

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE, ON
MONDAY, 1 AUGUST 2016, AT 7.30 P.M.**

- Present: Councillor S Trinder (Town Mayor)
Councillors Mrs C E C Dickson, C S Dickson, Miss K Gill (part),
E C Goldsmith, Mrs M Gradwell, Mrs J T Hannaby, K A Harris,
B Mabbett, C McCarthy, Mrs J E Nunn-Price and Major J Sibbald.
- Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.
- Deputy Clerk: Mrs K Buckingham.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Crawford, J Goodman and Mrs J Reynolds and County Councillor Mrs Z Patrick.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Minutes of Council meeting held on 27 June 2016

16, 8(f) – Friends of Sweatbox

Typing error. This was amended ‘The Friends of Sweatbox....’

The minutes, as amended, were approved and signed.

23. Statements and questions from the public

None.

24. Matters arising from the Council meetings held on 27 June 2016

18, 2(a) – Water pump at Letcombe Fields

The pump had now been replaced.

25. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 27 June and 11 July 2016

10(d) – Update on consideration of traffic calming measures for Ickleton Road

It was noted that the County Council had no funds available for such works.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mabbett
SECONDED BY Councillor Major Sibbald
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

Review committee membership per email from the Clerk dated 27 June 2016

Councillor Mabbett had advised that, due to District Council Planning Committee obligations, he intended to stand down from this Committee. This left only five Committee members. Three Councillors were required to make up a quorum. Options were discussed.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy
SECONDED BY Councillor Major Sibbald

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IT WAS RESOLVED that the members of the Planning Committee be allowed to request substitutes to stand in their place at any Planning Committee meeting they were unable to attend and that all Councillors be eligible to act as substitutes. When an apology for absence was received the Clerk or Deputy Clerk would seek substitutes by email. **Action: Clerk/Deputy Clerk**

Councillor Miss Gill arrived.

26. Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 4 July 2016

Item 8 (f) - Other allotment matters.

Bonfires causing nuisance at Larkhill allotments

Complaints had been received from neighbours of the allotment site concerning smoke from bonfires. It was also reported that bonfires were being left unattended representing a risk to the public. The Clerk agreed to arrange for a notice to be placed at the entrances to the allotment site requesting tenants to be more considerate in the use of bonfires and for this to be reinforced with a note in the rent renewal notices to tenants in September. **Action: Clerk**

Item 9 – Cemetery Matters

(c) Cemetery signage

A quote of £137 had been received for the production of a new sign. It was agreed to proceed with this. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

(d) Quotes for repainting roadside railings and lamp standards

A quote of £880 for repainting the railings had been received that was significantly below the one previously referred to the Committee. It was agreed to proceed with this quote. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Trinder
SECONDED BY Councillor McCarthy
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

27. Minutes of the Promotion, Communication and Events Committee meeting held on 18 July 2016

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Mabbett
SECONDED BY Councillor Goldsmith
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

28. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on 18 July 2016

Item 13 – Briefings by Mr Kingett of Sweatbox on future arrangements for locating the youth facility

It was noted that Mr Kingett's first name was spelt 'Garry'.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Dickson
SECONDED BY Councillor Mabbett
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

29. District and County Councillors' reports

District Councillors' report

District Councillors McCarthy and Mabbett reported the following:

The District Council had adopted a new constitution. This principally affected the consideration of planning applications. In future wherever a parish council makes an objection to a planning application, it must send a representative to the District Council's Planning Committee meeting to make representations. Ward Councillors were no longer eligible to vote on applications that related to their own ward. District Council Planning Committee members would be entitled to pose questions to those making representations to their meetings. It was intended to have more dialogue with town and parish councils in the pre consultation stage. They were to be kept informed of updates to applications and addendums to reports that might affect the validity of the comments submitted. The pre application advice given to applicants would be available to the public when an application had been submitted.

The District Council had entered into new support service contracts that should save it £1 million per year. Proposals concerning devolution and adoption of unitary authorities had been put on hold. Councillor Mrs Dickson's District Council cabinet responsibilities had been extended to include refuse and parks. The Leisure Centre had arranged a tie up with Disney to sell Dora branded sports bags.

