

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN
THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE, ON MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2019, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Committee Members present: Councillor C S Dickson (Chairman).
Councillors A Crawford (part), Mrs CEC Dickson, Miss K Gill, J A Goodman,
Mrs M Gradwell (part), K A Harris, B Mabbett, C McCarthy, Mrs J E Nunn-
Price, Mrs J Reynolds, D Richardson, Major J Sibbald and S Trinder.

Others present (part): Ms F Golding-King and one other representative of Home Start Southern.
Mrs V Luker – Wantage Literary Festival.
Mr C Harrison and four other representatives of King Alfred District Scouts.

Town Clerk: W P Falkenau.
Deputy Clerk: M Davies.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J T Hannaby and P O’Leary. Councillor A Crawford gave apologies for his late arrival.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and other Interests

None.

Minutes of meeting held on 28 January 2019

The minutes were approved and signed.

60. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

61. Briefings by applicants for donations and grants

a) Home Start Southern Oxfordshire

Ms Golding-King advised that her organisation supported four families in Wantage. The cost of supporting each family was in the region of £1000 per annum of which £100 was paid to volunteers who provided the support.

Councillor Mrs Gradwell arrived.

It was noted that those requiring this support were referred to the organisation by health visitors or by self-referral. Ms Golding-King was thanked for her briefing.

b) Letcombe Brook Volunteer Group

There was no representative of the group present.

c) Wantage Literary Festival

Mrs Luker advised that a £1000 donation was being sought to support the engagement with schools during the Festival. This involved thirteen primary schools and King Alfred’s Academy. Mrs Luker was thanked for her briefing.

d) King Alfred District Scouts

Councillor Mabbett declared an interest as a member of the District Scouts Committee.

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Mr Harrison reported that the Scouts group was seeking a grant of £19,968 to create a bunk house on what was formerly the Scouts residential property in Springfield Road. It was envisaged that the bunk house would provide an income to the Scouts as well as providing a community facility. He advised that no application for funding had been made to any other body. Mr Harrison was thanked for his briefing.

All the community organisation representatives left the meeting.

62. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Update Health Sub-committee

A meeting of the Sub-committee had been called for the following Thursday. Minutes of a recent OCCG OX12 Stakeholder Reference Group meeting had been distributed to Councillors and the Health Sub-committee. These would be considered at that meeting.

b) Update on CCTV project

The Chairman had not yet met with representatives of the police.

Action: Chairman

c) Annual Town Electorate meeting on 25 March 2019

The agenda for this meeting was noted.

d) Youth Town Council

There had not been a quorum present for the meeting scheduled for 4 March. Arrangements were proceeding for the election in March for the Youth Town Council.

POLICY

63. Report on S106 Sub-committee meeting held on 6 March 2019

The minutes were noted and the actions agreed. Councillor Goodman reported that he had engaged with the Football Club regarding an S106 funding application.

64. To consider support for the S106 funding application from the Wantage and Grove Street Pastors

The completed S106 funding application form was noted.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goodman

SECONDED BY Councillor Major Sibbald

IT WAS RESOLVED that the application to the District Council for the S106 funding of £2100 be supported.

65. To consider request from the District Council regarding distribution of Joint Economic Forum residual funds

The District Council was seeking a refund of its contribution to the Forum that had been unspent. The Town Council had previously expressed an intention that these funds be utilised for the CCTV project. The Committee felt that the funds should be retained and used for economic development projects specific to Wantage.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald

SECONDED BY Councillor McCarthy

IT WAS RESOLVED to advise the District Council that the Town Council wished to retain the funds and will identify projects of an economic development nature for the use of these funds. **Action: Clerk**

MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

66. Financial Statements to March 2019

The Financial Statements were considered. There were a number of areas where expenditure had been delayed or would not occur and this was increasing the Council's reserves. The Clerk agreed to investigate again whether better interest rates on the Council's banking deposits could be achieved.

Action: Clerk

Councillor Crawford arrived.

67. Accounts for Payment

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Dickson

SECONDED BY Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that Accounts for Payment in the sum of £24,669.51 be approved (attached).

68. General correspondence

None.

Confidential Items

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Dickson

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.

