

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE, ON  
MONDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2019, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Councillors present: Councillor C McCarthy (Town Mayor)  
Councillors A Crawford, Mrs C E C Dickson,  
C S Dickson, J Goodman, Mrs M Gradwell,  
Mrs J T Hannaby, K A Harris, B Mabbett,  
Mrs J E Nunn-Price, Mrs J Reynolds and S Trinder.

Others present: Two members of the public

Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.  
Deputy Clerk: Miss Sheryl Sanders.

**Apologies for absence**

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

**Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests**

None.

**Minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 January 2019**

These were to be amended to include under the third paragraph on page 2, the following sentence "Councillor Crawford also asked whether a formal notice of the casual vacancy had been formally published and was advised that this was not necessary". Subject to this change the minutes were approved. The Clerk was to amend the minutes and the Chairman was to sign them, after the meeting.

- 59. To consider proposition that the wording under paragraph 9 b) of the Council's Standing Orders be amended to "Except as provided by these Standing Orders, no motion may be moved, unless the business to which it relates has been put on the Agenda by the Clerk, or the mover has given notice in writing of its terms and has delivered the notice to the Clerk, at least five clear days excluding Saturdays and Sundays before the next meeting of the Council."**

The special motion was proposed by Councillors C S Dickson, Mrs J T Hannaby, K A Harris, B Mabbett, Mrs J E Nunn-Price, Mrs J Reynolds, D Richardson, Major J Sibbald and S Trinder.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy  
SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Nunn-Price  
IT WAS RESOLVED that for consistency with other paragraphs in the Standing Orders that the word "Clerk" should be substituted by the words "Proper Officer".

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Nunn-Price  
SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Dickson  
IT WAS MOVED that the proposition as amended be adopted. This was approved eight in favour, two against.

- 60. Statements and questions from the public**

None.

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**61. Matters arising from the Council meetings held on 26 November and 10 December 2018, and 28 January 2019**

There were no matters arising.

**62. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 26 November and 10 December 2018 and 7 and 21 January 2019**

Planning meeting held on 21 January 2019 – Item 39 P18/V2971/RM. Crab Hill Primary School.

There had recently been dialogue between the developer and the District Council Planning Officer concerning the Town Council's objection. For large developments where a town or parish council objects, the application normally has to be referred to the District Council's Planning Committee. The Planning Officer had concluded that because the school development was currently in Grove parish and Grove Parish Council had no objections, the application could be approved under delegated authority to the Chairman of the District Council's Planning Committee.

Concerns were raised about the lack of teacher involvement in the design of the school. There was also a need to involve OFSTED.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Crawford  
SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Hannaby  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the application be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

**63. Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 14 January 2019 and to consider delegating authority to the committee for the placement of the ground maintenance contract for 2019/20**

24 (b) – Arrangements for seeking quotes for ground maintenance contracts in 2019 season

Two quotes had been received. The lower quote had been received from a contractor who was based 20 miles away from the town. It was agreed that a third quote should be obtained.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy  
SECONDED BY Councillor Mabbett  
IT WAS RESOLVED that delegated authority be given to the Leisure and Amenities Committee, with the Clerk, to review the quotes and to place the contract.

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

**64. Minutes of the Promotion, Communications and Events Committee of the meeting held on 4 February 2019**

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

**65. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on 28 January 2019, including adoption of updated risk assessment**

51 – Annual review of Council’s Risk Assessment

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Crawford  
SECONDED BY Councillor Dickson  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the updated Risk Assessment for 2019 be accepted.

48 (b) – Health Sub-committee

Councillor McCarthy agreed to call a meeting of the Health Sub-committee as soon as possible. **Action: McCarthy**

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

**66. To confirm the appointment of Mr K Rose of IAC Audit & Consultancy Ltd as the Town Council’s Internal Auditor for 2018/19**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goodman  
SECONDED BY Councillor Trinder  
IT WAS RESOLVED that K Rose be appointed as the Town Council’s internal auditor for the year 2018/19.

**67. District and County Councillors’ reports**

County Councillor’s report

County Councillor Mrs Hannaby reported that the County Council would be considering its budgets the following day. Plans were proceeding for the physiotherapy service to return to the Wantage Community Hospital. Consultations by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group were proceeding. Consultations were also proceeding regarding the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

District Councillor’s report

The District Council was also considering its budgets on the following Wednesday. Public consultation was proceeding regarding proposed draft main modifications to the Local Plan Part 2. The Scrutiny Committee had recently reviewed a report on The Beacon.

**68. Town Mayor’s communications**

Request regarding use of VC Forecourt

A request had been received from a resident to use the forecourt for a protest. The Council’s current policy restricts use to community organisations or public information stalls. It stated “no stalls promoting political parties or causes permitted on Town Council property”. It was also noted that, in 2016, a request relating to the EU Referendum had been refused.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby  
SECONDED BY Councillor Dickson

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IT WAS RESOLVED that the policy should be referred to the Policy, Management and Finance Committee for review. **Action: Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goodman  
SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Reynolds

IT WAS MOVED that the request by the resident to use the VC Forecourt for a protest be refused having regard to the Council's current policy and the precedent set in 2016. This was approved seven in favour, one against.

The meeting closed at 8.36 p.m.

WPF/ME

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