

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE, ON
MONDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2019, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Councillors present: Councillor Major J Sibbald (Town Mayor)
Councillors A Crawford, O.C. Curley, A Dunford,
J T Hannaby, E L Johnson, A C Menzies,
J E Nunn-Price, P O'Leary, I L Sheldon,
and C H Wills-Wright.

Others present: One member of the public.

Clerk: W P Falkenau.
Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cameron, Duveen, Gilhome, Goodman and Walters.

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

None.

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 October 2019

The header on the second page of the minutes of the meeting that commenced at 7 pm had an incorrect date. The Clerk was to amend this. Subject to this change, the minutes of the meeting that commenced at 7 pm, and of the meeting that commenced at 7.17 pm, were approved.

48. Statements and questions from the public

The member of the public expressed a view that the Council had failed to adhere to standing orders when the meeting of the Climate Emergency Sub-committee went into a confidential session at the commencement of the meeting, without whatever was being discussed being detailed on the meeting agenda, and not covered by standing order 10a.

The Clerk advised that the confidential session was concerned with an agenda item and details of the outcome were recorded in the minutes, and therefore standing orders were complied with.

49. Matters arising from the Council meeting held on 14 October 2019

Item 37-35 – Honorary Freedom of the Town

A date for the presentation of the certificate to Canon Peter Turbitt had not yet been set.

50. Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4 November 2019

Item 25 – Statements and Questions from the Public

1. Can minutes of the meetings be published on the website in draft form?

The Clerk advised that minutes were published on the website in draft form. Minutes were only formally accepted and approved at a subsequent meeting at which any changes or amendments were recorded. Minutes were published on the website as soon as reasonably possible within the constraint of staff resources and priorities.

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2. **The minutes of the previous climate emergency meeting state “Although too late for the current iteration of the Neighbourhood Plan, there was the possibility of incorporating a requirement for sustainable house building when due for revision.” Why is it too late for the current iteration of the Neighbourhood Plan? The Plan has not been published in any form since January 2016, so why is it suddenly urgent? Surely it is more important to ensure it is correct than to publish a Plan which doesn’t appear to have any real policies in it?**

The Clerk advised that District Council and specialist advice would be sought concerning this. Guidance had been given when the Neighbourhood Plan was originally produced that any policies should be based upon the outcome of public consultation and be supported by evidence. When the current Plan document was prepared, climate change was not a significant issue raised in the consultation with the local community. There were climate change policies detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). There was a requirement that Neighbourhood Plans were consistent with the NPPF and the adopted Local Plan. If climate change policies were to be included within the Neighbourhood Plan, there would be a need to demonstrate why this community was seeking different policies to those covered by the NPPF and Local Plan.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald
SECONDED BY Councillor Sheldon
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

51. Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 28 October 2019

The committee member attendance details were amended to add “-Price”.

18 (b) Update on review of allotment rents

It was noted that at least a year’s notice had to be given, as at the September renewal date, for any increase to rents and therefore any changes could not proceed until September 2021.

19 (a) Cemetery Art Project

The project was currently being delayed due to the heavy workload of the fabricator.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor O’Leary
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

52. Minutes of the Promotion, Communications and Events Committee meeting held on 18 November 2019

22. (h) VE Day 75 event

Grove Parish Council had agreed to work with the Town Council on arrangements for the weekend. A working group involving representatives from both Councils was to be formed.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Wills-Wright
SECONDED BY Councillor Dunford
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

53. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance meeting held on 11 November 2019

48. (a) Update on Sweatbox visits

Visits to Sweatbox were to be postponed until the New Year.

48. (f) Update on deed of variation of Crab Hill S106 agreement

A formal application to alter the Crab Hill S106 agreement, by a deed of variation, had been submitted by St Modwen. Consideration of this, and a response, was to be referred to the S106 Sub Committee meeting which was to be held on 2 December 2019.

53. Practice of closing off Market Square car parking spaces on evening before fairs and other events

The Committee Chairman and the Clerk were in a dialogue concerning this. It was agreed that this be referred back to the committee for further consideration. **Action: Clerk**

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

54. District and County Councillors' reports

District Council

The Local Plan Part 2 had been adopted and the District Council was now working on a new plan. The District Council was currently in budget setting mode. The work of the District Council was currently affected by the General Election and the period of purdah leading up to it.

It had been agreed that arrangements for civil parking enforcement should go to the next stage. This involved engaging with the County Council and other District Councils. For this to proceed, every party had to agree. If this can be achieved, the introduction was not likely to proceed until 2021. There had been communications between Councillor Crawford and the Police Chief Constable concerning making interim arrangements for parking enforcement by the police. It was agreed that the Chief Constable be invited to the next Policy, Management and Finance committee meeting to discuss this. An obstacle to enforcement by the police was that new PCSO's were not to be trained to undertake parking enforcement. **Action: Clerk**

County Council

The OX12CCG project was nearing its end. Councillors were encouraged to respond to the consultation. A meeting of the Health Sub-Committee was to be arranged as soon as possible. **Action: Hannaby**

The deadline for application for the County Council's £1 million Youth Opportunity Fund had closed on 22 November; a number of Youth Organisations from Wantage had applied.

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55. Town Mayor's communications

The Town Mayor advised that a report covering recent activities would be available on the Town Council's website.

A letter had been received from the Lord Lieutenant thanking the Town Mayor for the arrangements made on Remembrance Sunday.

The meeting closed at 8 p.m.

WPF/KS
