

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY
ON MONDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2022, AT 8.10 PM**

Committee members present: Councillors J T Hannaby (Chairman), P O'Leary, A C Menzies,
J Sibbald, S Third and C Walters

Others present: Two members of the public

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E L Johnson and I L Sheldon.

**Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and any non-
registerable interests.**

None

To sign the minutes of the meeting held 26 September 2022

The minutes were approved and signed.

15. Statements and Questions from the public

None

16. Allotment Matters

a) Allotment availability following the allotment renewals

The administration of the renewal process was not yet complete. There were currently 26 people on the waiting list across all sites. Some plots had been relinquished and where possible the plots will be split into half to help reduce the waiting list.

b) Additional land at Stockham Park – to assess the need for additional fencing

A site visit had not yet been carried out to assess the need for additional fencing.

Action: Deputy Clerk

c) Feedback from the allotment holders meeting held 31 October 2022

The meeting was attended by 11 allotment holders and 3 councillors. A couple of points raised by allotment holders will be included in the agenda of the next committee meeting. It was agreed that a quarter plot would be created from an existing half plot to enable an allotment holder to manage his plot more easily – the remaining quarter would be let.

Action: Deputy Clerk

d) Other allotment matters

None

17. Cemetery Matters:

a) Development of improvements to the cemetery extension

A meeting with CDS was planned for 2 November 2022. It had been agreed previously, at a recent meeting, that 37 leylandii trees that run along the south of the site be removed. There were many graves and benches within the canopy spread, the removal of the trees

could potentially create approximately 70 additional grave spaces. Further discussion about replanting the area if applicable would take place following the removal.

b) Review of the cemetery regulations and fees

Suggested amendments to the cemetery regulations had been drafted and circulated.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Sibbald

SECONDED BY Councillor Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the suggested amendments to the regulations and publish the document on the website.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Sibbald

SECONDED BY Councillor Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED to adopt the suggested pricing amendments which includes waiving the fee for Wantage residents aged 17 years and under and increasing other fees by approximately 10%. The document was to be published on the website

Action: Deputy Clerk

c) Other cemetery matters

None.

18. Town Centre Matters:

a) District Council Leisure Strategy (S106 funding)

i) Feedback from the joint meeting (Grove Parish Council and Wantage Town Council) held 7 July.

The next meeting was planned for 17 November 2022 at Old Mill Hall, Grove.

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

It was agreed to place an order for the following street name plates to be replaced: Hans Avenue, Portway Mews, Church Street (near church) Wallingford Street (on railings near Waitrose) and Stirlings (on the wall of the old Wheatsheaf PH). **Action: Deputy Clerk**

c) Manor Road Memorial Park

i) Update on third party planting

There was no update. This was to be chased.

Action: Deputy Clerk

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

There was no update.

iii) Picnic tables/benches

The picnic tables had been received. A date had not yet been planned for the installation. This was to be chased.

Action: Deputy Clerk

d) Update on planting of area of land opposite St Katherines, Wallingford Street

There was no update. This was to be chased.

Action: Deputy Clerk

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e) Update on request for site meeting with OCC officer at Willow Lane

There was no update. This was to be chased.

Action: Deputy Clerk

f) Update on Market Square Improvements

Work was complete. Two disabled spaces had been created.

g) Update on business/consumer surveys

The surveys were still being worked on.

Action: Johnson/ TCM

h) Update on land at Grove Road – to consider the removal of trees

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Menzies

SECONDED BY Councillor Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED that for safety reasons, the trees that had been inspected and marked with white paint by White Horse Horticulture be removed. The estimate for the work was £3,000. This did not include the disposal of the branches. These would be left around the edges.

i) Update on tree planting in Market Place

Following a site meeting with OCC, their recommendation was to investigate the possibility of planting trees into the ground. The planting of trees in planters was not supported on OCC land. It was therefore agreed that for the time being planting should be carried out only on land belonging to Wantage Town Council – it was agreed to plant as follows:

Two trees in planters on the VC Forecourt.

One tree planted in the brick planter at the east end

The brick planter at the west end to be planted with various shrubs favouring pollinators where possible.

Action: Deputy Clerk

j) Update on Changing Place facility (Portway Car park toilet block)

Some funding from CIL needed for the project had not yet been received by the District Council.

k) Streetlight for Post Office Lane

This had not yet been progressed.

Action: Deputy Clerk

l) Flyposting

It was noted that banners and advertising notices were being attached to railings on the north side of Market Place which were considered unsightly. The Deputy Clerk had confirmed with OCC that the railings could be removed.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Sibbald

SECONDED BY Councillor Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED to arrange for removal of the railings.

Action: Deputy Clerk

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- m) Request from a Market Place shopkeeper that the allowed parking time on Market Square be increased from thirty minutes to one or two hours

This item was to be discussed at a PM&F committee meeting.

19. Estimates 2023/2024

The Financial Statement and Estimates Worksheet had been circulated. It was agreed that further information was needed to enable the figures to be proposed.

Action: Deputy Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.30pm
