again to see if a solution could be found. She was also to explore whether a display could be accommodated within a shop window in that area.

Action: TCM

As well as a requirement for a power supply for a display, there was also a need for wifi connection, to make it easier to update the display. Councillor Sibbald agreed to investigate what wifi connections were available in the proposed locations.

Action: Sibbald

b) Plaque to record Pride in Wantage recipients

The Clerk had not yet sought quotes for the provision of a plaque. This action would remain in hand until The Beacon re-opened. It was unlikely that The Beacon would re-open before another six months. There was a need to ensure that any statements concerning the use or re-opening of The Beacon were consistent with communications from the District Council.

Action: Clerk

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

The Clerk had not yet engaged with the property officer at the District Council. He hoped to proceed with this within the coming week. **Action: Clerk**

d) Freedom of Wantage arrangements

An event was now likely to proceed in July 2022.

e) "COVID-19 Safer Public Spaces Proposal" survey

The final survey document was ready for distribution and display on the Council's website. The Chairman agreed to prepare a statement for distribution to the press and for inclusion on the website. **Action: Wills-Wright**

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

The TCM reported on her work in updating websites and social media.

Councillor O'Leary joined the meeting.

The Love Wantage shopping bags had been ordered. There was discussion about how these should be distributed to the public, when received. The committee previously had expressed the intention of manning a stall in the Market Place on a regular basis, in order to engage with the public. It was agreed to proceed with a stall when Covid and social distancing rules have been relaxed, and that the bags be distributed from the stall.

g) Artisan markets

The markets held before Christmas had been well received and overall had been regarded as a great success. The TCM was thanked for her work in organising these.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Gilhome

SECONDED BY Councillor Sibbald

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT when the pandemic rules permit, an artisan market should be held on a once a month basis, on a Sunday. **Action: TCM**

There had been a suggestion that the whole of the Market Place be closed when artisan markets were held. The Clerk advised that this would involve a substantial amount of extra work and he had previously received complaints from some about the frequency on which the whole Market Place was being closed.

25. Newsletter - Arrangements for next newsletter.

It had been proposed at the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting the previous week that a newsletter be published in late March, to include reports by committee chairmen on the activities of their committee over the past year.

The Clerk advised that he had hoped the newsletter could be distributed to local residents by Royal Mail, the previously used contractor being less than satisfactory. The Royal Mail systems will only allow distribution within the whole of certain post code areas and this meant that newsletters would go to residents in parishes outside Wantage. It was agreed that this was unsatisfactory and that alternative arrangements that only delivered to residents of Wantage be sought. **Action: Clerk**

Committee chairmen were to proceed to prepare their reports. These were to be 150 to 250 words long. They were to be passed to the Town Mayor. **Action: Committee Chairmen**

The newsletter was to contain a note concerning the procedure for applying for a postal vote.
Action: Clerk

26. To consider what events might be held online or outdoors whilst pandemic restrictions apply.

Councillor Walters left the meeting.

It was felt that it was unlikely that any events could proceed until pandemic restrictions were eased, but there was a need to plan for events when this occurred. There were also events, over the coming two years, relating to the Royal Family that needed to be planned. It was suggested that events involving local cycling groups be organised. It was agreed that a small working party be formed to progress these. The following were to be members – Councillors Gilhome, Sibbald and Wills-Wright, and the TCM and TPC. **Action: Wills-Wright**

Councillor O’Leary agreed to engage with the cycling groups concerning a cycling event.
Action: O’Leary

27. Other business.

None.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.
