

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY
ON MONDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2023, AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillor J T Hannaby (Chairman),
Councillors E L Johnson, A C Menzies, P O’Leary, J Sibbald
and S Third.

Others present: : Three members of the public

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for Absence

These were received from Councillors I L Sheldon and C Walters

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

None

To sign the minutes of the meeting held 16 January 2023

The minutes were approved and signed.

23. Statements and Questions from the public

None

24. Allotment Matters

a) Allotment availability

There were no available plots. The current waiting list consists of 9 people waiting for specific sites or plots.

b) Update on additional/replacement fencing – Stockham Park

It was agreed that part of the perimeter fence should be replaced. There was a need for the fence to be taller than the existing. It was thought that a chain link type fence would be appropriate. Quotes were to be sought for the work. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

c) Update Fly tipping/clearance at Naldertown and Stockham Park

It was agreed that the mound of dumped soil etc at the Stockham Park site should be removed. There was no immediate need to clear the area of dumped garden waste at Naldertown. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

d) Other allotment matters

CCTV signage had been ordered. The signage will be erected once received. It was not appropriate to install cameras at this time as there was insufficient foliage to camouflage the equipment. **Action: Johnson**

The next Crab Hill Forum was to be held at the end of March. The Chairman had noted the request from an allotment tenant at Grove Road regarding the request for a fence and agreed to bring it to the attention of St Modwen. **Action Chairman**

25. Cemetery Matters:

- a) Development of improvements to cemetery extension – suspension of further work until after the May elections

It was agreed that apart from the removal of the 37 leylandii trees, further work should be deferred until after May 2023.

- b) Other cemetery matters

None.

26. Town Centre Matters:

- a) District Council Leisure Strategy (S106 funding)

- i) Update from meeting held 24 January 2023

A meeting had been held at Old Mill Hall, Grove. Councillors from Grove Parish Council, Wantage Town Council and The District Council were present. The following was reported:

Learner swimming pool at Wantage Leisure Centre.

It was understood that there was sufficient funding available to meet the cost. Government funding was available for a carbon reduction scheme at the Leisure Centre.

Abandoned Wessex Leisure Centre Scheme

It was noted that the removal by the government to provide the New Homes Bonus caused the funding gap required for the scheme. All funds being held by the District Council were allocated and were not available to fund the gap.

- b) Manor Road Memorial Park

- i) Update on third party planting

Due to the stipulation from the District Council about the size of trees to be planted and a solution to the delivery of water to the trees not being found, the planting was on hold. It was agreed that a site meeting should be arranged with the District Council and Sustainable 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

An update had been received from the District Council - areas of the bank have stone gabions installed up to the surface to prevent another landslip and possible damage again to the wall below. This will limit the areas that can be planted. An update will be given once it has been established what planting was appropriate.

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d) Update on repairs to Willow Lane – Footpath 16

The work had commenced on 27 February and was likely to take 4 days to complete.

e) Update on business/consumer surveys

The Town Centre Manager was to be invited to the next committee meeting to give an update.

Action: Deputy Clerk

f) Update on removal of trees – land at Grove Road

The trees had been removed. A site meeting had taken place with the Letcombe Brook Officer present. It was agreed that the logs on the bank should be moved away from the edge and the logs at the top of the bank be staked to delineate a path. It was agreed that additional work should be carried out which would open the area further. Meanwhile the area should be kept trimmed/accessible.

Action: Deputy Clerk

g) Update on tree planting in Market Place

A betula albo-sinesis had been planted in the eastern end brick planter and two acer palmatum 'Sangokaku' in planters on the VC Forecourt. There was some underplanting to be carried out.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman

SECONDED by Councillor Third

IT WAS RESOLVED to purchase three planters suitable for the area around King Alfred's statue.

Action: Deputy Clerk

h) Update on Changing Place facility (Portway toilet block – District Council)

The tender for the work ended on 20 February. The contractor would be agreed early in March, with an estimated start date after Easter.

i) Streetlight for Post Office Lane

The Deputy Clerk was in communication with the County Council with regards to finding a suitable location for a streetlight somewhere near Rowes Newmarket. The possibility of a solar light was being investigated. The poor state of the surface of the lane in this area was noted. Unfortunately, the lane was not adopted by the County Council. The owner of the land had not been identified. It was agreed that a cost for repairs should be investigated.

Action: Deputy Clerk

j) To consider formally naming a section of Footpath 14 as Tombs Lane (as per 1877 map)

The public notice informing of the intention to formally name the lane had been displayed by the District Council and would remain until 23 March 2023.

k) Damage to King Alfred's Axe

A quotation had not yet been received.

Action: Deputy Clerk

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l) Active Travel signage proposal

It was agreed that this item should be taken to the next PM&F committee meeting.

Action: Deputy Clerk

m) Arrangements for Christmas decorations 2023

It was agreed to keep the same arrangements as 2022, but it was noted that there would not be a Christmas tree at the eastern end because a tree had been planted in the brick planter.

n) Arrangements for weedkilling 2023

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Menzies

SECONDED by Councillor Third

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Charlton Environmental Ltd for three treatments to be carried out in March/April, June and September 2023 to the whole town at a cost of £925 per treatment.

Action: Deputy Clerk

o) Arrangements for flower displays 2023/24

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman

SECONDED by Councillor Third

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Window Flowers Ltd for summer (£3820) and winter (£2564) planting of the troughs and hanging baskets.

Action: Deputy Clerk

p) Other town centre matters

None

Confidential item

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.

27. To receive quotations for the removal of 37 leylandii tree from the cemetery =

Four quotations had been received for the removal of 37 leylandii trees and stumps.

ON THE PROPOSITOIN of Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED by Councillor Sibbald

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the lowest quote of £15700

Action: Deputy Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm
