

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL
PORTWAY, ON MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Committee Members Present: Councillor P Kent (Chairman)
Councillors B Armitage, E Goldsmith, M Green
Mrs J Hannaby, and P O'Leary.

Other Councillors Present: Councillor Mrs P Brundle

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 14 September 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2009 were approved and signed.

15. Statements and Questions from the Public

None

16. Matters Arising

(a) Bus Shelter, Harcourt Road

The work to remove the concrete bus shelter in Harcourt Road would commence on Monday, 26 October, 2009.

(b) Nuisance at Smith's Wharf

The local police had no problems with the position of the Kebab van in the Smith's Wharf area. It was requested that the terms of the licence from the Vale of White Horse District Council be investigated. Problems had been reported by the local police of anti-social behaviour in the area of Berkeley Homes and railings were to be erected to deter the problem.

Action: Deputy Clerk

17. Market Place Items

(a) Car Park Signage

A draft design of the proposed new car park signage for the Market Place was considered. It was agreed that actual wording for the sign could be approved at full Council. The cost of each sign would be £200. Members were anxious that confirmation of the legality of towing vehicles away or clamping be obtained before wording on the signs was finalised.

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ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby
SECONDED by Councillor O'Leary

IT WAS RESOLVED that three new car parking signs be purchased for the Market Place at a cost of £200 each, with the final information being agreed at the full Council meeting on 30 November 2009.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(b) New signage for Town Centre.

The Joint Environmental Trust had approved grant of £1,475.50, being fifty per cent of the full cost, towards the purchase of new signage for the town centre.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Kent
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage

IT WAS RESOLVED that two new finger posts with two fingers on each post, plus two additional fingers for each of the posts already in the Market Place be purchased, at a cost of £2,951.

Action: Deputy Clerk

Installation was to be undertaken by the District Council's Direct Services. It was agreed that information concerning the new signage and the grant from the Joint Environmental Trust be included on the Town Council's web site.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(c) Policy of towing away illegally parked vehicles from the market Place

The Deputy Clerk reported that following contact with other local councils, it appeared that the legality of towing a vehicle from the car park cannot be confirmed.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Deputy Clerk obtain confirmation of the legality of towing vehicles from the car park. If towing was not possible, the possibility of clamping vehicles should be investigated.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(d) Adopt a public telephone box scheme

The Committee considered the proposal to adopt a public telephone scheme with information from British Telecom.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage
SECONDED by Councillor Kent

IT WAS RESOLVED that further information be obtained from British Telecom to ascertain if a red telephone box was available to replace the one on the Market Place.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(e) Any other Market Place matters

The notice board on the VC forecourt required refurbishment. It was agreed that Abigail Brown, the Vales Art Development Officer, be contacted in order to obtain a new coloured map for the Market Place.

Action: Deputy Clerk

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby
SECONDED by Councillor P Kent

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IT WAS RESOLVED that a meeting be arranged with Oxfordshire County Council officers to discuss the condition of roads around the town leading to the market Place.

Action: Deputy Clerk

18. Cemetery

(a) Vehicular entrance improvements

Improvement work to the Chain Hill Cemetery entrance would commence on the 21 October 2009. The cemetery entrance would be closed for a maximum of three days.

(b) Any Other Cemetery Matters

(i) Lockable Post

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby
SECONDED by Councillor Kent

IT WAS RESOLVED that the lockable post be reinstated in the road which leads from the car park. This would deter cars from being driven along the roadway.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(ii) Illegal Dumping

Reports of illegal dumping in the cemetery have been received. The Deputy Clerk was requested to order a new 'No Dumping – Floral tributes only' sign to be erected in the cemetery.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(iii) Removal of Saplings in the area of the 'Clark' grave

A report had been received that a sapling tree appeared to be growing in the vicinity of the 'Clark's' grave. The Deputy Clerk was requested to investigate and arrange for the removal of the sapling.

Action: Deputy Clerk

19. Estimates

The financial statements and estimate work sheets were considered. It was noted that the Council had a standing policy of increasing burial charges by 2½%, per annum. There were concerns about maintaining this in the current economic climate:

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goldsmith
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage

IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the income and expenditure for the Environmental Committee for 2010/2011 remain at the same level as 2009/2010.

20. Any Other Business.

None

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.
