

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM, ON MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2020, AT 7.30 P.M.**

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

Others present: County Councillor J Hanna
One member of the public

Clerk: W P Falkenau.
Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors O Curley, J Goodman, P O’Leary
and C Walters.

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

None.

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 October 2020

The minutes were approved.

47. Statements and questions from the public

Alderman Hutchinson indicated her support for a scheme. She asked what was defined as the “Wantage area”? If vouchers were to be given, she would object to these being redeemed for cash. She felt it was important that the children be provided with a substantial meal, as they would receive at school. How would children currently not attending school be covered? How would the vouchers be delivered?

The Chairman advised that these matters would be covered in the discussion that would follow.

48. To discuss whether the Town Council is able to assist with the provision of meals over the Christmas period to those children, within the Wantage area, who would normally get free school meals during term times due to their family situation

Councillor Nunn-Price joined the meeting.

Councillor Hanna reported on a voucher scheme being administered by Evenred. The vouchers could be redeemed for food from participating stores. There were 300 children entitled to free school meals in Wantage schools. The cost of providing vouchers over the two week Christmas period would be £15 per week per child, giving a total cost of £9,000. A contribution would be made from the county councillors’ priority fund.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Crawford
SECONDED BY Councillor Duveen

IT WAS MOVED that a budget for up to £9,000 be set to provide vouchers for food for students who would normally be entitled to free school meals, attending schools in Wantage, to cover the Christmas holiday period, and that a working group of county councillors and town councillors come together to sort out the details concerning arrangements and entitlement. The amount to be expended by the Town Council would be reduced by any contributions forthcoming from other parties. This would be subject to the Town Council being legally entitled to incur this expenditure.

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The Clerk advised that as the Town Council did not have specific powers to provide free school meal vouchers, any expenditure would need to be deemed spent under S137 powers. He would need to refer to the OALC/NALC to confirm that it wasn't illegal for the council to incur this expenditure. **Action: Clerk**

The above proposition was unanimously approved.

49. Town Mayor's communications.

A note detailing the Town Mayor's communications had been placed on the Council's website.

It was noted that the country would be going into lockdown on the following Thursday. This affected arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and stalls permitted to attend the weekly markets. More guidance was due to be published by the government in the coming days.

The meeting closed at 8.02 p.m.

WPF
