

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE PROMOTION, COMMUNICATION
AND EVENTS COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE USING
ZOOM ON MONDAY, 22 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30 P.M**

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

Others present: Councillor Duveen
One member of the public

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 Nunn-Price.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None.

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2021

The minutes were approved.

28. Statements and Questions from the Public

None

29. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Large LED display board

An application had been made to the District Council to establish whether a planning application was required for the installation of the LED signs in the conservation area or elsewhere.

The TCM had referred back to Bushbuy regarding installing an LED board in the Kings Walk area. They had no objection to a display in one of, or in place of, one of the existing notice boards, or in the shop window of properties let by them. The TCM had engaged with Toy Planet and Ledbury's. Toy Planet were willing to consider this, but Ledbury's were reluctant. It was suggested that the large wall to the rear of Ledbury's might be a better location than their shop window. Further action awaited the outcome of the application regarding planning approval.

Councillor Sibbald reported that wi-fi coverage in the locations proposed was poor. It was noted that a 4g dongle might be a suitable alternative.

b) Plaque to record Pride in Wantage recipients

Awaits The Beacon re-opening.

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

The Clerk had referred the request to District Council officers and was awaiting a response. There was a need for clarification about whether a government grant might be available. Councillor Crawford agreed to pass the Clerk details of the government scheme. (NB it advises "Local authorities will soon be invited to "opt in" to receive a proportion of this funding, based on need, to install facilities in their communities"). **Action: Crawford**

d) Freedom of Wantage arrangements

An event in June/July 2022 remained likely.

e) Love Wantage brand

The Love Wantage shopping bags had been ordered and were due for delivery towards the end of June. The bags were to be distributed without charge but with recipients invited to make a donation to the charities supported by the Matyor. The TCM was also intending to replace the roundels above the floral displays with ones that showed the Love Wantage logo.

f) Artisan markets

It was hoped to proceed with a monthly market on a Sunday commencing in May and ending in October. There would be no food stalls, to avoid the queueing and social distancing issues arising from them. The TCM was to proceed with advertising but with the proviso that the holding of the market would be dependent upon Covid rules. **Action: TCM**

g) Events to be held when restrictions lifted

It had been agreed that Councillors Gilhome, Sibbald and Wills-Wright, and the TCM and TPC form a working group. This had not yet met. Councillor Wills-Wright was to call a meeting. **Action: Wills-Wright**

Either the TCM or TPC would act as clerks to the working group. **Action: TCM or TPC**

h) Cycling event

Councillor O'Leary had agreed at the last meeting to engage with the cycling groups concerning a cycling event. The Clerk was to make enquiries about whether the Wantage to Winchester event was likely to proceed. **Action: Clerk**

30. Newsletter - Arrangements for next newsletter.

The current newsletter had been distributed over the past few days. Some councillors residing on Charlton Heights had not yet received theirs. This was to be followed up. **Action: TPC**

The Clerk had failed to include an article regarding election postal votes. He agreed to promote postal voting through social media. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor Sibbald was to place a copy of the newsletter on the Council's website. He was also to include an item on postal voting. **Action: Sibbald**

The next committee meeting was on 14 June. It was agreed that the publication of the next newsletter be put back to late July to give more time for the committee to consider its content. Its focus could be on the reopening of the town after lockdown. The inclusion of an artist's impression of the western Market Place pedestrianised area was suggested.

31. Other business.

a) Wantage Covid-19 signage

An email had been received from the District Council at 5 pm on the previous Friday. It advised that the District Council was due to receive funding for the purpose of creating new signage to welcome people back to the high streets but also remind people to follow the rules

to help stop the spread of Covid-19. The Town Council was being asked to submit details of locations where the signage could be displayed. Councillors had been asked to refer suggestions to the Clerk. A response had been requested for the following day. It was agreed that there was a need for a slogan to reinforce the messaging. The Clerk was to respond to the District Council.

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm.
