

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL,  
PORTWAY, ON MONDAY 9 JUNE 2008 AT 7.30 PM**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs J Reynolds (Chairman)  
Councillors B Armitage, E Goldsmith, Mrs J Hannaby  
P O'Leary, and Mrs L Todd

Other Councillors Present: Cllr Mrs B Brundle

Deputy Clerk: Mrs H Kell

**Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Major J Sibbald

**Declarations of Interest**

None

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 March 2008**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs Reynolds  
SECONDED BY Cllr Mrs Todd  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be approved and signed.

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

None

**2. Matters Arising**

a) Bus Shelter, Harcourt Road

Confirmation was still awaited from the Oxfordshire County Council re the ownership of the Harcourt Road Bus Shelter.

b) Litter on VC Forecourt

The Committee requested that a further letter be sent to the Manager of the Bear Hotel with regard to the cigarette ends being dropped by customers of the Bear Hotel and remind him of his responsibility to ensure that this area is kept clean. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

c) Repair to Seat on the Platt

Councillor Mrs Todd reported damage to a seat on the Platt and it was requested that the Deputy Clerk contact the handyman with regard to obtaining an estimate for repair.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

3. **Market Place**

a) King Alfred's Statue

(i) The Committee noted that repair to the King Alfred statue by Cliveden Conservation had taken place on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June.

(ii) Cleaning of the statue and repair to the broken flagstones

The Committee considered the quotation from Joslins of £1829 for the cleaning of the statue and removal of graffiti and £1,094 for the replacement of the flagstones.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, Cllr Mrs Reynolds

SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that an application be submitted to the Joint Environmental Trust for a grant of £2,913 for the cleaning of the statue and replacement of broken flagstones.

(iii) Bronze Plaque

The Committee received three quotations for the replacement and fixing of the bronze plaque to the King Alfred statue: A quotation of £2,840 from Martin Hayward Harris; a quotation of £2,400 from the TIF 2000; and £1,500 from Falcon Signs.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr B Armitage

SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that clarification be obtained from Falcon Signs as to whether the estimate of £1,500 included fixing of the plaque to the statue.

And it was requested that the Chairman, Cllr Mrs Reynolds and the Deputy Clerk obtain confirmation from the Council's insurers with regard to the case being covered by insurance.

b) French Market

It was reported that the Chamber of Commerce had proposed that a French Market be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> July and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs Hannaby

SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Reynolds

IT WAS RESOLVED that if appropriate alcohol and entertainment licences can be obtained the French Markets be held in Wantage on both Sunday 13 July and Sunday 16 November, 2008.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

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- c) Other Market Matters  
(i) Parking Attendant

The Committee recommended that further consideration be made by the Clerk to finding a part-time parking attendant in order to ensure that parking restrictions on the Market Square are not violated. **Action: Clerk**

- (ii) Potholes on the Market Square

Councillor Mrs Hannaby agreed to forward to the office names of companies who might be able to undertake the repair of pot holes on the Market Square.

**Action: Councillor Mrs Hannaby**

**4. Cemetery Items**

- a) Church of England School Footpath

The Deputy Clerk reported that the easement agreement for the footway across the Chain Hill Cemetery for the use of pupils to the Church of England School had now been drafted and forwarded to the Clerk.

- b) Trees on Southern Boundary of Chain Hill Cemetery

The Committee noted concerns at the growth of the conifer trees on the southern boundary of the cemetery and also the problem of visibility caused by the trees at the entrance to the cemetery.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs Hannaby

SECONDED by Cllr Armitage

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Chairman and Deputy Clerk meet with tree surgeons and obtain costings for work to trees in the cemetery and at the entrance, which the Council could then consider when setting the 2009/2010 budget.

- c) Burial Plots

The Committee noted that bottles, etc which had been placed on two graves in Chain Hill Cemetery should be removed.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs Hannaby

SECONDED by Cllr Goldsmith

IT WAS RESOLVED that letters be sent to the families of the two men requesting the bottles, cans, etc. be removed from the grave.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

Councillors also requested that the poems and quotations which were being placed on trees and seats in the cemetery be removed. Also, to remind families who had requested seats to be placed in the cemetery, that permission was granted on the understanding the seats were for public use.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

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d) Other Cemetery Matters - Notice Boards and Posts

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Mrs Hannaby  
SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Reynolds

IT WAS RESOLVED that the handyman be requested to cement the notice board into position and to provide new posts on the appropriate corner of the drives to ensure vehicles do not erode the grass. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

5. **General Correspondence**

a) The Committee received a letter from Wantage Round Table requesting permission to dress the King Alfred statue as part of the celebration of its 131<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 14 July 2008. Councillor Mrs Hannaby declared a personal interest as her son was a member of the Round Table and took no part in the discussion.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, Cllr Mrs Reynolds  
SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Todd

IT WAS RESOLVED to write to the Round Table refusing permission to dress King Alfred's statue during celebrations of its 131<sup>st</sup> birthday but wishing them every success with their celebration. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

b) The Committee received notification of a complaint from Mrs Sanderson with regard to the condition of flags flying outside the Bear Hotel.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, Cllr Mrs Reynolds  
SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Mrs Sanderson confirming that the flags on the hotel are not the responsibility of the Town Council and also a letter to the Manager of the Bear requesting that consideration should be given to the purchase of new flags. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

c) The Deputy Clerk reported upon a letter from Focus DIY Superstore requesting a stall on the Market Square, as a casual trader, to promote their store opening and the various concession cards which were available.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman, Cllr Mrs Reynolds  
SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Brundle

IT WAS RESOLVED that permission not be given to Focus but that the store be requested to contact the Chamber of Commerce with regard to using one of the empty shops in the town for the purpose of advertising.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

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HK/CT