

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL,
PORTWAY, ON TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2008 AT 7.30 PM**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Reynolds (Chairman)
Councillors A J Geden, E C Goldsmith,
Mrs J T Hannaby, (Part), P O'Leary and
Mrs E A Turner.

Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors BH Armitage,, Mrs L Todd, and Dr I C E Turcu. Councillor Mrs J T Hannaby had sent her apologies for late arrival.

Declarations of Interest

None

Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 June 2008

The minutes were approved and signed.

6. Statements and Questions from the Public

None

7. Matters Arising

Bus Shelter, Harcourt Road – Update

It was almost certain that the bus shelter had originally been installed by the Atomic Energy Authority (AEA) and remained its property. It was unlikely that the Council would be able to persuade AEA to take any action or responsibility for this. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk should refer back to the County Council as highway authority, requesting that it takes action to deal with the shelter. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

8 Market Place items, including Matters Arising

(a) King Alfred's Statue

(i) Compensation for damage to statue.

A payment of £1,774.25, the full cost of the repair, had been received from HMCS.

(ii) Cleaning and repair of statue and statue area.

Joslins were due to proceed with the cleaning and repair works in August.

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(iii) Bronze plaque

The order to proceed with the provision of the replacement plaque had been placed with Falcon Signs. Roger Humphries had agreed to provide the surround and fixing at no cost to the Town Council.

(b) French Market

The French Market held on the 13 July had been successful, but not as well attended as the previous market. The stall layout and parking of vehicles had worked well. It was reported that the Chamber of Commerce were not in a position to continue to financially subsidise costs arising from the French Market. For the previous two markets the Chamber had borne the cost of the waste skips. It was noted that the encouragement of this style of activity in the market place was firmly within the remit of the Joint Economic Forum and fitted in with actions being pursued arising from the Health Check. It was agreed that the issue of providing financial support to accommodate the French Market be referred to the Joint Economic Forum.

Action: Clerk

There was a need to identify and assess the costs involved. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(c) Any Other Market Place Matters

(i) Parking Attendant

No further progress had been made in recruiting a parking attendant. The recruitment of a Deputy Market Attendant had enabled the Market Attendant to undertake more parking attendant duties.

(ii) Pot holes on Market Place

A quote for repairs was awaited.

9. Cemetery Items – including Matters Arising

(a) Burial plots covered in bottles and other materials

The Clerk had written to the families responsible for the burial plots. There had been a hostile reaction from them to this. It was agreed that they be given a short time to come to terms with the requests made by the Town Council. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(b) Fee charges for memorial applications

The current fee list made a charge of £37 for approval of a headstone and a further £37 for the approval of kerbing. The charges were principally to cover the cost of administration. The Clerk advised that where a headstone and kerbing request were made together on the same application, there was little or no additional work involved in considering the two together. It was agreed that it might be preferable to relate the charging to the application itself rather than to the item being requested.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goldsmith

SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Turner

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend that an application fee of £50 be levied for each application irrespective of what items were included.

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Councillor Mrs Hannaby arrived.

(c) Any other cemetery matters

The Chairman and the Deputy Clerk were due to meet a tree surgeon at the cemetery on Thursday, 24 July at 12.30 p.m. Along with other work, the tree surgeon was to be asked to quote for cutting back the trees and foliage on the bank at the vehicle entrance to the cemetery. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

Confidential item

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Reynolds
SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Turner
IT WAS RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Reynolds
SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Turner
IT WAS RESOLVED that the resolutions made in confidential session be adopted..

10. General Correspondence

(i) Complaint from Mr Maggs

The letter of complaint from Mr Maggs was to be referred to the Licensing Officer, the Police and the Neighbourhood Action Group. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(ii) Copy of letter to Neighbourhood Action Group from Mr & Mrs Pattern

The letter of complaint was noted.

(iii) Anti social behaviour.

It was reported that there had recently been problems of anti-social behaviour, by young persons, in the vicinity of Sainsbury's store.

The meeting closed at 8.28 p.m.
