

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, ON
MONDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Committee members present: Councillor J T Hannaby (Chairman)
Councillors P M O Leary, J Sibbald and S Third

Other councillors present: Councillor A Przybysk

Others present: Two members of the public

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

These were received from Councillors E L Johnson, A C Menzies, I L Sheldon and C Walters.

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

To sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2021

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Statements and Questions from the Public

None

7. Allotment Matters

(a) Communal Bench – Stockham Park Site

A bench was to be ordered.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(b) Additional Water Trough – Lark Hill Site

A trough had kindly been donated to the Town Council. Investigations were being carried out on site to locate the existing pipe work and stop cock.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(c) Feedback from the Allotment Holders' Meeting held on 21 October 2021 (online by Zoom)

The meeting was an informal meeting. Four councillors and seven allotment holders had participated. A report had been prepared and read out by the Deputy Clerk. This mostly focused on answering questions put forward by the Grove Road Allotment Association and summarising work carried out by the Town Council, during the past year, in maintaining and enhancing the allotment sites. It felt unnecessary to produce a report for future allotment holders' meetings as the information was detailed in the minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee and could be accessed by members of the public.

(d) Other Allotment Matters

None.

8. Cemetery Matters

(a) Garden of Remembrance – Benches and Trees

The Chairman and the Deputy Clerk had visited the cemetery and identified an area where two trees could be planted. They were to meet with the grounds maintenance contractor to take advice on a suitable species of tree for the area. **Action: Chairman/Deputy Clerk**

(b) Development of Improvements to the Cemetery Extension

It had been agreed that a meeting with CDS Group, who are a consultancy specialising in cemetery and crematorium development, should be arranged. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(c) Arrangements for Seeking Quotes for Ground Maintenance Contract for 2022

It was agreed that three quotes should be sought for the contract to ensure value for money is being maintained. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Other Cemetery Matters

During the visit to the cemetery by the Chairman and Deputy Clerk it was noted that a thicket was being used by people to gather, leaving litter behind. It was agreed that a quote should be sought for the area to be cut back and opened to deter this behaviour. There was also evidence of alcohol being consumed as well as drug taking around the grounds. The Deputy Clerk had contacted Thames Valley Police (TVP) to find out if the area was still part of the scheduled patrol. TVP advised that the area was not patrolled as frequently as it had been due to other areas highlighted as needing more regular attention.

It was agreed not to install benches at this time. It would be reconsidered when there was no evidence of anti-social behaviour. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

9. Town Centre Matters

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

i) Feedback from meeting held on 20 October 2021 with the District Council

Councillors Crawford, Hannaby and Wills-Wright, and the Deputy Clerk had joined the meeting held by the District Council. A consultant for the District Council had contacted various clubs to get their views on the current leisure facilities and what they felt was missing. The consultant was to be asked to send a report to this Council detailing who had been consulted, who had responded and what the responses were. Suggestions had been put forward about where the S106 funds should be spent. These included a learner pool and a sports barn.

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

The meeting had been convened by the Wantage & Grove Campaign Group (WaGCG) to explore the possibility of a coordinated approach to the District Council for the allocation of S106 funds for leisure in the OX12 area. Councillors Hannaby and Johnson and the Deputy

Clerk had participated in the meeting. Notes from the meeting had been provided by WaGCG and distributed to councillors.

(b) Street Name Plates

It was agreed that QR codes should be ordered for all plates and that the information relating to the origin of the name would be held on Wantage Town Council's website. Councillor Sibbald was to engage with the street naming officer of the District Council to discuss the implementation of this. **Action: Sibbald**

(c) Arrangements for Christmas Decorations 2021

The additional icicle lights and tree top star had been ordered at a cost of £1800.

(d) King Alfred Statue Full Clean

The Deputy Clerk had placed an order for the statue to be cleaned. It was likely that this would not be carried out until the New Year.

(e) Manor Road Memorial Park Plan/Vision

It was agreed to apply for third party tree planting approval at the Manor Road Memorial Park. The proposal would be put forward with input from Mark Bradfield of Wild Wantage who would also indicate the costs involved.

(f) Additional/Replacement Benches

The Chairman was to send a list of the areas that had been identified as needing a replacement bench, or a new bench, to the Deputy Clerk. **Action: Chairman**

(g) Planting of Area of Land Opposite St Katharine's House, Wallingford Street

Investigations were being carried out by the Parks Department of the District Council to assess the suitability of the ground for the planting of shrubs. The aim was to carry out the planting during the winter.

