

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF  
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY  
ON MONDAY, 22 MAY 2023, AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillor J T Hannaby (Chair)  
Councillors A Duveen, P Kirby-Harris, P O’Leary, S Third  
and L Todd

Members of the public: One member (part)

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A C Menzies.

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

None.

**To sign the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2023**

The minutes were approved and signed.

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

A member of the public was present to discuss allotment matters. The chair agreed that these questions should be brought up during the appropriate item on the agenda.

**2. Allotment Matters**

a) Allotment inspections

Allotment inspections across all sites had commenced. A schedule had been produced to allow inspections to take place on individual sites every 5 weeks in 2023:

Grove Road: 16 May, 20 June, 25 July and 29 August

Letcombe Fields: 23 May, 27 June, 1 August and 5 September

Larkhill: 30 May, 4 July, 8 August and 12 September

Naldertown: 13 June, 18 July, 22 August, 26 September

Stockham Park: 6 June, 11 July, 15 August and 19 September

It was agreed that the dates should be displayed at the allotment sites.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

The current waiting list consists of 20 people. 5 people who would consider any site and the remainder waiting for a specific site.

b) Update on additional/replacement fencing – Stockham Park

A site meeting had taken place with a fencing contractor. An indication of the cost to cut back and level off a fence line inside the allotment boundary (pushing back any waste into the hedgerow) and install 150 m of 2m high V guard green mesh fence was obtained. It was agreed that a further visit to the area should be arranged for new councillors to familiarise themselves with the area and the requirement for a new fence.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

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c) Update on fly tipping/clearance at Stockham Park

It was agreed that the clearance should be put on hold until the installation of a new fence had been agreed. It would probably be more cost effective to carry out work at the same time because of the machinery that would already be on site.

d) Overgrown hedge at Grove Road

It was agreed that a bramble growing from the field to the north of the allotment site onto some plots be cleared and the communal grass areas be mowed.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

e) Other allotment matters

An allotment tenant had requested that a plot at the Grove Road site be allocated and designated as plot where allotment tenants could grow produce for distribution amongst the community. It was agreed that this arrangement could be complicated as one person would need to be the tenant responsible for the plot, additionally there were no vacant plots. It was agreed that tenants could use their own plots for this purpose. He also would like to raise awareness of the benefits of renting an allotment, but it was felt that as there were no available plots this was not the appropriate time. It was agreed that the current allotment policy be reviewed.

**Action: Johnson/Kirby-Harris/Third**

**3. Cemetery Matters:**

a) Development of improvements to cemetery extension

i) To note the removal of 37 leylandii trees

The trees had been removed and the stumps ground out during w/c 3 April 2023.

ii) To agree to progress the development of the cemetery extension

It was agreed that direct communication with The Environment Agency should commence regarding their requirement for ground water monitoring wells to be installed across the extension site as well as the existing site.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

b) Purchase of a noticeboard

It was agreed that a suitable noticeboard for the cemetery should be investigated.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

c) Other cemetery matters

None.

**4. Town Centre Matters:**

a) District Council Leisure Strategy (S106 funding)

A report from the consultant working on the needs assessment was due in July 2023.

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b) Manor Road Memorial Park

i) Update on third party tree planting

A solution to the delivery of water to the site had not been found by Sustainable Wantage and both Wantage Town Council and the District Council were unable to assist with this. It was agreed that this item should be removed from the agenda.

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

The area had been treated with weedkiller for the second time this spring to attempt to eradicate the brambles and bindweed. The District Council maintenance team were to add topsoil to some of the suitable areas and the area will be seeded with a mixed wildflower seed to see what gets established. It is not thought that any deep-rooted plants will ever thrive in this area.

d) Update on Changing Places facility

It is anticipated that the District Council will start work on the toilets in July. It is expected that the work will take approximately 12 weeks to complete.

e) Update on streetlight for Post Office Lane

A solution had not been found for a streetlight in Post Office Lane. It was suggested that a solar light bollard may work in this area. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

f) Active Travel signage proposal

The proposal was currently with Oxfordshire County Council who were responsible to check the suitability/legality of the proposal. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

g) Planters for the statue area

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Hannaby  
SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Harris

It was agreed that three planters should be ordered to match the existing planters on the VC Forecourt and western end pedestrianised area at a cost of £1041.50 including delivery. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

h) Market Place signage

Possibilities to reduce the signage were being explored. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

i) Trees for Market Place

A meeting was to be arranged with Oxfordshire County Council regarding possible planting of trees. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

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j) Other town centre matters

An email had been received from a member of the public about street furniture and the general appearance of the town. The comments were noted, it was agreed that the issues raised be investigated. **Action: Chair**

**5. Confidential item**

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chair

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.

Arrangements to accommodate delivery vehicles in the western end pedestrianised area were discussed. It was agreed that 2 of the 4 taxi spaces be permanent and the other 2 marked loading/unloading between 5 am and 10 am (also between 2.30 pm and 4 pm) and the rest of the time for taxis 7 days per week.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

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