

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY
ON MONDAY, 3 JULY 2023, AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillor J Hannaby (Chair)
Councillors A Duveen, R Fitzjohn, A C Menzies, P Kirby-Harris and
S Third

Members of the public: Three members of the public were present.

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Town Centre Manager (TCM) A Yates (part)

Town Clerk Designate J Evans

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P O' Leary and L Todd

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

None

To sign the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2023

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Statements and Questions from the public

None

Item 10. d) was taken out of order.

10. d) Historical information boards

It was agreed that the TCM should investigate the suggestion from the Vale and Downland Museum to place information boards near historic buildings. The idea is to encourage members of the public to visit the town and museum. **Action: TCM**

The TCM was thanked from bringing the suggestion to the committee and left the meeting.

7. Allotment Matters

a) Allotment inspections/availability and waiting list.

There were currently twenty four people on the waiting list. Four people were waiting for specific sites. There had been several relinquished plots following the recent inspections.

b) Update on additional/replacement fencing – Stockham Park

A site meeting for new councillors to familiarise themselves with the site and the requirement for a fence had not yet been arranged. **Action: Menzies**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY ON MONDAY, 3 JULY 2023 AT 7.30 PM

c) To consider replacing the existing fence adjacent to plot 42 - Larkhill

It was agreed that the dilapidated barbed wire fence should be replaced with a post and rail type fence. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

d) To consider a request to plant trees on the car park area - Grove Road

It was agreed that a site meeting would take place to assess the feasibility of tree planting in the car park area. **Action: Third**

e) Review of the allotment policy

Councillors Johnson, Kirby-Harris and Third had agreed to review the current allotment policy. Councillor Third agreed to arrange a meeting to discuss this. **Action: Third**

f) Other allotment matters

It was reported that some of the barbed wire fence at the top of the site had collapsed. It was agreed that this would be assessed during the site meeting. **Action: Third**

It was agreed that a 'No Unauthorised Access' sign be erected. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

It was noted that the recent minutes of the Crab Hill Forum did not include the question raised on behalf of a Grove Road allotment tenant about the possibility of St Modwen installing a fence to the east and north of the allotment site.

8. Cemetery Matters:

a) Update on development to cemetery extension

The Deputy Clerk had requested a meeting with the Environment Agency but had not yet received a response. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

b) Update on purchase of a noticeboard

A suitable noticeboard had been identified. The cost between the hardwood and manmade timber option was minimal. It was agreed that a cost for an aluminium board be investigated, and a decision about which noticeboard to purchase would be agreed at the next meeting. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

c) Other cemetery matters

None.

9. To consider request to utilise S106 contribution from Stockham Farm development to fund refurbishment at White Horse Leisure Centre, Abingdon.

It was agreed that the request should be objected to and challenged for the following reasons.

- a) The use is not within ten miles of Denchworth Road. By road it is at least 11.4 miles.
- b) S106 funds should be used to provide enhanced facilities, not refurbish existing ones.
- c) The District Council has employed consultants to conduct a needs assessment for leisure facilities in the Wantage and Grove area. This is for input to the Local Plan

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY ON MONDAY, 3 JULY 2023 AT 7.30 PM

and assist in decisions concerning use of S106 contributions. The consultants are due to report in July. Decisions concerning use of S106 funding from the Wantage and Grove area would be premature in advance of receiving the report.

Action Clerk

10. Town Centre Matters:

a) Update on Changing Place facility - Portway toilet block

The work was due to commence in July with an expected completion date of October 2023.

b) Update on active travel signage proposal from Wantage and Grove Active Travel Group

The proposal for the signposting of walking/cycling routes was being refined. The routes were being checked for distance and travel time.

c) Update on trees for Market Place

A meeting had been arranged with Oxfordshire County Council on 7 July 2023 regarding possible sites for the planting of trees.

Action: Deputy Clerk

d) Parking in the Market Square

The position for a town warden was due to be advertised. The position would involve parking enforcement amongst other duties associated with the town centre. It was hoped that most of the parking issues would be addressed by the introduction of parking enforcement.

e) Other town centre matters

The Deputy Clerk briefed members about S106 funds available for public art. It was agreed that she would circulate the information available for this purpose.

Action: Deputy Clerk

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm
