

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF
WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY ON
MONDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillors E L Johnson (Chair), I R Cameron, A Crawford, S Third and V Wright.

Deputy Town Clerk: S Sanders

Town Clerk Designate: J Evans

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Gilhome and A C Menzies

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-registrable interests.

None.

To approve the minutes of the planning meetings held on 10 July, 31 July, 21 August and 4 September 2023.

The minutes were approved and signed.

8. Statements and questions from the public.

None

9. Matters arising from previous minutes.

a) Update of re-installation of the CCTV camera in Wallingford Street.

There was no update. The Deputy Clerk was to chase.

Action: Deputy Clerk

b) Update on purchase of SIDs for Charlton Road, Denchworth Road, Grove Road and Ormond Road

The units had been received and assembled. A date had not yet been agreed for their installation.

Action: Deputy Clerk

c) Update on access for mobility scooters and wheelchairs to East Gate site, Springfield Road by the footway connecting to Charlton Road. P21/V3349/FUL

It was not known if work had commenced. The Deputy Clerk was to chase for and update.

Action: Deputy Clerk

d) Update on 20's Plenty for Oxfordshire

The scheme had been approved and was due to be implemented by November 2023. Details of the initial public consultation had been posted to Wantage Town Council's website. [20s Plenty speed limit](#). It was noted that there had been a claim that this scheme would have an impact on Wantage Fire Station which could result in its closure. A comment had been received from the Director of Community Safety and Chief Fire Officer (OCC) as follows: 'As a fire and rescue service we recognise there is a balance between increasing road safety through reducing speed limits and the impact on our response due On Call firefighters turning into stations. There is no risk that this initiative would lead to the closure of the station at Wantage'.

e) Update on the operation of bus stops (Market Place and Seesen Way)

There was no evidence of persistent issues with buses waiting at bus stops for excessive periods of time. It was agreed that there were no concerns at this time.

10. **To consider the planning applications listed overleaf and any other planning applications that are received prior to the meeting.**

11. **Neighbourhood Plan - Regulation 15 submission.**

Final editing of the document had been completed and was ready to be submitted to Bluestone Planning to produce the Basic Condition Statement. It was agreed that a quote for the preparation of the Consultation Statement should be requested. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

12. **To receive the minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2023.**

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that Oxfordshire County Council can be commissioned to carry out speed surveys. The cost of a survey would be approximately £200. The 20mph limit, which will include the current 30mph limit on Chain Hill, will be introduced by November 2023. Speeding issues are the responsibility of the police to enforce. Any concerns about repeat incidents should be reported to the police. The SIDs that were due to be installed would collect data that could be used to analyse speeds. It was agreed that speed surveys carried out by OCC would not be requested at this time.

13. **Oxfordshire County Council parking standards for new developments.**

Clarification was to be sought about how the cycle standards affect extensions to existing buildings. **Action: Clerk Designate**

14. **To consider a request for the Town Council to consult residents of Grove Street, Stirlings Road and others concerning a proposal to close access from Stirlings Road to Grove Street with associated changes to waiting restrictions.**

It was agreed that a working group be set up to create a survey aimed at seeking any issues, including safety which would be distributed to all residents and businesses of Grove Street and Stirlings Road. **Action: All**

15. **Other business**

Noted - A letter dated 21 September 2023 from the District Council concerning a planning appeal to the Secretary of State concerning the refusal of planning application P23/V1352/HH. 31 & 33 Denchworth Road Wantage OX12 9AX. To drop the kerb and build a driveway at the front of properties.

The meeting closed at 9.50 PM

PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) P23/V1296/RM Reserved Matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to P21/V2544/FUL for proposed Central Park including sports pitches, equipment and pavilion, upgrade works to the route of the former BOAT and pedestrian route to A338 and discharge of Conditions 8(reserved matters), 17(CEMP), 19(Energy Delivery Strategy), 20(energy efficiency), 21(landscaping), 24(landscaping maintenance schedule), 31(LEMP), 33(contamination), 34(site lighting/floodlights), 35(WMMS), 37(drainage), 38(off-site drainage) and 53(BREEAM) of P21/V2544/FUL for this phase (as amended by plans received 7 August 2023 and 31 August 2023). Central Park, Crab Hill, Wantage, OX12 7GN.

A planned meeting to discuss the application with St Modwen had not taken place. It was agreed that a new date should be requested for the meeting so that the Chair could discuss the following: Football pitch and MUGA lighting, Park Run provision, allotment fencing, woodland block, bird and bat boxes, fencing around football pitches and wall height around orchard.

It was noted that the application was due to be heard at the Vale's Planning Committee in October. It was agreed that following the meeting with St Modwen the Chair would consult with members of the planning committee and agree comments to be submitted to the planning officer.

Action: Chair/Deputy Clerk

- b) P23/V2004/A Installation of illuminated fascia and projecting signage.
41 Market Place, Wantage, OX12 8AW.

Objection. The application is within the conservation area. Wantage Town Council has a policy that all signs should be made of wood and hand painted. There is a desire that this is adhered to and is mentioned in the draft neighbourhood plan in order to help restore some of the historic nature of the town centre. As this property is in a key location and will impact the market place, we ask that the signage is designed with a lot more sympathy to help preserve the look and feel of the street.

It was agreed to write to Specsavers asking them to consider the request. **Action: Deputy Clerk**
