

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL,  
PORTWAY, ON MONDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs L Todd (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors B Armitage, A Gedden, P O’Leary and  
Major J Sibbald

Other Members Present: Councillor Dr I C E Turcu

Deputy Clerk: Mrs H Kell

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Goldsmith, Mrs J Hannaby, J Morgan and Mrs J Reynolds (Chairman).

**Declarations of Interest**

None

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 July 2008**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**11. Statements and Questions from the Public**

None

**12. Matters Arising**

(a) Bus Shelter, Harcourt Road

The Deputy Clerk reported that the County Council will liaise with the Vale of White Horse District Council to ascertain if there is a health and safety issue with the shelter. If the shelter is not a health and safety issue, the Town Council will be requested to contribute towards its removal.

**13. Market Place**

(a) King Alfred Statue

The Committee noted that the cleaning of the King Alfred statue together with the replacement of the flagstones at its base has now been completed. The order for the replacement of the bronze plaque has now been placed with Falcon Signs.

(b) French Market

The Chamber of Commerce have confirmed that the stall holders at the French Market will now be responsible for the clearing of their own rubbish.

(c) Policy re-use of the Market Square for other activities

The Committee noted that the Council’s current policy was not to give permission for activities other than market or fairs on the Market Place; however, a request had been received from the Wantage Volvo Garage to sell raffle tickets on the Market Place on behalf of their chosen charity, ‘Dogs for the Disabled’. Following the recent consultation from the Health Check, the Steering Group was proposing that activities on the Market Place should encourage public into the centre of the town. Members agreed that bona fide charity organisers should be given permission to hold events on the Market Place.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor B Armitage

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SECONDED by Councillor Major J Sibbald

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve in principle the proposal of additional activities taking place on the Market Place, initially on a Saturday.

It was recommended that priority should always be given to the market traders. Space should be made available in the area designated for car parking. Liaison must take place with the market attendant. Consideration should be given to whether a charge similar to that levied on the VC Forecourt should be applied. It was also recommended that publicity for this initiative should be made via the local newspapers. Any licences required must be sought by the organisation undertaking the activity.

(d) Any other Market Place matters

(i) Parking Attendant – No further progress to report.

(ii) Pot holes on the Market Place.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Todd,

SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the quotation of £65 for the filling of the potholes with asphalt be accepted.

#### 14. Cemetery Items

(a) Ashes Plots

The Committee discussed amending the Cemetery Regulations to include a clause “That plot owners are responsible for maintaining the grassed areas on and around the plot”. After discussion this was rejected,

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor B Arbitrage

SECONDED BY Councillor Major J Sibbald

IT WAS RESOLVED that the ‘ashes plot’ holders at Chain Hill Cemetery should not be responsible for maintaining the ground around their plots and requested that the maintenance contractor be asked to quote for any additional work. Details to be available for the next meeting. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(b) Site meeting with tree surgeon.

A site meeting had been held by the Chairman and Deputy Clerk with a tree surgeon to obtain a quotation for the various works on trees at the cemetery. Quotations should be available for the next meeting.

#### 15. Confidential Item.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Todd

SECONDED by Councillor B Armitage

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 Todd

SECONDED by Councillor B Armitage

IT WAS RESOLVED that the resolutions made in confidential session be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

WPF/HK/CT

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Environmental Committee 1 September 2008**

**15 Confidential Item**

The Confidential Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2008 were approved and signed.

**a) Matters Arising**

The Deputy Clerk reported that following the complaint from a member of the public in regard to an incident in the cemetery on the 27 June 2008, letters had been sent to the maintenance contractor and the various funeral directors and other people who work in the cemetery informing them that any complaints received from members of the public should be directed to the Town Council office.

**b) Complaint re delay in considering memorial applications.**

The Committee noted that the recently implemented policy for dealing with memorial applications would help the Clerk ensure that all applications were dealt with in a reasonable time.

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