(h) Market Place Update

Works to buildings in the western pedestrianised area had commenced. Scaffolding had been erected. There was disappointment that the County Council had not consulted this Council regarding the siting of the skip and the disruption that will result. The works were likely to take 14 months to complete. The pedestrianised area has a TTRO which expires in January 2022. It was hoped that the TTRO could be extended beyond this date.

(i) Other Town Centre Matters

It was noted that there were some potholes in the Market Square. The Deputy Clerk was to seek quotes for the repair. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

10. Estimates 2022/23

The estimate worksheet (attached) had been circulated. No changes were proposed.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm

WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL

LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE - FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ESTIMATES WORKSHEET

	2021/2022 Actual YTD £	2021/2022 Budget £	2021/2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Estimate £
INCOME				
Allotments	3,290	3,800	3,800	3,800
Cemetery	1,156	6,000	4,000	4,000
Fair Tolls	825	2,475	825	2,562
Market Tolls	1,799	12,000	10,500	18,000
Misc	1,812	-	1,812	-
Parking Fines	160	3,000	500	3,000
Grants and provisions	-	-	-	-
VC Forecourt	14	30	30	30
TOTAL INCOME	9,056	27,305	21,467	31,392
EXPENSES				
Allotment:				
Maintenance	107	1,500	1,000	1,000
Clearance	400	1,000	1,000	1,000
Water	547	600	1,000	1,000
Rent	795	850	795	795
Allotment-Other	1,250	-	1,250	-
TOTAL Allotment	3,099	3,950	5,045	3,795
Car Park MP:				
Attendant	832	3,000	3,000	4,500
Rates	1,618	4,500	4,042	4,500
Car park mtce	-	-	3,000	3,000
Car Park MP-Other	-	500	-	-
TOTAL Car Park MP	2,450	8,000	10,042	12,000
Cemetery:				
Cemetery hedge/trees	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Cleaning/clearance	2,368	2,200	4,000	4,000
Grasscutting	4,700	7,700	7,550	8,000
Maintenance	1,085	1,800	1,500	1,500
Rates	443	1,000	868	1,000
Tree maintenance	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Cemetery-Other	-	25,000	25,000	-
TOTAL Cemetery	8,596	39,700	40,918	16,500
Fairs:				
Attendant	-	600	-	600
Closure	-	241	-	250
Clean up	-	-	-	-
TOTAL Fairs	-	841	-	850
Market Sq:				
Attendant	-	6,000	1,000	3,500
Floral displays	6,704	5,500	6,704	7,000
CCTV maintenance	1,780	7,500	7,500	7,750
Christmas displays	1,874	13,400	15,000	15,000
Statue clean	-	-	1,500	-
Rates	1,750	2,500	2,470	2,550
Shed rent	700	1,200	1,200	1,200
Market Sq-Other	-	500	500	500
TOTAL Market Sq	12,808	36,600	35,874	37,500

LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE - FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ESTIMATES WORKSHEET

	2021/2022 Actual YTD £	2021/2022 Budget £	2021/2022 Forecast £	2022/2023 Estimate £
Street Furniture (includes bus shelters)	3,687	7,000	7,000	7,000
Street name signs	-	10,000	2,500	10,000
Salt bins	-	1,200	-	1,200
VC Forecourt wages	7,419	15,000	15,000	15,500
VC Forecourt mtce	50	1,000	1,000	1,000
Weedkilling	795	3,000	2,385	2,500
Other	-	500	500	500
	11,951	37,700	28,385	37,700
Play Areas:				
Grasscutting	550	770	850	900
Maintenance	-	50	-	-
Play Areas-Other	-	500	-	-
TOTAL Play Areas	550	1,320	850	900
Projects:				
Alfred's Bath	300	1,000	1,000	1,000
Manor Road Memorial Park	-	60,000	-	-
MP pedestrianisation	4,831	80,000	30,000	50,000
Tree planting	-	-	5,000	5,000
Other	-	-	-	-
	5,131	141,000	36,000	56,000
TOTAL Expenditure	44,585	269,111	157,114	165,245
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	(35,529)	(241,806)	(135,647)	(133,853)

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