

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, ON
MONDAY, 17 JANUARY 2022, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Committee members present: Councillor J T Hannaby (Chairman)
Councillors A Duveen, P M O’Leary and J Sibbald

Others present: Two members of the public

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E L Johnson, A C Menzies,
I L Sheldon, S Third and C Walters.

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

To sign the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2021

The minutes were approved and signed.

11. Statements and Questions from the Public

None

12. Allotment Matters

(a) Update on Communal Bench – Stockham Park Site

The bench had been ordered and delivery was due the following week.

(b) Update on Additional Water Trough – Lark Hill Site

The water meter and stopcock had now been located and the work to install a water trough
was due to be carried out within the next few weeks.

(c) Allotment Availability

There were currently 37 people on the waiting list. Six plots had been offered and accepted.
A further two had been offered and were pending agreement.

(d) Other Allotment Matters

A suggestion for trees to be planted on the Grove Road site was to be discussed at a future
meeting.

13. Cemetery Matters

(a) Garden of Remembrance – Quotation to Plant Trees

A quote had been received from White Horse Horticulture to source, supply and plant two 6ft
ornamental trees, with more than one season of interest, in the garden of remembrance.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor O' Leary
IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £400.

(b) Development of Improvements to the Cemetery Extension

A site assessment had been carried out at the cemetery on 13 January 2022 by CDS Goup to determine if the area would be acceptable for burials. A full report was due, but an initial indication was that the area would be suitable for the proposed cemetery extension.

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

Invitations to quote were due to be sent out.

Action: Clerk

(d) Quotes for Clearing Areas of the Cemetery

Quotes had been received from White Horse Horticulture for pollarding six lime trees, cutting back and clearing two thickets and some general tidying of the cemetery.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Sibbald
IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotations totalling £2200.

(e) Other Cemetery Matters

There had been five ashes interments and three burials since October 2021.

14. Town Centre Matters

(a) District Council Leisure Strategy (S106 funding)

A report from the consultant working for the District Council, who had contacted local clubs to get their views on the current leisure facilities, had not yet been received. The Deputy Clerk was to chase this.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(b) Street Name Plates

The District Council had passed details of their supplier to the Deputy Clerk and suggested that Wantage Town Council place a direct order for the replacement street name plates. It was agreed that quotes should be sought from other suppliers.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(c) King Alfred's Statue Full Clean

The cleaning of the statue would not be carried out until the spring because frost could cause damage to the stone. A date would be agreed nearer the time.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(d) Manor Road Memorial Park

i) Third party tree planting

The District Council's tree officer did not think the orchard or scrub planting was suitable for the park but agreed for the hedge and tree planting to go ahead.

ii) Possibility of taking ownership of the Memorial Park

There was not update.

(e) Additional/Replacement Benches

Five benches had been ordered and delivery was due the following week.

(f) Planting of Area of land opposite St Katherines, Wallingford Street

The planting was due to be carried out by the District Council, as planned (during the winter months).

(g) Market Place Update – Pedestrianisation of Western End

An ETRO (Experimental Traffic Regulation Order) had been implemented by OCC enabling the area to remain closed for a maximum period of 18 months from 3 January 2022.

Following a consultation OCC will consider whether the provisions of the ETRO should remain in force indefinitely.

(h) Fishing Restrictions – request for Wantage Town Council to support a no fishing policy (Letcombe Brook)

The Letcombe Brook Project sought support from Wantage Town Council for a no fishing policy in Letcombe Brook. It was agreed to support this.

(i) Bus Shelters - additional / replacement

It was not possible to locate a bench near the bus shelter on Charlton Village Road, it was agreed to look at costs to replace the bus shelter which would include a seat.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(j) Telephone Kiosk Repairs

The door on the telephone kiosk at the eastern end of the Market Place had been removed for health and safety reasons as it was damaged. The kiosk houses a defibrillator and had been adopted by Wantage Town Council in 2018. A replacement door can be purchased at a cost of £968 + VAT and shipping.

The adjacent kiosk is still owned by British Telecom and the service had been used on 35 occasions during the last year (including 4 emergency calls). It was noted that the kiosk would benefit from a refurbishment too. The Deputy Clerk was to contact British Telecom to find out if they had any intention of making any improvements to it. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSTION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Sibbald

IT WAS RESOLVED that a replacement door should be ordered, and a quote be sought for a full refurbishment of the kiosk to include repainting.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(k) Willow Lane – request for scalpings

A resident of Willow Lane had reported that the state of the lane had deteriorated and the use of the lane by allotment tenants has contributed to the damage. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) had confirmed that Willow Lane holds a public footpath status with public rights of access limited to walkers only. There is no public right of access for vehicles. Vehicles using the lane would be exercising a private right of access. OCC is responsible for maintaining the lane to a standard required for pedestrians. Private right holders are responsible for repairs caused by vehicles.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor O’Leary

IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Hannaby and the Deputy Clerk would assess the area and if appropriate would provide scalpings, not exceeding the cost of £300.

Action: Chairman/Deputy Clerk

(l) Wooden Posts/Signs on VC Forecourt

It had been reported that a wooden post on the VC Forecourt with a Rotary Club sign hanging from it had started to rot. It was agreed that the post should be removed and that the Deputy Clerk should inform the Rotary Club of the removal.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(m) Resurfacing of the Market Square

The Deputy Clerk was to seek quotes for the resurfacing of the Market Square. A complete resurface was carried out in 2011.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(n) Other Town Centre Matters

i) Market Trading Times

Following feedback from market traders, the Town Centre Manager suggested that traders wishing to pack up their stall earlier than 3pm on a Saturday should set up in the eastern end of the market square and leave at 1.30pm. This would allow parking of vehicles in the area once the market traders had gone and would leave other traders wishing to continue trading later to be in one area.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm
