

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL, HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL,
PORTWAY, ON MONDAY, 8 JUNE 2009 AT 7.30 PM**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Peter Kent (Chairman)
Councillors B Armitage, Mrs J Hannaby, P O'Leary and
Mrs L Todd.

Deputy Clerk Mrs H Kell

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Geden, E Goldsmith, Major J Sibbald, and Mrs E Turner.

Declarations of Interest

None

Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 March 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2 March 2009 were approved and signed.

1. Statements and Questions from the Public

None

2. Matters Arising

(a) Bus Shelter, Harcourt Road

The committee received a copy of a letter received from Oxfordshire County Council's Transport Officer, proposing that removal of the concrete bus shelter in Harcourt Road be funded equally by the Town Council and the County Council. The committee discussed the proposal at some length and

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor P O'Leary

SECONDED by Councillor Mrs J Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the County Council agreeing to pay fifty percent of the cost of the removal of the bus shelter, up to a maximum of £1,300, but reporting the Town Council's great reluctance to making this contribution, which it considered to be double taxation to local residents.

Action: Deputy Clerk

(b) Seat Seesen Way

The Deputy Clerk reported that the seat for Seesen Way had now been received and would be installed in the near future/

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(c) Initiative to revitalise Wantage Town Centre

The committee noted that a Craft Fair, organised by the Regeneration Group was to be held on the Market Place on Sunday, 5 July 2009. The Group were hoping the event would be self-financing. Members also noted the recent charity sale of raffle tickets in the Market Place together with the prize, a car, being parked on the Market Place. Members noted that delegated powers had been given to the Town Clerk, the Mayor and Chair of Environmental to give permission for these type of events but requested all councillors be kept informed by e-mail of any such activity.

(d) Additional signage in Wantage

A meeting of the Signage Working Party was to be held on Tuesday, 16 June at 7 p.m. on the Market Place. All councillors were welcome to take part.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor P O'Leary
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby
IT WAS RESOLVED that Mr Robin Turnbull be invited to join the Working Party to give advice on new styles of signage now available.

3. Market Place

(a) King Alfred's Statue

(i) It was noted the repair to be axe handle of the King Alfred statue would be completed on Thursday, 11 June.

(ii) Bronze Plaque: Reports had been received from Mr R Humphries that the plaque was ready for placing back on the statue.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby
SECONDED by Councillor P O'Leary
IT WAS RESOLVED that a press release be made reporting the completion of the repair to the statue , noting the Council's thanks to both Falcon Signs and Mr R Humphries for the replacement plaque.

(iii) Use of Identification Gel:

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby
SECONDED by Councillor B Armitage
IT WAS RESOLVED that identification gel be purchased for painting on to the back of the plaque.

(b) French Market

The committee noted that the French Market continued to be successful and the next one would be held on Sunday, 12 July 2009.

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(c) Craft Fair

The committee noted the Craft Fair would be held on 5 July 2009.

(d) Any Other Market Place Matters

The Deputy Clerk reported that the Wantage Morris Men were celebrating their 50th anniversary and 150 dance teams were attending the celebration. The dancers were requesting permission to dance on the Market Place from 4.30 pm to 6 pm on Saturday, 4 July.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, Councillor Kent
SECONDED by Councillor O'Leary

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk request the market traders vacate the Market Place by 4.30 pm. on Saturday, 4 July in order for all the dancing teams to take part in the dancing finale from 4.30 pm to 6 pm.

4. Cemetery Items

(a) Tree works and vehicular entrance improvements

The Deputy Clerk reported that following re-organisation of the County Council's highways work schedule, work to the cemetery entrance would now commence later in the summer.

(b) Other Cemetery Matters

Councillors again voiced their concerns at the items of alcohol still being left on the Breakspear family grave.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby
SECONDED by Councillor Kent

IT WAS RESOLVED that a letter be sent to the Breakspear family requesting the cans and bottles of alcohol be removed from the grave. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

5. Any Other Business

(a) The committee discussed a letter received from A Stone, requesting the Council to consider their Company, when next considering service and maintenance contracts for Chain Hill cemetery.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, Councillor Kent
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Mr Stone thanking him for outlining his proposals but reporting that the Council are at the moment satisfied with the current maintenance work in the cemetery but would keep his letter on file and request him to tender when next looking at maintenance contracts . **Action: Deputy Clerk**

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(b) Fly posting and graffiti

The committee noted reports that posters advertising local fairs were still remaining on street furniture and appeared to be encouraging fly posting and graffiti around the town. The Deputy Clerk reported that the County Council's Environmental Officer had been contacted and was removing advertising from the highways. The committee requested the Car Park Officer of the District Council be contacted to remove the posters from the Civic Hall car park area.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

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WPF/HK/CT