

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC  
HALL, PORTWAY, ON TUESDAY 27 MAY 2008 AT 7.55 PM**

Committee Members Present:

Councillor Mrs E A Turner (Chairman)  
Councillors: B Armitage, Mrs P Brundle,  
A Geden, Mrs J Hannaby, P O'Leary,  
Major J Sibbald and Dr ICE Turcu

Deputy Clerk:

Mrs H Kell

**Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A Crawford

**Declarations of Interest**

None

**Minutes of Meetings held on 17 March 2008**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**1 Statements and Question from the Public**

None

**2 Matters Arising**

(a) Stockham Park Amenity Area

The Committee noted requests from local residents for the grass at Stockham Park to be cut shorter and more frequently in order for ball games to be played.

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

IT WAS RESOLVED that the contractor be requested, if possible, to increase the number of grass cuts at Stockham Park for the summer period 2008, and for the grass to be cut shorter.

(b) Grove Road allotments

The Deputy Clerk reported that the brambles had now been removed, and also reported that another trailer had now been abandoned at this site, also building materials had been dumped on one of the allotments.

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ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman Councillor Mrs Turner  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that a notice be posted on the Grove Road allotment noticeboard requesting the trailer to be removed and reminding allotment holders that the Council's policy for allotments is to spend only that income which is received in rents.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

It was also resolved to write to the appropriate allotment holder giving one month's notice to vacate the allotment, if building materials were not removed and enclosing a copy of the allotment tenancy agreement.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**3 Allotment Matters**

(a) Plots 110b and 110c – Letcombe Fields allotments update:

Councillor A Geden declared a personal interest in Letcombe Fields allotments.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman Councillor Mrs Turner  
SECONDED by Councillor Dr Turcu

IT WAS RESOLVED that plot 110b and 110c at Letcombe Fields allotments be divided into four half plots at an annual rent of ten pounds each, the handyman being requested to mark the boundaries of each plot.

(b) Plot 120 – Letcombe Fields allotments:

The Chairman Councillor Mrs E Turner reported that, following an inspection of plot 120, she proposed that a rent of sixty pounds per annum be requested from the allotment holder i.e. rent for three plots.

SECONDED by Councillor B Armitage and approved unanimously.

It was also considered that the plot holder be requested to remove the recently planted conifer trees on the site. Members were concerned at the height of the fencing which had now been erected around the plot, but were unclear as to the agreement which had been signed.

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

IT WAS RESOLVED that a working party of the Chairman, Clerk, Councillors Mrs Brundle, B Armitage and Major J Sibbald and the Deputy Clerk, be formed to consider the allotment tenancy agreement which all plot holders would then be required to sign. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Turner also queried the Council's policy of allotment holders having the first year rent free and

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Turner  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage

IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend to the Policy, Management and Finance Committee That allotment holders be requested to pay a bond plus a year's rent upon taking the tenancy of an allotment.

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(c) Naldertown allotment:

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman Councillor Mrs Turner  
SECONDED by Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED to close the Naldertown allotment waiting list and for the two people on the waiting list to be moved to other sites. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) The Committee also noted a letter from Mrs Tobin and recommended the Clerk continue to deal with Mrs Tobin's concerns. The Committee also received the Wantage Allotment waiting list as at May 2008. Members requested that a list be available to the next Recreation and Amenity meeting which will include how many people are on more than one list. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

**4 General correspondence**

(a) Polytunnels:

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman Councillor Mrs Turner  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that the new tenancy agreement should also include a policy on polytunnels and sheds, including size and period for removal of polytunnels and sheds, following an allotment holder giving up tenancy of a plot.

(b) Letter from Wantage Methodist Church: The Committee received a letter from Wantage Methodist Church requesting representatives of the Council to meet with the Church to explore ways which the re-ordering of the Chapel could contribute to the community resources.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Councillor Mrs Turner  
SECONDED by Councillor Dr Turcu

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Wantage Methodist Church be requested to meet with Mr McClackie of the Wantage Arts Group to discuss the various requirements of Arts Groups following the loss of St Mary's School Arts Centre.

(c) Allotment visit: The Committee recommended that an allotment inspection take place on Saturday 14 June 2008 at 10am, commencing at Larkhill allotments. The Chair also noted that the National Allotment Week will take place on 11-17 August and requested these dates be included on the letters to the allotment holders giving details of the inspection date.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

HK/ME

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