

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE, ON
MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2017, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Councillors present: Councillor S Trinder (Town Mayor)
Councillors A Crawford, Mrs C E C Dickson, C S Dickson,
E C Goldsmith, J Goodman, Mrs J T Hannaby, K A Harris,
B Mabbett, C McCarthy, P O'Leary, Mrs J Reynolds and
Major J Sibbald.

Others present: One member of the public.

Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.
Deputy Clerk: Mrs K Buckingham.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss K Gill, Mrs M Gradwell and Mrs J E Nunn-Price.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Mrs Hannaby declared an interest as a member of the Community Hospital League of Friends.

Minutes of Council Meetings held on 9 October 2017

The minutes were approved and signed.

34. Statements and questions from the public

None.

35. Matters arising from the Council meeting held on 9 October 2017

30. District and County Councillors reports

The Clerk had applied to the District Council for the Community Hospital to be deemed a "community asset".

36. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 9 and 30 October 2017

24(b). Update on bus congestion on Market Place and Comet bus service

There continued to be problems with buses causing congestion in the Market Place. The proposal to convert the disabled parking bay on the south-east side of the Market Place to a bus stop, with the disabled spaces being relocated to Newbury Street, was to be pursued. The proposed changes were to be publicised through a variety of media and letters were to be sent to the shops situated adjacent to the bay. **Action: Clerk**

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

37. Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 23 October 2017

26. Briefing by representative of Thames Valley Police

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The camera equipment for the VC Forecourt Attendant had not yet been ordered. The Clerk advised that the same equipment was needed for the Parking Attendant. It was agreed that this be purchased. **Action: Clerk**

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

38. Minutes of the Promotion, Communication and Events Committee meeting held on 23 October 2017

17(f). Arrangements for 2017 Volunteers' Reception

Councillors were reminded that the Reception was to be held on the following Saturday 25 November at 6.30pm at The Beacon.

17(d). Update on Event Sub-Committee

The proposal to hold the Armed Forces Day event on a Saturday was noted. The Clerk was to inform market traders of this. **Action: Clerk**

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

39. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on 6 November 2017

45. Future of the Summer Festival

The Clerk reported that he had agreed to take over responsibility for the Festival's finances and records from the current organisers, pending a final decision on the future of the Festival.

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

40. District and County Councillors' reports

District Councillors' Report

The District Council had submitted a planning application to create the new access to the leisure centre. There was to be free parking in the District Council car parks on Fridays in December leading up to Christmas. A workshop was to be held on Thursday 30 November at The Beacon to brief community groups on applying for grants from the District Council. The District Council had called a Wantage Area Committee meeting on the same evening as the Council precept setting meeting. It had been requested that this meeting be held at The Beacon so that District/Town Councillors attending could also attend the precept meeting. There may be a need to consider rearranging the precept meeting if the meeting was to be held elsewhere.

The District Council was no longer allowing refuse from premises used by charities to be deemed household waste. This meant that local charities would be incurring additional cost in disposing of the refuse through commercial contractors.

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The District Council's Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee was due to consider final recommendations concerning changes to parish boundaries in the Wantage area on Monday 27 November. It was agreed that it was unnecessary for the Town Clerk to attend this meeting.

County Councillor's Report

The delay in the provision of new schools meant that there would be insufficient school places for children in Wantage for the coming year and that it was likely that students would need to travel to schools outside the area. There continued to be delays in transferring patients from the JR hospital and this had led to its Accident and Emergency Department being closed on the previous Sunday. It was expected that Oxfordshire would benefit from the development of the Oxford, Milton Keynes, Cambridge Expressway. The County Council was considering a compulsory purchase order to acquire land at Featherbed Lane, to allow highway improvements to proceed.

41. Town Mayor's communications

The High Sheriff was seeking nomination for her awards for the year 2017/18. The purpose of the awards is to recognise people in Oxfordshire who have made outstanding contributions to the communities in which they live and work. The Town Mayor requested that nominations be referred to him or the Clerk.

The family of the youngster who had recently died in Barnards Way had agreed to the suggestion that a plaque be placed on the new bench seat installed by the Council in Barnards Way as a memorial to him.

Councillor Mabbett advised that he needed to step down as a member and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee. There was a conflict between his membership of this Committee and that of the District Council's Planning Committee. He was thanked for his work and the Town Mayor asked other Councillors to consider volunteering to become a member of this Committee.

Confidential Items

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Trinder
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.

42. Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 23 October 2017

43. Minutes of the Promotion, Communication and Events Committee meeting held on 23 October 2017

44. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on 6 November 2017

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Trinder
IT WAS RESOLVED that the resolutions made in confidential session be adopted.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

WPF/ME