

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL,  
PORTWAY, ON MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2009 AT 8.15 PM**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Reynolds (Chairman),  
Councillors B Armitage, Mrs P Brundle, Mrs J Hannaby,  
J Morgan, Major J Sibbald and Dr ICE Turcu.

Members of the public: 1 member of the public

Deputy Clerk: Mrs H Kell

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors P O'Leary and Mrs E Turner.

**Declaration of Interest**

None.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 September 2009**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**19 Statements and Question from the Public**

None.

**20. Matters arising**

a) Stockham Park Amenity Area

During the allotment inspection on 1 October 2009, it was noted that the grass had been cut shorter on the amenity area. Large wheel grooves had appeared in the ground in some areas.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby

SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds

IT WAS RESOLVED that the grounds maintenance contractor be asked to fill in the grooves with soil to avoid this becoming a safety hazard.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**21 Allotment matters**

a) Allotment Inspection Site Visits – 1 October 2009

A report of the allotment inspection visits was noted.

b) Allotment Holders meeting – 5 October 2009

A report of the meeting held in the Civic Hall was noted.

c) The Clearing of Plots 25 and 26 Stockham Park allotment site

A quotation of approximately £5,000-£6,000 had been received for the clearing of the plots, and this work could not be undertaken until Spring 2010.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Morgan

SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that other quotes be obtained and that the work be undertaken as soon as possible.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

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d) Plots 27b, 28 and 30b at Grove Road allotment

Following the allotment inspection, a number of plots on various sites had been judged to be uncultivated and letters sent to the plot holders requesting their plots be cleared of all waste and then cultivated. A letter had been circulated to all members from the holder of plots 27b, 28 and 30b at Grove Road allotment disputing the judgement of the Council.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage

SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds

IT WAS RESOLVED that the tenant be given four weeks notice to clear the plots, and if this was not completed, the Council should undertake clearance of the plots and reclaim the cost of this from the tenant.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

e) Plot 2 Larkhill allotment

Following the allotment inspection on 1 October 2009, a letter had been sent to the tenant of plot 2 Larkhill allotment site requesting the poly tunnel be removed and cultivation of the plot commence. The Committee had received a reply from the tenant requesting more time to clear his plot.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Mrs Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Armitage

IT WAS RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the tenant of plot 2 Larkhill allotment site, requesting the poly tunnel be removed within four weeks and that work to commence on cultivating the plot or the tenancy would be revoked.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

f) Stockham Park allotments

A request had been received from tenants at the allotment holders meeting, together with letters from two of them, for a road to be erected around the play area to enable the plot holders to access their plots by vehicle. A fence or hedging between the play area and allotments was also requested, following a number of incidents of vandalism at the site. The Committee considered the request for the road, but felt the cost of this would be prohibitive. The request for fencing or hedging was considered and

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Reynolds

SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that quotes be obtained for fencing or hedging to separate the play area and allotments at Stockham Park in order to help alleviate the vandalism. Details were to be available at the next meeting .

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

g) Grove Road allotments – Alternative gate and fencing or hedging to improve security

The Committee had received letters and reports of vandalism at Grove Road allotments, both from individual tenants together with reports from tenants at the allotment holders meeting. The Deputy Clerk reported that the cost of supplying and installing a six foot high close board wooden gate at Grove Road allotments, together with the purchase of a new combination lock and chain would be approximately £ 500.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby

SECONDED by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Reynolds

IT WAS RESOLVED that following the advice of the local police, a plastic anti vandal strip be attached to the current gate and a combination lock be purchased. It was also agreed that permission should be sought from the land owner for the planting of the hedging.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

h) Suggestion that elderly residents be invited to make their gardens available for allotment use.

The suggestion was discussed.

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ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage

SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that such a scheme would not be appropriate for the Town Council to administer.

i) Poly tunnel – Grove Road allotments

The Deputy Clerk reported a request from a tenant at Grove Road allotment to erect a 6ft x 4ft poly tunnel on his plot.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Reynolds

SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that the request be refused.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**22 Alfred's Bath Update**

The Deputy Clerk reported that the funding for the Alfred's Bath refurbishment had been approved by the Joint Environmental Trust. The District Council's Tree Officer had recommended that the Town Council employ a tree surgeon to undertake a survey of all trees owned by it for Health and Safety purposes and the survey should be carried out every 3-5 years. It was agreed that quotes be obtained and considered when 2010/2111 budget was discussed.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**23 Update regarding leisure facilities in Wantage and Grove**

It was noted that there was a recommendation from the Healthcheck Steering Group for the provision of joint Wantage and Grove youth facilities. Sources for funding were being investigated.

**24 Estimates 2010/2111**

The Committee received and considered the estimates of income and expenditure for the 2010/2111 financial year.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Reynolds

SECONDED by Councillor Armitage

IT WAS RESOLVED that due to the economic climate, there should be no inflation changes in the estimated income and expenditure for the Recreation and Amenities Committee for 2010/2111. A figure of £2000 should be set aside for a tree survey.

**25 General correspondence**

None.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

HK/ME

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