

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PROMOTION, COMMUNICATION AND EVENTS
COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON,
PORTWAY, ON MONDAY, 16 MARCH 2020 AT 7.30 PM.**

Committee members present: Councillor C Wills Wright (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors T Gilhome, J Goodman, J E Nunn-Price and
Major J Sibbald.

Town Centre Manager (TCM): A Yates
Town Clerk: W P Falkenau.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Crawford,, JT Hannaby and C Walters. In the absence of the committee chairman, Councillor Wills-Wright was chairman for the meeting.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

None.

To sign the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2020

The words “J Goodman and Dr C Walters” were deleted from “Apologies for Absence”. The minutes, as amended, were approved and signed.

30. Statements and Questions from the Public

None

31. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Silver Band Concerts in the Market Place in Summer 2020

Mr Mitchell had been asked to contact the church to see if it would accommodate the concert in inclement weather.

b) Foldable seats and tables

The TCM had undertaken investigations. She advised that the hire of furniture would not be viable, due to cost. She said that there could be the possibility of finding storage at the Alfred’s Head. She suggested that six tables and thirty six chairs should be purchased at a cost in the region of £600.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goodman
SECONDED Councillor Gilhome

IT WAS RESOLVED to proceed with the purchase of tables and chairs, subject to the availability of storage, within a budget of £1,000. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk had not yet investigated whether the section of building adjacent to the Council’s storage shed, and currently used by the Diving Club, could be made available.

Action: Clerk

c) Volunteers’ Reception – follow up

The reception had been a success. The presentation of the freedom scroll to Canon Turbitt had been well received. The committee agreed that the catering was satisfactory.

d) Communication strategy and review of approach to website and social media

The Clerk and the Town Mayor had not yet been able to progress this.

Action: Clerk/Sibbald

The Clerk had not yet ascertained the cost of a large LED display board. **Action: Clerk**

e) Penny Post

The TCM had spoken to Penny Locke. There were two levels of service. If the council provided the text for posting unchanged on the pennypost.org.uk website, there would be no charge. If there was a requirement for Penny Post to provide editorial support, a fee would be charged. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Hungerford's Town Clerk for feedback on their experience. **Action: Clerk**

It was noted that not all residents have access to the internet. The TCM advised that she intended to conduct some market research to ascertain how residents would like to receive information.

f) VE Day 75 event

The event planned for the 8 May had been cancelled due to the Coronavirus crisis. There was the possibility that it could proceed later in the year to coincide with VJ Day.

It was agreed that, if possible, the silent soldier figures should be displayed on the 8 May.

Action: Clerk

g) Love Wantage brand

Arrangements were being made for the TCM to take over responsibility for the 'Love Wantage' website. The TCM was to seek the views of others regarding the value of the brand. The TCM was to identify the websites that were seeking to inform the public about Wantage. Councillor Goodman agreed to assist her with this. **Action: TCM**

h) Websites – engagement with Mr Hill

The TCM had recently met Mr Hill. She was to involve Mr Hill in the review of websites.

Action: TCM

i) Follow up regarding Pride in Wantage and other awards

The Clerk had not yet sought quotes for the provision of plaques.

Action: Clerk

j) Update re provision of Changing Places facility in town centre

The cost for the provision of a facility had not yet been provided.

Action: Hannaby

k) Freedom of Wantage 21 March 2020

The event had been cancelled that day due to the Coronavirus crisis. The Town Mayor was thanked for all the work he had undertaken in organising the event.

l) Arrangements for Seesen civic visit over weekend of 21 March 2020

The visit had been cancelled due to the Coronavirus crisis.

m) Town Electorate meeting 6 April 2020

The meeting was to be postponed in response to the Coronavirus crisis. **Action: Clerk**

n) Production of quarterly newsletter

The production of the newsletter was on hold until the Coronavirus crisis was over.

32. To consider offer from Councillor Johnson to attempt to bring back some of the structure to the Town Council's website.

There was a need to modify the Council's website by September to meet accessibility standards. It was felt that any changes to the website should be part of and fit in with the development of a communication strategy. The committee was not supportive of Councillor Johnson working on the live website. The Clerk was to investigate whether a copy of the Council's website could be set up as a dummy website for Councillor Johnson to work on. He was thanked for his offer. **Action: Clerk**

33. **Other business**

ON THE PROPOSITION of the Chairman

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.

a) Ray Collins Charitable Trust – Coronavirus Support Group

Ray Collins had launched an initiative to assist those requiring help arising from the coronavirus crisis. A draft poster had been prepared indicating the Town Council's support. There were some text errors that needed to be corrected. Given the speed with which the situation was changing it was felt that a declaration of support should not await the Council meeting on 30 March. The five councillors present gave their support. The Clerk was to distribute an email marked urgent to all councillors seeking the support of others. If support was received from a majority of councillors, the Clerk was to advise Mr Collins of the Town Council's support for the initiative. **Action: Clerk**

A question was raised about the use of the Town Council's logo on the poster.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Sibbald

SECONDED Councillor Goodman

IT WAS RESOLVED that approval be given for the use of the logo on the poster and other promotional material.

b) ESRI Mapping Service

Councillor Sibbald advised that mapping software from ESRI was available free of charge for the next six months. The software could be useful as a planning and monitoring tool to support the Coronavirus Support Group.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goodman

SECONDED Councillor Gilhome

IT WAS MOVED that the software be acquired.

This was approved four in favour, none against.

The meeting closed at 8.34 pm.
