

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF  
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY  
ON MONDAY, 23 MAY 2022, AT 7.30 PM**

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

Others present: A Yates – Town Centre Manager  
One member of the public

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P M O’Leary, J Sibbald, I L Sheldon and C Walters.

**Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

None

**To sign the minutes of the meeting held 28 February 2022**

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

None.

**2. Allotment Matters**

(a) Allotment inspections/availability

Inspections had been carried out across all five sites. The initial non-cultivation letters that had been sent to some tenants had resulted in some plots being relinquished. Follow up inspections were to be made at the end of June. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(b) Request from Sustainable Wantage to set up a community allotment

The Deputy Clerk had invited Sustainable Wantage to attend a site meeting at the Naldertown allotment site to discuss the possibility of setting up a community allotment. A response had not yet been received.

(c) Update on anti-social activity at allotment sites

There had been further vandalism at the Lark Hill site. Sheds had been broken into and plants damaged. Despite the information and CCTV images having been sent to Thames Valley Police, the telephone calls to log the events and concern for the youths involved, the police had still failed to respond. Tenants had been encouraged to report incidents to the police and to inform the Deputy Clerk of the incident number received from the police.

(d) Additional land at Stockham Park

The Deputy Clerk reported that some of the boundary fence of the land had been removed, A large tree house had been erected without permission. The tree house had now been removed.

It was agreed that the chairman and other councillors would meet at the site to agree what actions were required going forward. **Action: All**

(e) Other allotment matters

It was noted that plastic duct belonging to Openreach had been left near the Grove Road allotment site following work at the care home. The Deputy Clerk was to contact Openreach with a view to requesting permission for the duct to be re-purposed by some of the allotment holders. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

**3. Cemetery Matters**

(a) Development of improvements to the cemetery extension

The Chairman and the Deputy Clerk had recently met with CDS Group to discuss the next steps of the project. The information had been circulated prior to the meeting. The next stage of the process was the remaining works for the RIBA Stage 1 at a total cost of £9,800. Some discussion took place about the additional information received from CDS -natural burials taking up higher surface area than is currently required. It was noted that the extension area was 1 acre which would cater for c.600 burials giving c.10 years of space. It was agreed that more information from CDS was needed about the terms and conditions and payment schedule. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(b) Cemetery bins

The current waste bins at the cemetery were no longer fit for purpose. Most of them did not have lids and this resulted in paper and plastic wrappers being blown around the cemetery. Suitable replacement bins had been identified and the information had been circulated. It was suggested that 3 cemetery recycling bins with 4 posting apertures (front and back) with separate apertures for flowers and the other for paper & plastic and one general litter bin be purchased.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Johnson

SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies

IT WAS RESOLVED that an order be placed for the replacement bins at a cost of £2176.

(c) Other cemetery matters

There had been a few complaints about pigeon droppings on memorials. The ground maintenance contractor had cut some branches of the leylandii trees overhanging the area of concern. It was noted that there were currently pigeons nesting and no further work could be carried out until after the nesting season (autumn).

**4. Town Centre Matters**

(a) District Council Leisure Strategy (S106 funding) - Feedback from meeting held between Wantage Town Council and Grove Parish Council 5 May 2022

The meeting to discuss the monies, that had been collected from developers, for the leisure centre that had been cancelled due to lack of funds, had been positive. It had been agreed that the monies should be used to benefit both communities. A meeting, with District Council officers to discuss the joint working group's aspirations, had been requested, and for this to take place before 15 June 2022.

- (b) To agree a date for White Horse Harriers to make a presentation about a Compact Athletics Facility

It was agreed to invite White Horse Harriers to the next Council meeting.

- (c) Update on street name plates

The installation of the second batch of street name plates had been completed. The Deputy Clerk was to find out if there were further batches to be installed. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- (d) Manor Road Memorial Park

- i) Update on third party tree planting

The planting was due to commence in the autumn 2022.

- ii) Update on possibility of taking ownership of the Memorial Park

There had been no update. The Chairman was to chase a response from the District Council.

- iii) Picnic tables/benches

The Deputy Clerk had written to the District Council seeking permission to install picnic benches in the Memorial Park but had not received a response. This was to be chased. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- (e) Update on Planting of area of land opposite St Katherines, Wallingford Street

The planting was due to be carried out by the District Council during the winter, it had not yet been carried out. The Deputy Clerk was to chase. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- (f) Update on telephone kiosk repairs

BT had not agreed to make any improvements to the telephone kiosk adjacent to the kiosk adopted by Wantage Town Council, but had offered to provide paint. The replacement door had been received and arrangements were being made for it to be hung.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

- (g) Update on request for scalplings at Willow Lane

The Deputy Clerk had requested a site meeting with the countryside access officer (Oxfordshire County Council). A response had not been received. The Deputy Clerk was to chase. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- (h) Removal of wooden post/sign on VC Forecourt

The Rotary Club had been informed of the pending removal of the post and Rotary Club sign.

- (i) Update on market square improvements

The planned work to improve the market square had been postponed due to the bunting that had been hung for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The poles and bunting would obstruct the machinery needed to carry out the work. A new date was to be agreed.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(j) Bus shelter for Charlton Village Road

Following investigation, the current shelter would not accommodate a seat. It appeared that vegetation from the land at the rear of the shelter had encroached onto the area of the bus shelter. The Deputy Clerk was to contact the landowner (OCC) to request that the area was reinstated. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(k) Regeneration review for Wantage

It was noted that a regeneration review by the district council was underway for Abingdon. The findings will shape a document the district council will publish later this year, which will identify what future improvements are needed. It was agreed that the committee should give some thought into how Wantage could be improved. **Action: All**

(l) Land at Grove Road

It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged with Mark Bradfield of the Letcombe Brook Project and councillors, to review the area of land owned by the Council. The Deputy Clerk was to arrange a suitable date. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(m) The Woman's Tour (Saturday 11 June 2022)

It was noted that cyclists would cycle through Wantage at around 1.30pm. The planned route would take them along Newbury Street and directly to Wallingford Street (without going round the Market Place). As the event was to take place on a Saturday and schools would be closed it was agreed to share the information on social media but not to be actively involved **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(n) Tree planting in the Market Place

Information had been received and circulated about possible suitable trees to be planted. It was agreed that the possibility should be further investigated, and suggestions were welcomed from all. **Action: All**

(o) Arrangements for Christmas Decorations 2022

It was agreed to keep the same arrangements as 2021 but it was noted that additional lights were needed for the Christmas trees and at least two taller poles.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby  
SECONDED BY Councillor Johnson  
IT WAS RESOLVED that poles and lights be purchased not exceeding £4000.

(p) Other town centre matters

None.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm

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