

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY
ON MONDAY, 16 JANUARY 2023, AT 7.30 PM**

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

Members of the public: There were two members of the public present.

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P M O’Leary, I L Sheldon & J Sibbald

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

None

To sign the minutes of the meeting held 30 October 2022

The minutes were approved and signed.

19. Statements and Questions from the public

None

20. Allotment Matters

a) Allotment availability

There were currently 10 people on the waiting list, mainly waiting for specific plots or sites, and 8 available plots, which had recently been offered, but not yet accepted.

b) Update on additional/replacement fencing – Stockham Park

A site visit had not yet been carried out to assess the need for additional fencing. A date was to be agreed. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

c) Fly tipping/clearance at Naldertown and Stockham Park

There was an accumulation of grass cuttings, top soil etc at both Stockham Park and Naldertown sites. The environmental enforcement officer had visited Naldertown to erect signage about fly tipping. Letters were to be sent to tenants of Stockham Park and Naldertown regarding disposal of waste, driving vehicles across the play area (Stockham Park) and the requirement to display plot numbers. Both areas were to be assessed with a view to clearance, if deemed necessary. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

d) To agree the rental fee for a quarter plot (trial)

Councillors Johnson and Third declared a registerable interest as allotment tenants, they both left the meeting. The meeting became inquorate. The Chairman suggested that a fee of £10 per year would be appropriate. Councillors Johnson and Third returned to the meeting.

e) Other allotment matters

It was reported that 3 sheds had been broken into and plants had been pulled up on 12 December 2022 (Grove Road). Tenants who had been affected by the recent activity had been advised to report the theft and vandalism to Thames Valley Police. It was agreed that CCTV signage would be installed at Grove Road. **Action: Johnson/Third**

An allotment tenant, who was present at the meeting, suggested that fencing at the east and north of the site could be a deterrent/obstacle to prevent people entering the site, and perhaps St Modwen could help with the installation. It was agreed that the suggestion would be put forward at the next Crab Hill forum. **Action: Chairman**

21 Cemetery Matters:

a) Development of improvements to cemetery extension

i) Removal of 37 Leylandii trees

A specification of works required had been received from Advance Arb (via CDS). Quotations for the work had been sought – one had been received to date.

ii) Environmental Agency (EA) Pre App Advice

CDS Design had been in contact with The Environmental Agency about technical advice for pre application planning advice. The EA have determined that further work was necessary, with some monitoring boreholes installed at the site, requiring monthly monitoring and sampling for approximately 12 months. The Deputy Clerk was to circulate correspondence relating to this to committee members. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

b) Other cemetery matters

None.

22 Town Centre Matters:

a) District Council Leisure Strategy (S106 funding)

i) Update/recent communications from the District Council

The meeting on the 17 November did not proceed. The meeting had been re-arranged for 24 January 2023 and was to be held at Old Mill Hall, Grove.

b) Manor Road Memorial Park

i) Update on third party planting

There was no update. The Deputy Clerk was to seek an update from Wild Wantage. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

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

There was no update.

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

There was no update. This was to be chased. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

d) Update on repairs to Willow Lane – Footpath 16

The quote to repair the lane had been accepted by the Council at its meeting on 5 December 2022. The repair had not yet proceeded.

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- e) Update on business/consumer surveys
The surveys were still work in progress. Input from the Economic Development Officer (District Council) had been received. **Action: Johnson/ TCM**
- f) Update on removal of trees – land at Grove Road
Removal of trees was due to commence within the next week.
- g) Update on tree planting in Market Place
The planters had been received. Delivery of the trees for the eastern end (brick planter) and the trees for the VC Forecourt (planters) were due on 19 January. A cherry tree had been purchased for the western end brick planter. **Action: Deputy Clerk**
- h) Update on Changing Place facility (Portway toilet block)
There was no update.
- i) Streetlight for Post Office Lane
Contact had been made with OCC for this request to be moved forward. **Action: Deputy Clerk**
- j) To consider formally naming a section of Footpath 14 as Tombs Lane (as per 1877 map)
It was possible that the section of footpath starting adjacent to Mill Cottage, to where FP 13 branches off, could formally be named Tombs Lane and a street name plate could be installed. A public notice would need to be displayed for 28 days. If no objections were received, the section of footpath would be officially named. Royal Mail would be notified, and the footpath would become a type 1 street in the Local Land and Property Gazetteer, which is shared nationally with the National Land and Property Gazetteer. The data is used by the emergency services and is useful to the police.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Menzies
SECONDED by Councillor Third
IT WAS RESOLVED that the section of footpath should be formally named Tombs Lane. **Action: Deputy Clerk**
- k) Damage to axe on King Alfred's statue
There had been a couple of incidents where a traffic cone had been placed on top of the statue head, and unfortunately this had resulted in damage to the axe head. Arrangements had been made for a stone mason to assess the damage and provide a quotation for the repair. **Action: Deputy Clerk**
- l) Other town centre matters.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman

IT WAS RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

There had been communication received from Oxfordshire County Council about the recent consultation for parking restrictions which included the taxi rank in Newbury Street. The consultation closed on 9 December 2022. There had been concern raised in the response to the consultation about the proposed bay (outside Dominoes) being abused by those picking up food from takeaways, and the Town Council's wish for the taxi rank to be located on the

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opposite side of the road where the marked bays were. The suggestion to move the taxi rank would require a new consultation. Oxfordshire County Council recommended that the taxi rank location was removed from the advertised Order to avoid delay in the decision at the cabinet meeting on 26 January 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm
