

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY
ON MONDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2024, AT 7.30 PM**

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

Substitute committee members: Councillor K Morris

In attendance: Two members of the public

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

29. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Walters.

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

None

31. To agree and sign the minutes of 16 September 2024

The minutes were agreed and signed.

32. Statements and questions from the public

None

33. To receive the income and expenditure report dated 22 October 2024

Members noted the report.

34. To receive and agree the budget proposal for 2025/26

The budget proposal prepared by the clerk had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. It was agreed to accept it with one amendment – to increase the cemetery maintenance budget to £5k

35. Allotment Matters

a) To receive a verbal report from the allotment tenants’ meeting held 28 October

The meeting was well attended by tenants from all sites. It was noted that a request had been made for a communal area to be mowed at the Naldertown site. The deputy clerk advised that this was not normally carried out by the town council. A Grove Road tenant had asked about an update on the fence that was to be installed by St Modwen. Councillor Hannaby agreed to get an update at the next Crab Hill development forum. The process for registration of AVCs had changed. The district council were to meet with the town council to explain the process. **Action: Deputy Clerk/Hannaby**

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

It was noted that allotment tenants were pleased with the work that had been carried out to clear the mound of debris in preparation for the planting of five fruit trees.

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

Councillor Hannaby and the deputy clerk had met on site with an allotment tenant who had concerns about the proposed positioning of the five fruit trees and it was suggested that the trees could be planted along the existing hedge line instead to hopefully discourage any rats from being too close to his plot. The landowner was agreeable to both suggestions providing there were no objections from allotment tenants about overshadowing.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Third

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT five fruit trees were to be planted in a line along the bottom of the allotment site and that the town council would take responsibility to maintain the trees and distribute the fruit to the community by using volunteers from the allotment site and community groups.

d) Other allotment matters

None.

36. Town Centre Matters:

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

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Todd
SECONDED BY Councillor Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED to shelve the project and to possibly use the artwork for the website or noticeboards in the future. It was understood that the grant of £5k would need to be returned to the district council.

Action: Clerk

b) To agree a meeting date for members of the 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 site meeting would take place in the market square on Wednesday 13 November at 2pm. All members of the council were to be invited to attend.

Action: Deputy Clerk

c) To note the date/time for PCSO Horner to present the information relating to PSPOs.

PCSO Horner was to present the information on Friday 8 November at 2pm at The Beacon. All members of the council were to be invited to attend.

Action: Deputy Clerk

d) To receive Councillor Third's report/recommendations – land at Grove Road.

Councillor Third had visited the area. It was noted that a sum of money had been requested from St Modwen for allowing the water outfall onto the land owned by Wantage Town Council. It was agreed to wait until this money had been confirmed and to visit the area again.

- e) To review the arrangements of relocating market stalls during the Christmas period.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies

IT WAS RESOLVED THAT no trading should be carried out on the VC Forecourt and that all stalls should remain in the market square. Trader to be informed.

Action: Deputy Clerk

- f) To receive quotations and agree the purchase of trees for the Wantage Memorial Park.

Two quotations had been received for year two hedging plants, canes and guards to be planted in Manor Road Memorial Park on behalf of Sustainable Wantage.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Menzies
SECONDED BY Councillor Todd

IT WAS RESOLVED TO place an order with Farm Forestry totalling £2686.50

Action: Deputy Clerk

- g) To receive the draft consumer surveys/business surveys.

The documents that had previously been drafted were circulated to all members prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the documents needed further work with input from the clerk. It was suggested that questions about parking should be included.

Action: Clerk/Deputy Clerk

37. Cemetery Matters:

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

At the meeting of Wantage Town Council on 14 October 2024 it was resolved to appoint CDS to progress the project using a separate contractor as previously agreed, to drill the necessary boreholes.

Action: Clerk

- b) To receive a quotation for areas of the cemetery to be cleared/cut back.

Following a site visit by Councillor Hannaby and the deputy clerk. A quotation had been received from White Horse Horticulture for attending to various areas within the cemetery deemed to be of a health and safety concern.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies

IT WAS RESOLVED TO accept the quotation of £1445 to carry out the necessary work.

- c) Other cemetery matters

None.

38. Agenda items for the next meeting Monday 13 January 2025

None

The meeting closed at 9.30pm