69. To consider donation requests

a) Home Start Southern Oxfordshire

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mabbett

SECONDED BY Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that a donation of £1000 be made to this organisation.

b) Letcombe Brook Volunteer Group

This group works to clear rubbish from the Letcombe Brook and its surrounds. A donation of £ 428.47 was being sought towards the cost of equipment and public liability insurance.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy

SECONDED BY Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that a donation of £ 428.47 be made to this group.

c) Wantage Literary Festival

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mabbett

SECONDED BY Councillor Mrs Nunn-Price

IT WAS RESOLVED that a donation of £1000 be made to the Festival for the school engagement.

d) King Alfred District Scouts

Councillor Mabbett left the meeting for this item.

A question was raised about who owned the property which was to be used for the bunk house. The Clerk was to seek clarification concerning this.

Action: Clerk

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Concerns were expressed that the Scout group had failed to seek funding from other parties and appeared to have no plan for securing funding from elsewhere. The application from the Scouts indicated that funds in excess of £100,000 would need to be expended on its buildings in Springfield Road over the coming ten years. It was agreed to request a copy of the report from their building surveyors.

Action: Clerk

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald
SECONDED BY Councillor McCarthy

IT WAS RESOLVED to advise the Scout group that it needs to seek funding from elsewhere and that consideration of a contribution from the Town Council would be given after this had been done.

70. To receive suggestions for the Pride in Wantage award

There was a discussion concerning making the award to Simon Spiers from the Vale Academy Trust and King Alfred's Academy, who was retiring.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor McCarthy
SECONDED BY Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Pride in Wantage Award be presented to Mr Spiers for his work in inspiring the youth of Wantage through the promotion of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the support given to Sweatbox. It was agreed that the award should be presented to Mr Spiers at his leaving event on 4 April.

The meeting came out of confidential session.

The meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.

WPF/ME

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Wantage Town Council

Accounts for Payment - January to March 2019

Date	Payee	Description	Powers	Ref	£
01/02/2019	Abbey Properties	Market Attendant's shed rent	OA 1985	SO	£ 100.00
01/03/2019	Abbey Properties	Market Attendant's shed rent	OA 1985	SO	£ 100.00
21/02/2019	NEST	Pension contribution payments	Office	DD	£ 222.19
21/02/2019	Staff - various	February payroll	Office/OA1985	Bacs	£ 7,584.74
Total direct debits					£ 8,006.93
28/01/2019	BT	Broadband services	Office	306381	£ 129.72
11/02/2019	OALC	Deputy Clerk training	Office	306382	£ 54.00
11/02/2019	OCC	Provision of grit bins	Highways	306383	£ 1,200.00
11/02/2019	Red Corner Docmt Solns	Photocopying January	Office	306384	£ 18.94
11/02/2019	M Smith	Shed repairs at Lark Hill allotments	Allotments	306385	£ 340.00
11/02/2019	L Smith	Bus shelter cleaning	Highways	306386	£ 60.00
25/02/2019	Castle Water	Water - Grove Road allotments	Allotments	306387	£ 43.53
25/02/2019	Castle Water	Water - Naldertown allotments	Allotments	306388	£ 18.00
25/02/2019	P Harris	Notice board repair at Grove Road Allotments	Allotments	306389	£ 65.00
25/02/2019	SGW Payroll	Payroll processing February	Office/OA1985	306390	£ 66.12
25/02/2019		Transfer of £20k to Barclays account		306391	£ -
25/02/2019	Grove PCC	Grant re GROW	Entertainment	306392	£ 10,000.00
05/03/2019	Sweatbox	Donation re YTC	Entertainment	306393	£ 1,500.00
05/03/2019	Jigsaw Stage Productions	Donation	Entertainment	306394	£ 1,000.00
05/03/2019	Barclaycard	Postage	Office	306395	£ 116.00
05/03/2019	Be Free Young Carers	Donation	Entertainment	306396	£ 1,250.00
05/03/2019	Roy Breakspear	Cemetery skips	Burials	306397	£ 360.00
05/03/2019	Red Corner Docmt Solns	Photocopying February	Office	306398	£ 16.47
05/03/2019	WP Falkenau	Advert re Market Place Licence	Entertainment	306399	£ 424.80
Total cheques					£ 16,662.58
Total payments January to March 19					£ 24,669.51