

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL,  
PORTWAY, ON MONDAY, 19 JANUARY 2009 AT 7.30 PM**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Reynolds (Chairman)  
Councillors B Armitage, A Geden, E Goldsmith  
Mrs J Hannaby, P O'Leary and Mrs L Todd

Deputy Clerk Mrs H Kell

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Major J Sibbald and Mrs E Turner.

**Declarations of Interest**

None

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 October 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20 October 2008 were approved and signed.

**22 Statements and Questions from the Public**

None

**23 Matters Arising**

a) Bus Shelter, Harcourt Road

The Deputy Clerk reported that the County Council were still awaiting a quotation from Enterprise for the removal of the bus shelter, together with an agreement from the Vale of White Horse District Council to apportion the cost of the removal with the County and Town Council.

b) Seat, Seesen Way

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby

SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds

IT WAS RESOLVED that the purchase of a metal seat to be installed in Seesen Way be delegated to the Committee Chairman and Clerk, up to a cost of £1000.

It was also recommended that advice be sought from the Vale of White Horse District Council's Landscape Officer, Mary Lambe, regarding seats approved by the District Council.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**24 Market Place items, including Matters Arising**

a) King Alfred Statue

(i) Bronze Plaque

The Deputy Clerk reported that the new plaque had now been completed and Mr Humphries would be contacting the Conservation Officer with regard to providing suitable substantial fixing for the plaque to the statue. The Deputy Clerk was requested to contact Mr Audley-Miller in order to progress this.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(ii) Use of identification spray to deter theft.

The Committee noted that a gel substance was painted on articles such as lead roofing, etc. in order to discourage theft. Members discussed the merits of using the gel and it was recommended to contact Miss Sarah Merritt, who has additional information. The Committee also requested the use of a resin substance behind the plaque to be considered by the Conservation Officer. This would deter vandalism.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(iii) Damage to King Alfred Statue

Members wished to minute their disgust at the damage to the King Alfred Statue in the early hours of the 24 December 2008, which resulted in the axe handle again being broken. The Deputy Clerk updated members on the police action to date. Unfortunately, identification of the vandals had not been gained from the CCTV cameras. Cliveden Conservation had collected the broken axe handle and would contact the District Council's Conservation Officer regarding inserting a stainless steel rod to make the handle more robust.

(b) French Market

The Committee approved the dates of the 2009 French Market, proposed by the Chamber of Commerce: 15 March; 12 July and 15 November, 2009. The Committee recommended that all local parishes be made aware of the dates and posters be sent for their notice boards.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(c) Other Market Place Matters

The Mayor reported that Fox FM had been broadcasting from the Market Place and had interviewed local residents. The Committee proposed that the Council's policy on the increased use of the Market Place should be advertised widely. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

**25 Cemetery Items – including Matters Arising**

(a) Tree Works, Southern Boundary of Cemetery

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillors Mrs Hannaby  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds

IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £1,440 from Crosscut Tree Surgeons for work to reduce the height of the trees on the southern boundary of the cemetery. The Deputy Clerk was requested to ensure that the work would be undertaken prior to birds' nesting. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(b) Improvement work to the entrance to Chain Hill Cemetery

The Committee received the following estimate for work to improve the entrance to Chain Hill Cemetery.

- (i) Improvement to surface entrance to cemetery, £2181.98 – Enterprise
- (ii) Painting the cemetery railings and removal of ivy, £750 – Paul, Handyman.
- (ii) Reduction of hedge and improvements to visibility, £480 – Crosscut Tree Surgeons.

Total cost of project: £3411.98.

The Wantage Joint Environmental Trust have approved a grant of £852.75 for the project from its 2009/2010 Budget and

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds

IT WAS RESOLVED that the balance of £2,559.23 for the cemetery refurbishment project be set aside from the Council's 2009/10 Cemetery Budget.

(c) Grass cutting and ground maintenance arrangements for 2009/10

Details of costs had not yet been received and it was recommended that these be available for approval at full Council.

(d) Other Cemetery Matters

Councillors were concerned that there appeared to be an increase in the amount of unsuitable objects on graves at the Chain Hill cemetery.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Reynolds  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that a site meeting be arranged for the Committee at the cemetery and members were also visit the Alfred's Bath. **Action: Chairman**

(e) Market Place Improvement Budget

It was noted that £10,000 had been set aside in the Council's 2009/10 Budget.

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ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Market Place improvements be put on the Environmental  
Committee's next meeting agenda in order to discuss initial ideas.

**26. Any Other Business**

(a) Seat, The Platt

The Committee received a report that the seat on The Platt had again been vandalised.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds  
IT WAS RESOLVED not to replace the seat until requested by members of the public.

(b) Wording of the Plaque, Alfred's Bath

The Deputy Clerk reported that neither The Vale & Downland Museum nor Oxfordshire  
County Council's Archive Department can confirm the use of the Bath for sheep dipping or  
the washing of fleeces.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Todd  
IT WAS RESOLVED that approval for the wording for the sign at Alfred's Bath be  
delegated to the Chairman. **Action: Chairman**

(c) Awards for All Application

The Committee received a note with a request from WACA for the Council's support in  
their application for Lottery funding for the purchase of a thermal camera.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Reynolds  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage  
IT WAS RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the WACA giving the Council's support for  
the project for which they were applying for Lottery funding. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

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