

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF  
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM, ON  
MONDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2021 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,  
I L Sheldon and Major J Sibbald

Others present: Three members 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 11 January 2021**

The minutes were approved.

**26. Statements and Questions from the Public**

A member of the public enquired about the S106 developers’ contributions held by the District Council (£32,208,547). £6 million had been secured for the building of the Wessex Leisure Centre, which was now not going ahead. She raised concerns about the allocation of the funds being determined by a survey and asked, if there was no need locally for any leisure facilities, would it be spent in other areas within the Vale? She would like the Town Council to be proactive to ensure the Wantage and Grove area benefits from the monies. The Chairman advised that there would be an engagement process to determine how the money will be spent.

**27. Allotment Matters**

(a) Current status of allotment plot availability

The Deputy Clerk reported that there were no available plots. There were currently 30 Wantage residents and 9 non-Wantage residents on the waiting list for plots. There were also 3 tenants looking for additional plots.

(b) Communal Bench – Stockham Park site

It was agreed to purchase two benches made from recycled material for installation in the Stockham Park site for allotment holders to use and enjoy. A further bench was to be purchased to replace one recently removed, for health and safety reasons, from Maryfield/Ormond Road.

ON THE PROPOSTION OF Councillor O’Leary  
SECONDED BY Councillor Johnson

IT WAS RESOLVED TO purchase three black moulded forest saver benches from Earth Anchors Limited with Wantage Town Council engraved on the top slat.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(c) Other allotment matters

The Deputy Clerk had received a communication from the secretary of the Grove Road Allotment Association regarding sightings of rats and damage to crops. The Chairman advised that there was a problem with rats everywhere. It was important that allotment holders did not bring anything to the allotment site that might encourage rats. The problem should be monitored.

**28. Cemetery Matters**

(a) Planting of a hedge along cemetery border

The planting of replacement trees, and additional line of hedge had been carried out by The Conservation Volunteers. Thanks were expressed for the work carried out.

(b) Garden of remembrance

A site visit to assess the requirement for trees and benches in the area would take place once Covid-19 restrictions were lifted. **Action: Deputy Clerk/Hannaby**

(c) Other cemetery matters

None.

**29. Town Centre Matters**

(a) District Council Leisure Strategy (S106 funding) – Community Engagement

It was agreed that a working group should be set up and the group should engage with members of the public to seek their views regarding the leisure facilities that are needed. It was agreed that Grove Parish Council should be invited to join the working group.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(b) Street furniture maintenance

The maintenance to the noticeboards and wooden surround on King Alfred's plaque had not yet been completed. The Deputy Clerk was to chase. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(c) Street name plates

A list of name plates to be replaced had been compiled. The list was to be sent to the District Council. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Arrangements for Christmas decorations 2021

Investigations into improvements of the Christmas decorations were being carried out. There was no update. **Action: Town Centre Manager**

(e) Manor Road Memorial Park plan/vision

The District Council had not yet agreed the plans that were presented by Wild Wantage with regard to the planting of trees. It was agreed to refer this to the Climate Emergency Committee to take forward.

(f) Alfred's Bath – Planting of bulbs

Daffodils had been planted.

(g) Salt bin request for Priory Orchard

A request from a member of the public had been received for a salt bin.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor O'Leary

IT WAS RESOLVED that a salt bin should be purchased.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(h) Town Centre flags

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Sibbald

SECONDED BY Councillor Duveen

IT WAS RESOLVED TO Instruct L Smith Window Cleaning to install the flags at the beginning of April 2021.

It was noted that The Wantage Bunting Project had been approached to put bunting around the Market Place to commemorate the Queen's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on 21 April 2021.

(i) Market Place Update

A quotation had been received for carrying out modifications to the raised kerbing area and the construction of two dropped crossings at the western end of the Market Place. A second quote was being sought.

**Action: Clerk**

The Deputy Clerk was to research suitable planters for the area.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**30. Other Business**

The Chairman reported that Thames Water had recently carried out work near the old HSBC building. A TTRO (Temporary Traffic Regulation Order) had been issued to close part of the carriageway between 17 & 19 February. The closure arrangements were unsatisfactory causing confusion.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm

-----