

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, ON
MONDAY, 28 JANUARY 2019 AT 7.30 P.M.**

- Councillors present: Councillor C McCarthy (Town Mayor)
Councillors A Crawford, Mrs C E C Dickson, C S Dickson,
Miss K Gill, J Goodman, Mrs M Gradwell,
Mrs J T Hannaby, K A Harris, B Mabbett,
Mrs J E Nunn-Price, Mrs J Reynolds, Major J Sibbald,
and S Trinder.
- Others present: Mr D Richardson
One member of the public
- Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P O'Leary.

Councillor Goldsmith had resigned as a town councillor with effect from 7 January 2019. He had served as a councillor since 2003 and indicated that he felt he should stand aside for a younger person.

The Council expressed its thanks to him for his many years of service.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None.

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 10 December 2018

The minutes were approved and signed.

The Clerk had advised that he was aiming to progress the Neighbourhood Plan before the end of the year. This had not been achieved. He was to seek to progress this before the next Council meeting and report on an updated timeframe. **Action: Clerk**

57. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

58. To consider the co-option of Mr. Dave Richardson as a member of the Town Council following the resignation of Councillor Goldsmith.

Councillor Crawford queried whether the procedure involved in dealing with this item was in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders. The Clerk acknowledged that there appeared to be a discrepancy between the practices historically followed by the Town Council and the standing orders adopted in 2015. Councillor Crawford had initially raised this with the Clerk in December. The Standing Orders would imply that only resolutions, specifically worded and placed on the agenda in full, and proposed by a councillor, could be considered at a Full Council meeting. The standing orders were based on the model provided by the National Association of Local Councils. He had queried the discrepancy with the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils and been advised that the procedures being followed by the Town Council were appropriate. To remove doubt, the Clerk had referred to the Policy, Management and Finance Committee a proposal to reword standing orders to fit in with the procedures being followed and reverting to wording that was included in the Council's Standing Orders prior to 2015.

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ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy
SECONDED by Councillor Mabbett
IT WAS MOVED that for the removal of doubt, the standing orders be suspended.

In a recorded vote the proposition was approved nine in favour, five against. Those voting against were Councillors Crawford, Mrs Hannaby, Harris, Mrs Nunn-Price and Major Sibbald.

As there was less than six months before Council elections, a by-election to replace Councillor Goldsmith was not permitted. The Council was free to leave the vacancy unfilled or fill it by co-option. Councillor Crawford also asked whether a formal notice of the casual vacancy had been formally published and was advised that this was not necessary.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goodman
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds
IT WAS MOVED that Mr Dave Richardson be co-opted to replace Councillor Goldsmith.

This was approved nine in favour, none against.

Mr Richardson completed a declaration of acceptance of office and became a member of the Town Council.

The suspension of standing orders was ended.

56. Town Mayor's Communications

None.

The meeting closed at 7.47 p.m.

WPF