

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2023, AT 7.30 P.M.

Councillors present: Councillor Major J Sibbald (Town Mayor)
Councillors I R Cameron, A Crawford,
A Dunford (part), J T Hannaby, E L Johnson,
A C Menzies, P O’Leary and S Third.

Others present: One member of the public from item 75

Clerk: W P Falkenau

Deputy Clerk: S Sanders

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Gilhome, I L Sheldon, C Walters and C H Wills-Wright.

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-registrable interests.

These were to be given as the meeting proceeded.

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 December 2022

The minutes were approved and signed.

74. Statements and Questions from the public

None.

75. Matters arising from the Council meeting held on 5 December 2022

The member of the public arrived.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Crawford

SECONDED BY Councillor Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that the figures in the 2023/24 column of the financial statements attached to the minutes be deemed the Council’s committee budgets for 2023/24.

76. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 5 December 2022 and 9 January and 23 January 2023

Councillor Dunford arrived.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Johnson

SECONDED BY Councillor Cameron

IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

77. Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 16 January 2023

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies

IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

78. Minutes of the Promotion, Communication and Events Committee meeting held on the 6 February 2023

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Crawford

SECONDED BY Councillor Dunford

IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

79. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on the 30 January 2023 and response to the interim internal audit report

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Crawford
SECONDED BY Councillor Third
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Crawford
SECONDED BY Councillor Menzies
IT WAS RESOLVED that the responses in the “comments” column of the interim internal audit report, attached to the minutes, and put forward by the Clerk, be endorsed.

80. To consider arrangements for the Annual Town Electorate meeting to be held on 22 March 2023

The meeting was to be held in the pre-election period. Councillors were asked to refrain from any electioneering. It was agreed that the proceedings were to follow the form of recent years. The Town Mayor was to present a report on the Council’s business over the past year. The Clerk was to present a financial statement. The Clerk was to ask for representatives of Vale Community Impact and the Vale and Downland Museum to give briefings on their activities. The Clerk was to see if a larger room was available for the meeting.

Action: Clerk

81. General Correspondence

None.

82. District and County Councillors’ reports

District Council

The budgets were due to be presented to a full Council meeting. The Beacon was included in the District Council’s budgets for the next five years. Grant funding had been secured for the decarbonisation at the Leisure Centre. There was likely to be a substantial increase in the cost of the waste collection services in the coming years. The District Council had taken over responsibility for the play area at The Wharf. The council tax relating to the District Council was due to increase from April by 3.5%.

County Council

The County Council was due to confirm its budgets. There was a threat of strikes in the fire service. The road maintenance contract was due to end in 2025.

83. Town Mayor’s communications

The Town Mayor's communications were available to view on the Town Council's website. The volunteers’ reception had been a success.

Confidential item

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Sibbald
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.

79. 58. a) Update on plans to pedestrianise western end of the Market Place

The quote for preparation of the Departures from Standards statement and conducting the safety audit had been received from Glanvilles.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Crawford
SECONDED BY Councillor Dunford
IT WAS RESOLVED to instruct Glanvilles to produce the Departures from Standards statement, and conduct the safety audit, at a cost of £5,850. **Action: Clerk**

The meeting closed at 8.17 p.m.

WPF