

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, ON
MONDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Committee members present: Councillor J T Hannaby (Chairman)
Councillors E L Johnson and A C Menzies

Others present: Two members of the public

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

These were received from Councillors I L Sheldon, J Sibbald and C Walters.

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Johnson declared an interest as an allotment tenant.

To sign the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2021

The minutes were approved and signed.

**To note the report relating to the business of the Leisure and Amenities Committee dated
28 July 2021.**

The report was noted.

1. Statements and Questions from the Public

None

2. Allotment Matters

(a) Current Status of Allotment Plot Availability

The Deputy Clerk reported that there were 37 Wantage residents on the waiting list. Inspections had taken place in July. There had been a couple of relinquished plots that have subsequently been re-let.

(b) Communal Bench – Stockham Park Site

A recently purchased bench that had been earmarked for Stockham Park allotment site had been used in the temporary pedestrianised area at the western end of the Market Place. A bench to replace this was to be ordered once a full list had been compiled of all locations identified as being suitable for new/replacement benches. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(c) Additional Water Trough – Lark Hill Site

The water trough had not yet been installed. The appropriate time to install it was during the autumn so that there was not a disruption to the water supply during installation.

(d) Review of Allotment Rents

The analysis of allotment income and expenditure for 2020/21 had been circulated.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies

IT WAS RESOLVED that there be no increase in rent from September 2022

(e) To Consider Holding an Allotment Holders' Meeting

It was agreed to hold a meeting virtually by Zoom on Thursday 21 October at 6.30 pm.

(f) Other Allotment Matters

An email had been received from Macdermid Autotype Ltd about bonfires, appearing to be on the Grove Road allotment site, causing issues for the factory. Windows could not be left open for ventilation due to the smoke. The Clerk had asked that a log of dates and times of when the bonfires occur to be made. The Deputy Clerk was to follow up with the secretary of the Grove Road Allotment Association. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

It was noted that a tenant had reported recent anti-social behaviour at the Letcombe Fields site. Some of it included fly-tipping and damage to plots. The Deputy Clerk was to engage with the Environmental Enforcement Officer at the District Council to ascertain if there was a possibility of installing CCTV cameras in the area and to also ask Thames Valley Police to add this area to their scheduled patrol. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

3 Cemetery Matters

(a) Garden of Remembrance – Benches and Trees

A site visit to assess the requirement for trees and benches in the area had not yet been carried out. **Action: Deputy Clerk/Hannaby**

(b) Natural Burial Area

No discussion took place. It was agreed to defer until the next meeting when more information would be available.

(c) Other Cemetery Matters

None.

4. Town Centre Matters

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

- i) Request for a Meeting with Dr Smans, Economic Development & Active Communities Manager (District Council)

The Deputy Clerk was to agree a suitable date for a meeting with Dr Smans of the District Council and Rachel Fowler of Strategic Leisure Limited who were looking to seek views on the future need for leisure facilities resulting from new developments in Faringdon, Wantage, Grove and surrounding areas.
Action: Deputy Clerk

ii) Zoom meeting 15 September 2021 with Wantage & Grove Campaign Group

It was agreed that that Councillors Crawford, Hannaby and Johnson would join the meeting.

(c) Street Name Plates

The street name plates had not yet been ordered by the District Council. There were issues about the request for all plates to include QR codes. It was agreed that the order should not be delayed any further and that the plates be ordered without QR codes, which could be added later if necessary.
Action: Deputy Clerk

(d) Arrangements for Christmas decorations 2021

The Town Centre Manager had investigated the options to improve the Christmas lighting. The suggestion was to install icicle lights in Church Street (businesses at the Newbury Street end), Peking Dynasty and Alexanders Hair Studio. A meeting was to take place with the electrical contractor to confirm the cost, but it was expected to be in the region of £1,000.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Johnson

IT WAS RESOLVED to allow a budget of £1,000 for the improvements.

(d) King Alfred Statue Full Clean

King Alfred's Statue had not been cleaned since 2017. The Deputy Clerk had received three quotations from contractors to carry out a full clean.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Johnson

SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies

IT WAS RESOLVED that the work should be given to Wells Cathedral Stonemasons Ltd, who provided the lowest quote of £1060.

(e) Manor Road Memorial Park plan/vision

It was requested that a letter, confirming the Town Council's interest in taking ownership of the Memorial Park, Manor Road, should be sent to the appropriate person at the District Council.
Action: Clerk

(f) Requests for additional salt bins

No requests had been received for additional salt bins. It had been agreed earlier in the year that a bin was to be installed in Priory Orchard. This was on Oxfordshire County Council's scheduled to be delivered shortly.

(g) Additional/replacement benches

A couple of benches had been identified as needing to be replaced due to their condition. A list was to be compiled of all areas requiring additional/replacement benches.

Action: Hannaby/Deputy Clerk

(h) Town Centre flags

The flags around the town had been taken down. Discussions regarding arrangements for 2022 were to take place at a future meeting.

(i) Planting of area of land opposite St Katherines, Wallingford Street

The Deputy Clerk had contacted the District Council about their intention of planting up the area. There had been discussions, but nothing had been agreed. The Deputy Clerk was to chase this up.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(j) Markets – reintroduction of pitch fees

Pitch fees had been waived since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Fees were being re-introduced From September 2021.

(k) Market Place update

The Town Council had instructed a consultant to look at the work needed to make the temporary pedestrianised area permanent.

(l) Winter floral displays

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Johnson

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quote from Window Flowers Ltd for the Winter/Spring floral displays at cost of £2510.00.

The meeting closed at 8.49 pm
