

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC  
HALL, PORTWAY, ON MONDAY 7 JULY 2008 AT 8.15 PM**

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

Deputy Clerk: Mrs H Kell

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Geden and Mrs J Hannaby

**Declarations of Interest**

None

**Minutes of Meetings held on 27 May 2008**

The minutes were approved and signed

**1 Statements and Question from the Public**

None

**2 Matters Arising**

(a) Stockham Park Amenity Area

The Deputy Clerk reported that the contractor had agreed to undertake two more cuts of the Amenity Area during the current season. However, the recent inclement weather had made this difficult to undertake.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Turner

SECONDED by Councillor Armitage

IT WAS RESOLVED that Deputy Clerk visit the area at the end of July to ascertain whether any additional cuts had been undertaken and if the grass was now shorter.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

**3 Allotment Matters**

a (i) Report of the allotment inspection on 14 June 2008

The Committee received and noted the report of the allotment inspection on 14 June 2008. The Deputy Clerk reported that letters had now been sent to the plot holders, on all the sites, who had not cultivated their allotments.

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ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage  
SECONDED by Councillor Dr Turcu

IT WAS RESOLVED that following receiving a letter, plot holders be given a period of six weeks in which to commence cultivating their plots or to have contacted the Town Council office giving reasons why they have been unable to undertake any work, before being requested to terminate their tenancy.

a (ii) Letcombe Fields allotments:

Following the recent allotment inspection, councillors were concerned at the large number of chickens being kept on plot 120. Councillors noted the allotment tenancy agreement (5c) No livestock or poultry of any kind should be kept upon the allotment gardens other than reasonable numbers of hens or rabbits for domestic use by himself or his family.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald  
SECONDED by Councillor A Crawford

IT WAS RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the tenant reminding him of the regulation and informing him that chickens should not be kept for commercial use.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

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

IT WAS RESOLVED that a special committee meeting be held on Monday 28 July 2008, following the Planning meeting to discuss the new allotment regulations which were to be presented to Council on 5 August 2008.

A working group meeting was to be held on 17 July in order to consider amendments to the regulations to be referred to the meeting on 28 July.

(b) Memorandum from Clerk dated 2 July 2008 re letter from Ed Vaizey MP

The Committee thanked the Clerk on his memorandum and noted that the Council's policy was in line with government recommendations.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage  
SECONDED by Councillor Dr Turcu

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk be requested to reply to Mr Vaizey's letter using the memorandum as a basis for the letter.

**Action: Clerk**

The Committee received the waiting list for all allotments as at July 2008.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Crawford  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage

IT WAS MOVED that a letter be sent to all those who were on the Wantage Town Council allotment list as at July 2008 and were not Wantage residents or will not be Wantage residents following the proposed boundary changes, informing them that their names will be removed from the allotment list. This was approved six in favour, one against.

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Councillor Dr Turcu asked if consideration could be given to reducing administration by just having one waiting list, with residents giving three preferences. The Deputy Clerk agreed to discuss this with the Clerk and report back to a future meeting.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(c) Stockham Park

The Committee was concerned at the number of unused plots at Stockham Park, including the two plots that were now being used for rubbish dumping. The Deputy Clerk was requested to obtain costings for the hire of a temporary toilet and shelter, and again to contact Community Service to enquire if these provisions would be acceptable for community work on the site.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Updates on plots 100b and 110c – Letcombe Fields

The Deputy Clerk reported that plots 100b and 100c had now been divided into three full plots at an annual rent of £ 20.00 each.

(e) Request for joint tenancy on allotment sites

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald  
SECONDED by Councillor Crawford  
IT WAS RESOLVED to refuse requests for joint tenancy of allotment plots as this could result in the waiting list becoming stagnated with plots being held by families for many years.

(f) Review of allotment rents

The Committee discussed allotment rents for 2009 / 2010 financial year.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald  
SECONDED by Councillor Crawford  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the rent for allotment plots for 2009 / 2010 should remain as £ 20 per annum for a full plot and £ 10 per annum for a half plot

Following recommendations from the internal auditor, it was agreed that new allotment bonds should be increased to £ 25. The Chairman requested details of rents for allotments which were charged by neighbouring parishes to ensure that Wantage Town Council keeps in line with other areas. The Chairman also reminded members that the Council must ensure that the income from allotments covers all allotment expenditure

#### **4 Correspondence**

None

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

HK/ME

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