

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE, ON
MONDAY, 24 JUNE 2019, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Councillors present: Councillor Major J Sibbald (Town Mayor)
Councillors I R Cameron, A Crawford, O C Curley,
A Dunford, A Duveen, T Gilhome, J Goodman,
E L Johnson, A C Menzies, J E Nunn-Price,
I L Sheldon, Dr C Walters and C H Wills-Wright.

Others present: Two members of the public

Clerk: W P Falkenau.
Deputy Clerk: S Sanders.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Hannaby and P O'Leary.

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

None.

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 May 2019

These were amended.

Item 4 – Appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman of Committees and Sub-committees (see Promotion, Communication and Events Committee)

(c) and 6 (a) – The words 'Mrs Duveen' were replaced by the word 'Dunford.

6 (f) – Dickensian Evening Working Party - the name Johnson was deleted.

The minutes, as amended, were approved and signed.

16. Statements and questions from the public

Alderman Hutchinson sought confirmation that she would continue to receive copies of agendas and minutes. This was confirmed. She asked whether the Health Sub-committee would continue to have members that were not town councillors. It was confirmed that it would.

17. Matters arising from the Council meeting held on 13 May 2019

None.

18. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 13 May and 3 June 2019

It was noted that where the council requested that a planning application be called in for consideration by the district council's planning committee, the request needed to be made by the district councillors representing the wards to which the planning application related.

It was reported that the district council was giving consideration to holding a planning training session in September or October.

Meeting 3 June 2019

Item 8 – Status report on Neighbourhood Plan.

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The Chairman, Clerk and Deputy Clerk had recently met Mr Rios, a District Council Senior Planning Officer. Mr Rios was reasonably positive about taking the Plan through to its conclusion.

Item 6(f) – Councillor Crawford advised that he did not intend to call in the planning application for consideration by the full planning committee of the district council.

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Town Mayor
SECONDED BY Councillor Gilhome
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

19. Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 20 May 2019

Item 4 (j) – A representative of the police had agreed to attend the next Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting on 15 July.

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

20. Minutes of the Promotion, Communications and Events Committee of the meeting held on 3 and 17 June 2019

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Dr Walters
SECONDED BY Councillor Wills-Wright
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

21. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on 10 June 2019

Item 15(a) Wantage Independent Advice Centre – Transport Scheme.

The service was due to terminate at the end of the month.

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

22. District and County Councillors' reports

District Councillors' report

It was reported that the district council was funding 30% of its ongoing expenditure from reserves. If this was to continue the reserves would run out in about four years. Future actions were dependent upon decisions by the government regarding the distribution of the New Homes Bonus. The Local Plan Part 2 had still not been approved. Free parking permits for councillors had been discontinued. A significant amount of officer time had been taken up moving in house some activities that had been outsourced. There were insufficient funds available to proceed with capital schemes and currently 160 of these were on hold, including the Wantage Leisure Centre. The audit deadline will be missed due to circumstances outside the district council's control. The district council was objecting to the proposed reservoir on the grounds of detrimental effect on the environment and disruption for residents across the district. Infinity Water was being asked to demonstrate that other sites had been properly considered. There was a need to ensure that if the S106 contributions for Crab Hill were not used for the leisure centre,

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that they should be used for leisure facilities elsewhere within Wantage. The process for securing S106 funding is over complicated and needs to be changed.

County Councillor's report

Councillor Hannaby was not present.

23. Town Mayor's communications

The council had been passed letters from Year 4 of the Charlton Primary School to be passed to the organisers of the OVO Energy Tour thanking them for arranging the race to go through Wantage. It was felt that the letters should be publicised. There was a need to liaise with the school to seek approval for this. **Action: Clerk**

The Town Mayor presented a report covering the events he had attended from 13 May to the 24 June. Matters covered were:

- Forthcoming events that he was due to attend:
- Mayor's use of The Beacon
- Mayor's charities
- Mayor's social media accounts and emails
- Mayor's awards – Pride in Wantage
- Mayor's correspondence
- Mayor's protocol correspondence

It was agreed that the Mayor's report should be published on the Town Council's website.

Action: Clerk

20. Promotion, Communication and Events Committee meeting 17 June 2019 (continued).

Item 2 – Mr Wyne had advised that the top band would not be available for a concert on 15 September, due to the absence of the Musical Director. It was agreed to ask the Silver Band whether one of the junior bands could provide the concert. **Action: Clerk**

Town Mayor's communications (continued)

OVO Energy Tour 12 June 2019

The Town Mayor gave his thanks to councillors and others who gave their support in making arrangements to welcome the cycle race going through the town.

CONFIDENTIAL

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Town Mayor

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.

The members of the public left the meeting.

The Town Mayor gave an update on a number of actions that he was pursuing. This involved no formal decisions by the Town Council at this stage. The Council gave him its endorsement to proceed.

The meeting came out of confidential session.

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Armed Forces Day – 29 June 2019

The Town Mayor advised that he intended to hold a short ceremony for the hoisting of the Armed Forces Day flag on the coming Saturday. He invited councillors to join him. He hoped to involve a bugler and the town crier. The time had not yet been set and councillors would be informed of the time in due course. **Action: Town Mayor**

The meeting closed at 8.34 p.m.

WPF/ME
