

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE,
ON MONDAY, 19 MARCH 2018, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Committee Members present: Councillor C S Dickson (Chairman)
Councillors A Crawford, Mrs CEC Dickson, E C Goldsmith,
J C Goodman, Mrs M Gradwell, Mrs J T Hannaby, K A Harris, B Mabbett,
Mrs J E Nunn-Price, C McCarthy, P O'Leary and S Trinder.

Others present: P Haynes – GroW Families (up to item 69)
S West – Wantage and Grove Street Pastors

Town Clerk: W P Falkenau.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss K Gill, Mrs J Reynolds and Major J Sibbald.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and other Interests

None.

Minutes of Meeting held on 5 February 2018

The minutes were approved and signed.

68. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

69. Briefings by recipient of an annual grant – GroW Families

Councillor Mrs Hannaby declared an interest as a member of the GroW Families Committee.

Mr Haynes gave a briefing on how the work of GroW Families was proceeding. He advised that the Committee was looking for a new Chairman. After answering questions, Mr Haynes was thanked for his briefing and he left the meeting.

70. Briefing by applicants for donations and grants

a) Wantage and Grove Street Pastors

Mr West reported that whilst Street Pastors currently had sufficient funds, the financial support of the Town Council was instrumental in securing funding from other sources. Mr West was advised that within the Crab Hill S106 agreement there was a prospective contribution to the Street Pastors of over £40,000. This would only be available as the development proceeds and the Street Pastors would need to make a claim for it to the District Council. Mr West was thanked for his briefing.

71. Matters Arising

a) Update on investment and banking arrangements.

The Clerk had identified a fixed term deposit account with Nationwide where the Council could place funds and receive protection up to £85,000 from the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. The interest offered was only 0.75%, but this was better than that currently provided by Co-op and Barclays banks. The Clerk suggested that rather than depositing a single large amount for the whole year, that smaller amounts be deposited in tranches through the year so that the term of the fixed

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE,
ON MONDAY, 19 MARCH 2018 AT 7.30 P.M

deposits would end throughout the year. This also meant that if interest rates were to rise the Council would be able to benefit from this.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goodman
SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Nunn-Price
IT WAS RESOLVED to place tranches of funds in a Nationwide deposit account for the coming year. **Action: Clerk**

b) Update on proliferation of ‘A’ boards on pavements around the town.

No further progress had been made concerning this.

c) Update on actions from Health Sub-Committee meeting held on 8 January 2018.

The Clerk had only recently written to the Oxford Health Trust and local GPs and was awaiting a response.

d) Update on offer by the Crab Hill developer for the Town Council to take over responsibility for maintenance of the green space areas.

The memorandum from the Clerk dated 14 March 2018 was considered. The offer contained within the S106 agreement involved a contribution in the region of £4 million in return for maintaining the green spaces to a specification made in 2014 for 125 years. The proposed lease gave no flexibility concerning this. Whilst the financial contribution was substantial, it was unlikely to meet costs over the whole period. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask if the property owner was willing to transfer the freehold of the green spaces to the Town Council and relax the conditions that the 2014 specification should be met. **Action: Clerk**

The S106 agreement referred to “an offer period”, but there were no details in the agreement of the length of the offer period. The Clerk was to seek clarification concerning this. **Action: Clerk**

Subject to the response from the landowner there may be a need to form a small working group to take these matters forward.

POLICY

72. To consider minutes of Youth Town Council meeting held on 26 February 2018

The minutes were noted. A letter had been sent to Stockham Primary School. Councillor Mabbett agreed to provide a copy of this to Councillor Mrs Hannaby. **Action: Mabbett**

73. To consider arrangements for the Town Electorate meeting on 23 April 2018

It was agreed for this year not to require community organisations that receive grants and donations to give a briefing at the meeting. Additional to the Town Mayor’s report, each of the Committee Chairmen was to give a report on their Committee’s business. There was also to be an agenda item for District and County Councillors’ reports. **Action: Clerk**

74. To note recent robberies in the local area

The spate of recent robberies had been referred to the East Wantage Police Neighbourhood Action Group. It was agreed that a police representative should be invited to a future meeting to provide an update. **Action: Clerk**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE,
ON MONDAY, 19 MARCH 2018 AT 7.30 P.M

75. To consider request to host welcoming reception on 8 July 2018 for Mably town visit

The reception involved providing light refreshments and a space or room for hosts to meet the visitors prior to them going to the homes of their hosts.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Nunn-Price

SECONDED BY Councillor McCarthy

IT WAS RESOLVED to support a welcoming reception for the Mably town visit.

MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

76. Financial statements to March 2018

The financial statements were noted. The Clerk advised that there were no significant areas of concern and where there were adverse variances, these had arisen from decisions made by the Council during the year.

77. Requests for donations and grants

a) Wantage and Grove Street Pastors

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goldsmith

SECONDED BY Councillor Goodman

IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that a donation of £500 be given to the Street Pastors. It was suggested that in the future an annual grant should be provided to the Street Pastors. The Clerk was to refer this to the Annual Council meeting. **Action: Clerk**

78. Accounts for payment

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Goldsmith

SECONDED BY Councillor McCarthy

IT WAS RESOLVED that Accounts for Payment in the sum of £28,121.75 be approved.

79. General correspondence

Speed of vehicles in Newbury Street

It was reported that when diversions were in place for closures on the M4 the amount and speed of traffic coming into Newbury Street from the south significantly increased. It was agreed to ask the County Council whether a 20 mph limit could be introduced when these diversions occurred. **Action: Clerk**

Silent soldiers

There was an initiative by the Royal British Legion to place soldier silhouettes in locations around communities in remembrance of those that died in World War 1. It was agreed that details of this be passed to all Councillors and that this be referred to the Promotion, Communication and Events Committee meeting on 26 March for consideration. **Action: Clerk**

Confidential Items

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman

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.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE,
ON MONDAY, 19 MARCH 2018 AT 7.30 P.M

80. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2018 and matters arising from the minutes

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman

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

The meeting closed at 9.18 p.m.

WPF/ME

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE,
ON MONDAY, 19 MARCH 2018 AT 7.30 P.M

Wantage Town Council

Accounts for Payment - February to March 2018

Date	Payee	Description	Powers	Ref	£
01/02/2018	Abbey Properties	Market Attendant's shed rent	OA 1985	SO	£ 100.00
01/03/2018	Abbey Properties	Market Attendant's shed rent	OA 1985	SO	£ 100.00
21/02/2018	NEST	Pension contribution payments	Office	DD	£ 95.92
21/03/2018	NEST	Pension contribution payments	Office	DD	£ 94.27
21/02/2018	Staff - various	February payroll	Office/OA1985	Bacs	£ 7,258.80
21/03/2018	Staff - various	March payroll	Office/OA1985	Bacs	£ 7,206.44
Total direct debits					£ 14,855.43
05/02/2018	White Horse Horticulture	Clearing etc at cemetery/play area/Christmas trees/Alfred's Well/allotment	Burials/Open Spaces/tourism/allotments	306188	£ 870.00
05/02/2018	BT	Telephone services	Office	306189	£ 124.68
05/02/2018	Viking	Stationery	Office	306190	£ 7.16
05/02/2018	Independent Advice Centre	Comet bus service	Transport	306191	£ 6,000.00
19/02/2018	SGW Payroll	Payroll processing February	Office/OA 1985	306192	£ 70.08
19/02/2018	Mrs A Hill	Refund of duplicated allotment rent	Allotments	306193	£ 34.00
05/03/2018	Red Corner	Photocopying - February	Office	306194	£ 44.80
05/03/2018	The Conservation Volunteers	Cemetery hedge	Burials	306195	£ 1,244.64
12/03/2018	BT	Telephone services	Office	306196	£ 74.48
12/03/2018	SB General Building	Repairs etc at cemetery, allotments, VC Forecourt and install notice board	Allotments, Burials, LGA72	306197	£ 1,266.26
12/03/2018	Red Corner	Photocopying - January	Office	306198	£ 22.12
14/03/2018	HMRC	PAYE for 4th quarter	Office/OA1985	306199	£ 3,508.10
Total cheques					£ 13,266.32
Total payments February to March 2018					£ 28,121.75