

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF  
THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY  
ON MONDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2024, AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillors J Hannaby (Chair), A Menzies, K Morris, S Third and C Walters.

In attendance: Two members of the public  
Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

**20. Apologies for Absence**

None.

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

None.

**22. To agree and sign the minutes of 1 July 2024**

The minutes were agreed and signed.

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

A Grove Road allotment tenant was present and raised concerns about the proposal to plant five fruit trees at the site.

**24. To receive the income and expenditure report**

Members noted the report.

**25. Allotment Matters**

a) To receive an update on allotment availability/waiting list

Members noted the report that had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were currently 33 Wantage residents on the waiting list.

b) To review the need for fencing – Stockham Park (copse area)

There had been no further reports of anti-social behaviour in the area, It was agreed that the installation of a fence should be reviewed again in spring 2025. It was noted that the whips were still to be planted during the autumn.

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

The work to clear the large area of debris had been completed. The area was due to be raked and seeded in the next week. This completes the preparation work for five fruit trees to be planted.

d) To receive an update on tree planting and review the responses from the consultation with allotment holders – Grove Road

Tenants had been advised of the intention to plant five fruit trees by email/letter detailing the plan and seeking any comments of concern/support. There had been five responses. Councillor Hannaby and the deputy clerk to meet on site to consider the concerns raised by the allotment tenants. The member of the public had been invited to attend.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

- e) To agree the date to hold the allotment holders' meeting

It was agreed to hold the meeting on Monday 28 October 2024 at 6.30pm in the bar area at The Beacon.

**Action Deputy Clerk**

- f) Other allotment matters

None.

**26. Town Centre Matters:**

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

The drafts had been received and reviewed by Councillor Hannaby and the deputy clerk. There were some amendments required. Councillors Kirby-Harris and Third had not yet made any comments to the draft. Councillor Walters offered to review the drafts after the amendments had been made. It was noted that the project needed to be completed by March 2025.

**Action: Deputy Clerk/Kirby Harris/Third/Walters**

- 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

A meeting was to be arranged for a date in November.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

- c) To consider an application for Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which allows more powers for PCSOs relating to ASB

It had not been possible to find a date when PCSO Horner could attend a committee meeting to give a brief on the PSPO due to his work pattern. It was agreed that a date to suit his schedule should be looked at and the committee would try to accommodate this.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

- d) To note the cancellation of the September fair (Nichols Enterprises)

It was noted that Nichols Enterprises were not able to attend the September charter fair because the date fell a week later than usual, and they could not supply enough equipment to make the toll affordable.

- e) To receive an update on the land at Grove Road

It was noted that the area had recently been inspected by White Horse Horticulture. There were no concerns but evidence that the area is being used for recreational purposes by youths. There had been no further work done to the area since the willow trees were removed in February 2023. There was a desire to create a path for dog walkers etc. Councillor Third agreed to visit the area and report his findings/recommendations.

**Action: Third**

f) To receive an update on Alfred's Well

It was noted that the area had recently been inspected by White Horse Horticulture. There were no concerns, but part of the fence had been repaired.

g) To review the arrangements of businesses' seating on the VC Forecourt

It was noted that there had not been a formal agreement with the businesses. It was agreed that they should be reminded of the obligation to keep the area clean, tidy.

**Action: Clerk**

h) To note the need to clean VC Forecourt and statue of King Alfred

It was agreed that the statue and VC Forecourt needed to be cleaned. The statue was last cleaned in April 2022. It was agreed that it should be cleaned biennially going forward.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

i) To agree how to tackle the issue of fly-posting

Banners and advertising boards were being attached to railings and posts around the town without consent.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies

IT WAS RESOLVED TO arrange for the existing to be removed and to remove any that are put up in the future.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

j) Other town centre matters

None

**27. Cemetery Matters:**

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

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Morris

IT WAS RESOLVED TO continue to engage GM Drilling to drill the borehole and to get a quote from CDS for the remainder of the work needed to get to the pre-application stage of the project. It was noted that there were funds available from S106 for this project.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

b) To receive an update on the existing cemetery

A report had been circulated to members prior to the meetings. There had been five new burials and one ashes interment since 1 January 2024. There had been a report of ASB. The deputy clerk had made TVP aware and requested that they continue to patrol the area daily.

c) Other cemetery matters

None

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**28. Agenda items for the next meeting Monday 28 October 2024**

None.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

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