

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF  
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY  
ON MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2024, AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillors J Hannaby (Chair), A Duveen, P Kirby- Harris,  
P O’Leary, S Third, and L Todd

Other councillors: K Morris

Town Project Coordinator (TPC): J Mitchell

Town Centre Manager (TCM): A Yates

Members of the public: Two members of the public (part)

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Menzies.

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

None

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

None

**27. Allotment Matters**

- a) To receive and consider a quotation for the clearance of copse and play area – Stockham Park

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor O’Leary

IT WAS RESOLVED TO accept a quote from White Horse Horticulture for £1950 for the removal of the large area of debris that has accumulated over the past few years at the north end of the play area. The purpose is to create a small area where a few fruit trees can be planted.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Third

IT WAS RESOLVED TO accept the quote from White Horse Horticulture for £400 to repair the existing fence with chicken wire and plant a few whips to establish a hedge at the eastern end of the copse.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

- b) To receive an update on tree planting – Stockham Park

Councillor Kirby-Harris to liaise with Councillor Third and OCC about the funding available for tree planting.

**Action: Kirby Harris**

- c) To receive an update on tree planting – Grove Road

Councillor Third to meet with OCC.

**Action: Third**

- d) To receive an update on the rutted access track and water pump issues – Letcombe Fields

This item was to be taken off the agenda. The track is an Oxfordshire County Council responsibility – they will assess the condition of the surface in the spring. The water pump is the responsibility of allotment tenants.

- e) Other allotment matters

None.

**28. Town Centre Matters:**

- a) To consider the receipt of a grant for the installation of history boards in the town centre and to agree the location

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Third

SECONDED BY Councillor Kirby-Harris

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the SPF grant from the district council for £4995 to develop historic information boards in Wantage town centre. It was understood that the only criteria that needs to be met, is to show that footfall to the Vale and Downland Museum has increased by 10%.

**Action: Clerk**

One board to be located on the VC Forecourt and one around King Alfred's statue. The final design had been delegated to Councillors Hannaby, Kirby- Harris and Third to agree.

**Action: Chair/Kirby Harris/Third**

- b) To agree the members of the S106 Public Art working group

It was agreed that this item should be taken off the agenda until the future of the western end pedestrianised area was confirmed.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

- c) To receive an update on leisure facilities assessment

The meeting had not yet taken place. A new date had not yet been agreed.

- d) To receive an update on town warden recruitment

The job description had been drafted but the position not yet advertised.

**Action: Clerk**

- e) To review the Christmas decoration arrangements for 2024

It was agreed to keep the same arrangements as the previous year, but to extend the icicle lights down the canopy poles so they would be more visible. The TCM to obtain a cost for this addition.

**Action: TCM**

- f) To receive and consider a quotation for weed treatment

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Duveen

IT WAS RESOLVED TO accept the quote totalling £3150 from Charlton Environmental Ltd for three applications of herbicide to street pavements and associated areas throughout Wantage.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

- g) To receive and consider a quotation for floral decorations for the hanging baskets and planters for summer 2024 and winter-spring 2024-25

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Todd

IT WAS RESOLVED TO accept the quote of £6703.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

- h) To consider the purchase of a shed – Post Office Square

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Third

IT WAS RESOLVED TO purchase an Asgard metal shed to replace a smaller existing shed for the purpose of storing equipment needed for the market square/VC forecourt. £1903 to include delivery and installation.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

- i) To receive an update on the invitation to Matthew Barber (PCC) to attend a meeting to update on the current situation about lack of police officers on the Wantage Neighbourhood Team

There had not been a response to the invitation. Clerk to chase.

**Action: Clerk**

- j) To receive and consider a quotation to install bollards in the entrance and exit of the western end of the market square.

Three bollards and one socket at the western end of the market square had been demolished by a lorry. There had been a successful claim from the vehicle's insurer. The Deputy Clerk suggested that it would be a good opportunity to install removable bollards at the entrance and exit at the western end. A quotation had been received but needed some clarification. To be discussed at the next meeting.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

- k) Other town centre matters

There had been no update from the district council about the reinstatement of the CCTV camera in Wallingford Street.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**29. Cemetery Matters:**

- a) To receive an update on development to the cemetery extension

There had been a site meeting with a local ground water monitoring and drilling company. It was agreed that a meeting with the EA should be requested so that the proposal to dig a 25m borehole, to determine the depth of water at the proposed cemetery extension site, could be given approval by the EA. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- b) Other cemetery matters

None.

**30. Agenda items for the next meeting 20 May 2024**

None.

The meeting closed at 9 pm

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