

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY
ON MONDAY, 4 JULY 2022, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Committee members present: Councillors J T Hannaby (Chairman), I R Cameron, A Duveen,
E L Johnson, A C Menzies, P M O’Leary and S Third.

Others councillors present: Councillor A Crawford

Others present: Matthew Barber – Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley
Dave Horsburgh – LPA Commander, South Oxfordshire, and the
Vale of White Horse (Thames Valley Police)
Nick Cain – Problem Solving Team Neighbourhood Inspector, South
and the Vale of White Horse (Thames Valley Police)
Mr Davies and Mr Leach – White Horse Harriers
14 members of the public present.

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I L Sheldon, J Sibbald and C Walters

Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Johnson declared a non-pecuniary interest as an allotment tenant.

To sign the minutes of the meeting held 23 May 2022

The minutes were approved and signed.

5. Statements and Questions from the public

Members of the public attended the meeting to speak about the ongoing distress being caused to them by groups of youths that had been carrying out anti-social behaviour in the Lark Hill/Springfield Road and St Mary’s areas for several months.

6. Attendance of Matthew Barber, Dave Horsburgh and Nick Cain in response to concerns regarding violence, threats, and crime in Wantage.

Mr Barber and the representatives from Thames Valley Police introduced themselves and explained their roles.

It was explained that evidence of a crime was needed before anyone could be taken to court. There were ongoing investigations.

Mr Cain said that they needed to find ways to divert the youths from anti-social behaviour. Youth workers had been working with some youths since December 2021.

All three were thanked for attending and they left the meeting.

7. Presentation by White Horse Harriers (WHH) on plans for a compact athletics facility

White Horse Harriers is a local athletics club that has been based in Wantage and Grove for 40 years. They have recognised a need for quality athletics facilities in the local area.

Mr Leach gave a presentation on plans, which involve a partnership with King Alfred’s Academy, to provide multi activity facility which will provide multi sports capabilities on the academy’s large playing field (West Site).

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It was suggested the presentation should be given to Grove Parish Council. Mr Leach and Mr Davies were thanked for attending and giving the presentation. The committee supported the proposal.

8. Allotment Matters:

a) Allotment Inspection follow up/availability

Follow up inspections had taken place in June. 14 plots across all sites had been offered. There were currently 48 people on the waiting list.

b) Update on anti-social activity Lark Hill allotments site.

It was reported that PC Sarah Merritt was trying to tackle the problem at the site.

c) Additional land at Stockham Park – date for site visit

A date had not yet been agreed.

Action: Deputy Clerk

d) Other allotment matters

It was noted that there was ragwort at the Lark Hill allotment site. The Deputy Clerk was to investigate and take necessary action.

Action: Deputy Clerk

9. Cemetery Matters:

a) Development of improvements to the cemetery extension

The contract from CDS had been received and was to be checked and signed.

Action: Clerk

b) Other cemetery matters

None.

10. Town Centre Matters:

a) District Council Leisure Strategy (S106 funding)

i) Date for the meeting with the District Council to discuss the joint working group's aspirations for leisure facilities.

The meeting was to take place on 7 July at 2pm at Old Mill Hall, Grove.

b) Update on street name plate replacements and QR code information

The 3rd batch of replacement plates had been ordered. The origin of the street names was being researched by a local historian.

c) Manor Road Memorial Park

i) Update on third party planting

This was due to be carried out in the autumn 2022.

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

There was no update.

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- iii) Picnic tables/benches
It was agreed that four Surrey picnic benches, manufactured from recycled plastic should be purchased (including two wheelchair accessible). An agreement had not yet been made, but the district council were exploring the possibility of installing the tables using their maintenance team.
- d) Update on planting of area of land opposite St Katherines, Wallingford Street
The planting was planned to take place at the end of summer 2022.
- e) Update on telephone kiosk repairs
The replacement door was due to be installed within the next couple of weeks.
- f) Update on request for site meeting with OCC officer at Willow Lane
The meeting was due to take place 6 July 2022.
- g) Update on Market Square Improvements
A new date was to be arranged for the works to be carried out.
Action: Deputy Clerk
- h) Update on bus shelter/addition of seat for Charlton Village Road
It was agreed that a bench, that had been purchased, should be installed in the shelter subject to there being sufficient clearance.
Action: Deputy Clerk
- i) Update on regeneration review for Wantage
The Town Centre Manager was to suggest the content for a survey.
Action: Town Centre Manager
- j) Update on land at Grove Road – date for site visit
A date had not yet been agreed.
Action: Deputy Clerk
- k) Update on tree planting in Market Place
A meeting with the ground maintenance contractor was to take place on 6 July 2022 to look at possibilities for tree planting.
- l) Other town centre matters
None

The meeting closed at 9.35pm