County Councillor's report

County Councillor Mrs Hannaby reported that the campaign to save the Children's Centres had failed to succeed in its judicial review. Ways to mitigate the loss of the Children's Centres were being investigated. The County Council subsidised bus services had now been withdrawn. This meant that no local buses were visiting Stockham Park, Charlton Heights or Larkdown. The County Council was promoting a scheme where some of its buses could be hired on a daily basis to provide supplementary bus services. There may also be a need to relocate or introduce new bus stops to pick up bus services that were continuing to run. It was agreed that this be referred to the next Planning Committee for fuller consideration.

Action: Deputy Clerk

The Clerk reported that he had received comments from members of the public concerning resurfacing works that were being undertaken on rural roads on the outskirts of Wantage, It was queried why these lesser used roads were being resurfaced when more heavily used and roads in poorer condition in Wantage were not. It was noted that the County Council had an objective assessment process for determining which roadworks should proceed. The Clerk was to seek details of the assessments for the roads concerned.

Action: Clerk

30. Town Mayor's communications

The Town Mayor reported on events that he attended over the past month. These included the Independent Advice Centre AGM, Wantage Carnival, the Twinning Association Mably visit leaving reception, the opening of the Tennis Club, the Wantage to Winchester cycle ride and the off road cycle event.

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Confidential Items

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Trinder
SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Dickson

IT WAS RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.

31. Confidential minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on 18 July 2016
32. Confidential minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 4 July 2016
33. To consider memorandum from Clerk dated 27 July 2016 concerning Neighbourhood Plan

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Trinder
SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Dickson

IT WAS RESOLVED that the resolutions made in confidential session be adopted.

The meeting closed at 8.43 p.m.

WPF/ME

CONFIDENTIAL

31. Confidential minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on 18 July 2016

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Trinder

SECONDED BY Councillor Dickson

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Confidential minutes be adopted. The item 'Staff Appraisals' was to be referred to the agenda of the next Committee meeting.

Action: Clerk

32. Confidential minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 4 July 2016

Subsidence at a property in Saxon Way

The Clerk had received advice from the Council's insurers that the trees adjacent to No 1 Saxon Place should be removed as soon as possible to alleviate the subsidence problem.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy

SECONDED BY Councillor Mabbett

IT WAS RESOLVED to proceed with the removal of the trees and other foliage as advised by the insurers and for the trees to be replaced elsewhere on the Stockham play area site.

It was agreed that the policy concerning replacing trees be referred to the next Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting.

Action: Clerk

33. To consider memorandum from Clerk dated 27 July 2016 concerning Neighbourhood Plan Inspector's Report

The Clerk's memorandum of 27 July 2016 was considered. The Neighbourhood Plan Examiner had advised that the Neighbourhood Plan should not proceed to referendum. He had raised a number of matters that required attention. A meeting had been held on 26 July involving the District Council Planning Officers, the Town Mayor, Councillor Mabbett, Mrs Mabblerley, the Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk. At the meeting it had been put forward that the Town Council should seek consultant support to deal with the points raised by the Examiner. Subsequent to the meeting the District Council Planning Officers had advised that they were willing to give support to modifying the Plan and that in their view there was no need to involve consultants. They had produced a timetable to modify the Plan and resubmit it for examination. In the main, the actions involved removing policies and reducing the number of green spaces. Some of the policies to be removed would be covered by the District Council's Local Plan 2 which was currently in preparation. The Clerk recommended that in order to meet the tight timetable, the Deputy Town Clerk be charged with working with the District Council's Planning Officers to modify the Plan in order to deal with the points raised by the Examiner.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy

SECONDED BY Councillor Dickson

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk's recommendation to delegate the work to the Deputy Town Clerk be accepted.

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The Policy, Management and Finance Committee had proposed that Working Groups be established to take forward aspirations included in the Neighbourhood Plan document.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy

SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that the work of the Working Groups be put on hold for the time being.
