

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL,  
PORTWAY, ON MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2008 AT 7.30 PM**

Committee Members Present:	Councillor Mrs J Reynolds (Chairman) Councillors E Goldsmith, Mrs J Hannaby, P O'Leary, Major J Sibbald and Mrs L Todd.
Other Councillors Present	Councillor P Kent
Assistant Clerk	Mrs C Tomlinson

**Apologies for Absence**

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

**Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman asked that these be given as the meeting proceeded

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 September 2008**

Councillor Mrs Turner had given her apologies and they had not been recorded.  
A typographic error appeared at item 14, line 5, and the name 'Armitage' was corrected.  
The minutes, as amended, were approved and signed.

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

None

**17. Matters Arising**

(a) Bus Shelter, Harcourt Road – Update

A quote was still awaited from Oxfordshire County Council's contractor, Enterprise.

(b) Market Square car park area for other activities, policy update

It had been agreed at the Council meeting, as recommended by the Clerk, that delegated authority be given to Town Mayor, the Environmental Committee Chairman and Town Clerk, in consultation, to decide upon what activities would be appropriate to accommodate on the Market Square and VC Forecourt at times other than and as well as Wednesdays and Saturdays.

**18 Market Place**

(a) King Alfred Statue

Falcon Signs had indicated that it would be at least another three weeks before the plaque was ready for installation. It was suggested that enquiries be made regarding spraying the new plaque with a DNA spray finger print (unique reference) and publicise this in the local press, in order to discourage any future theft. It was also suggested that the district council officers, in charge of the CCTV cameras in the Market Place be asked to ensure that the statue was continually monitored by a camera. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(b) French Market

It was felt that the first French Market had been successful but that the second market had not gone so well. The reason for this may have been a lack of advertising. It was recommended that every attempt be made to secure local newspaper /radio coverage and also to send details of the market to all local parish councils. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

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(c) Any Other Market Place Matters

(i) Parking Attendant – update

There was nothing further to report; there was a continuing vacancy.

(ii) Pot holes on Market Place – update

The work had not yet been completed and efforts were being made to contact other contractors to carry out the work.

**19. Cemetery Items**

(a) Cemetery Charges

It was agreed that although members felt charges were not high enough in comparison with other authorities, it would not be appropriate to increase them significantly under the current economic climate.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goldsmith

SECONDED by Councillor Major Sibbald

IT WAS RESOLVED to increase the fees by the rate of inflation, between 2½% and 4½% as determined by the Clerk.

**Action: Clerk**

(b) Site meetings with contractors for quotes for tree works

It was noted that the Chairman and Deputy Clerk had met officers from Oxfordshire County Council to discuss improvements to the vehicular entrance to the cemetery and quotes were awaited.

(c) Tree Works

Quotes had been received from two companies, each quoting for two different elements of work, as follows: -

	<u>Company A</u>	<u>Company B</u>
Work on trees at Southern Boundary	£1440	£2400
Work on trees at entrance to cemetery	£480	£475

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby

SECONDED by Councillor Major Sibbald

IT WAS RESOLVED that the quote of £480 only from Company A (Crosscut Tree Surgeons) for the work to the cemetery entrance be accepted and the second element of the quote be left in abeyance for further consideration...

It was agreed that an approach be made to the tree specialist at the Vale of White Horse District Council to visit the cemetery with the Deputy Clerk to identify any trees in the older section that might require urgent attention.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

There was discussion about involving JET in a project to include resurfacing the main concrete driveway at the cemetery and possibly removing 2 or 3 meters of bank to double the width of the entrance.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald

SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby

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IT WAS RESOLVED that a request be made to Mary Lambe of the District Council to provide a plan for such a scheme on the Town Council's behalf and then to refer to the Wantage Joint Environmental Trust for funding. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

**20. Estimates 2009/2010**

(a) Cemetery-Other

It was noted that there was still an amount of £2,050 in this year's Budget and members thought this could be used for the second element of Crosscut Tree Surgeons' quote. The Chairman also said that she had not thought the quote for £1440 unrealistic, for the amount of work involved.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby

SECONDED by Councillor Sibbald

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Chairman contact the Clerk, Chairman of Policy, Management & Finance Committee, and the Town Mayor to ascertain whether they felt the budget could be used for the Leylandi tree works quoted for by Crosscut Tree Surgeons.

**Action: Chairman**

(b) Market Square

(i) Councillors queried the figures bracketed together, relating to Attendant and Contractor, and would seek clarification from the Clerk.

(ii) Statue – Actual £2923, Budget £500: It was agreed to keep a similar £500 in 2009/10 budget. Members thought the over-spend to be in connection with the repairs to the vandalised statue but had understood the repair bill to have been covered by the insurers. Clarification was to be sought from the Clerk.

**Action: Chairman**

(iii) Refurbish – 2008/9 budget was £10,000: It was agreed to ask the Clerk to advise what figure should be shown under this heading.. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(c) Maintenance – Pride in Wantage – It was agreed to reduce the amount of £1000 to £500, as there had been no actual spend this year to date, unless the Clerk had a specific reason for maintaining the amount shown.

**21. Any Other Business**

a) Seat in Seesen Way

The Committee considered the two quotes received for replacing the vandalised wooden/metal seat but decided that to replace like for like would be a mistake. They recommended quotes were obtained for a metal only seat which would be vandal proof and bolted down, similar to the one outside the hospital **Action: Deputy Clerk**

b) Correspondence

(i) Councillors noted a letter from Mrs Murtagh, informing the Council of an accident involving her husband who had fallen on flagstones outside the Bear Hotel. They recommended that an appropriate letter be sent to Mrs Murtagh and the area be

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monitored, to ensure it was safe for public access. Preventative measures were to be taken immediately, if it wasn't. **Action: Clerk**

(ii) Councillors considered a letter from Mrs Edwards about litter and involving community service offenders in 'litter picks'. It was agreed that the letter be referred to the District Council's Litter Warden. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goldsmith  
SECONDED by Councillor Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that in the first instance a reply be given to Mrs Edwards saying that her comments would be passed on to the District Council's Litter Wardens. Her letter should then be referred to the Police Neighbourhood Action Group for further comment. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

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WPF/CT/CT