

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE, ON
MONDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2017, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Councillors present: Councillor C McCarthy (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Crawford, Mrs C E C Dickson, C S Dickson,
Ms K Gill (part), E C Goldsmith, Mrs M Gradwell, Mrs J T Hannaby,
K A Harris, B Mabbett, Mrs J E Nunn-Price, Mrs J Reynolds and
Major J Sibbald.

Others present: Mrs G Hicks of Sweatbox (part) and 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 J Goodman, P O'Leary and S Trinder. Councillor McCarthy was Chairman of the meeting in the Town Mayor's absence.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Minutes of Council Meetings held on 31 July 2017

The minutes were approved and signed.

22. Statements and questions from the public

None.

23. Briefing by Georgina Hicks on interim arrangements for Sweatbox prior to its relocation to Centre Site.

Mrs Hicks reported that Sweatbox would have no permanent premises for about seven months. During this period, she was planning to use community spaces to keep Sweatbox operating. She was seeking to identify venues across the local area where Sweatbox could operate. This would mean each evening of operation would have to be treated as an individual event with incremental administration. With the additional work involved she was intending to operate on a fortnightly basis on a Friday, rather than weekly and that there would be no Sweatbox on a Tuesday evening.

Councillor Ms Gill arrived.

The intention was to keep as many of the existing Sweatbox activities operating as possible and events currently not held at the East Site premises will continue as normal. She advised that there was a need to be realistic about what can be done due to the event management obligation. The funding required over the interim period had yet to be assessed. There were plans to hold the Beatbox activity in the Methodist Hall. She was thanked for her briefing and for answering the questions. She left the meeting.

24. Matters arising from the Council meeting held on 31 July 2017

The Clerk was expecting the work on the Neighbourhood Plan to be completed within the next month.

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25. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 31 July, 21 August and 18 September 2017

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

26. Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 11 September 2017

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Mrs Gradwell
SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Dickson
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

27. Minutes of the Promotion, Communication and Events Committee meeting held on 11 September 2017

12(c). Changing Places Initiative

The Mobiloo had been booked for the Dickensian Evening and its location agreed with the Dickensian Committee.

16. "Volunteers' Reception"

"Volunteer's Reception" amended to "Volunteers' Reception".

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

28. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on 25 September 2017

28 (b). Update on Review of Financial Regulations

The Clerk had not yet called a meeting of the Working Group.

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

29. To receive Notice of Conclusion of Audit for year ended 31 March 2017 and letter from BDO auditors received on 5 September 2017

Receipt of these were noted. The auditors had raised no matters for further action.

30. District and County Councillors' reports

County Councillor's Report

Councillor Mrs Hannaby reported that the Locality meeting was shortly to be held at which the funding for the Vehicle Activated Signs would be considered. The budgets for 2018/19 were under consideration. The County Council had submitted a bid for funding for infrastructure. The Day Centre had moved to the Charlton Centre. There was currently no indication on what the County Council intended to do with the vacated premises, but it was conducting a review of all its property and assets in the

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local area. There was a need to consider whether these premises should be considered as “a community asset”. The Clerk was to investigate. **Action: Clerk**

District Councillors’ Report

Consultation concerning the new leisure centre had concluded and the public response had been positive. The planning application for the access road was due for submission by the end of the month. The District Council had submitted a funding bid for the completion of the east/west link road at Crab Hill. The Local Plan Part 2 had been considered by the District Council’s Scrutiny Committee and was due to go for public consultation from that Wednesday. All the new bin lorries were now in operation. The provision of more parking permits at Limborough Road for local workers was being pursued. The District Councillors were still seeking a solution for the on-street parking enforcement problem. The consultation on parish boundary changes was due to conclude on 16 October.

31. Town Mayor’s communications

The Rotary Club was seeking permission to light up the statue in purple on the 24 October in recognition of World Polio Day. It was agreed that this should proceed. The Council had been invited to send a representative to the District Council’s Scrutiny Committee on 26 October for consideration of the leisure centre proposals. It was noted that a number of the Town Councillors, who were also District Councillors, would be attending this meeting. It was agreed not to send a representative to this meeting.

Confidential Items

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Dickson
SECONDED BY Councillor Major Sibbald
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.

32. Minutes of the Promotion, Communication and Events Committee meeting held on 3 July 2017.

33. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on 17 July 2017.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Dickson
SECONDED BY Councillor Major Sibbald
IT WAS RESOLVED that the resolutions made in confidential session be adopted.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

WPF/ME