

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY
ON MONDAY, 20 MAY 2024, AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillors J Hannaby (Chair), A Duveen, P Kirby- Harris and S Third.

Other councillors: Councillor K Morris

Members of the public: Two members of the public

Town Centre Manager (TCM) A Yates

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Walters.

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

None

3. Statements and questions from the public.

None

4. To agree the terms of reference for the Leisure & Amenities Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Third

IT WAS RESOLVED TO accept the terms of reference without amendment.

5. Income and expenditure report dated 14 May 2024

Noted. The report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

6. Allotment Matters

a) To receive an update on the clearance and anti-social behaviour at Stockham Park

There had been recent anti-social behaviour in the copse - a structure had been built out of wood. The fire service had attended on a couple of occasions to put out fires that had been started by youths. Some tools belonging to allotment tenants had been recovered and returned to the owners. PCSOs had attended site and were aware of the activity.

A fence with posts and chicken wire had been installed. Keep out/private land signs had been attached to the fence. The structure had been removed.

The removal of the large area of debris had not yet been removed.

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

It was agreed that a few fruit trees should be planted in the area. The deputy clerk was to seek clarification from OCC regarding the supply and planting of the trees would be available FOC.

Action Deputy Clerk

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

It was agreed that five fruit trees would be planted. A plan of the proposed location was to be sent to the landowner seeking approval for the planting. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- d) To consider the request from an allotment tenant to keep bees at Letcombe Fields

It was agreed that, in principle it would be permitted subject to other allotment holders having no concerns and the beekeeper has attended training and is competent to keep bees. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- e) To consider the request from an allotment tenant to share surplus produce with the community

It was agreed that an email would be sent to all tenants advising them of community groups who would be happy to receive surplus produce. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- f) Other allotment matters

It was noted that no dog signs had been installed and the gate hinge had been repaired at the Grove Road site.

7. Town Centre Matters:

- a) To receive an update on the history information boards

The final draft had not yet been circulated. **Action: Town Project Coordinator**

- b) To receive an update on leisure facilities assessment

There had been a meeting held on 11 March 2024. The assessment strategy and action plan had been received from the district council.

- c) To receive an update on town warden recruitment

It was agreed that the recruitment would be put on hold until there had been a review of the market square.

- d) To consider forming a working group to look at the issues associated with the dual use of the market square as a parking area and charter market venue to include reviewing the current parking order.

It was agreed that a working group be formed. All members of the council were to be invited to join. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

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- e) To receive and consider a quotation for the extension of Christmas icicle lights to be installed around the canopy poles.

A quotation of £2797 had been received for the supply only of additional lights. It was agreed that this cost was too high and would not be taken forward.

- f) To note Police Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber to attend the council meeting on 24 June 2024.

Members noted the date of 24 June 2024.

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

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Duveen
SECONDED BY Councillor Morris

IT WAS RESOLVED TO accept the quotation from OCC to install additional bollards in the market square (one at the exit and two at the entrance) and to reinstate the broken bollard socket in the western end of the market square. The cost £2500 would be covered by an insurance claim.

Action: Deputy Clerk

- h) Other town centre matters

None.

8. Cemetery Matters:

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

A meeting had been held between The EA, a ground water drilling company, Councillor Hannaby and the deputy clerk. The drilling company had submitted a proposal which had been agreed by The EA. A quotation from GM Drilling had not yet been received.

Action: Deputy Clerk

- b) Other cemetery matters

No dog signs were to be installed around the cemetery.

Action: Deputy Clerk

9. Agenda items for the next meeting Monday 1 July 2024

None.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm
