

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PROMOTION, COMMUNICATION AND EVENTS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON,  
PORTWAY, ON MONDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2023, AT 7.30PM**

Committee members present: Councillors T Gilhome (Chair), A Crawford and C Walters

Other councillors present: Councillors J T Hannaby and K Morris

Others present:

Town Centre Manager (TCM)	A Yates
Town Project Coordinator (TPC)	J Mitchell
Deputy Clerk	S Sanders

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor V Wright

**Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-registrable interests.**

None

**To sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2023.**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**Statements and questions from the public**

None

**19. Matters arising from the minutes**

- a) To receive an update on the Welcome to Wantage pack/Town Guide

Due to the current economic climate the Local Authority Publishing Company is no longer publishing any new official town guides or street maps. Thame Town Council have produced their own publication of a town guide in house. The estimated cost to produce and deliver a similar guide for Wantage would be approximately £8000.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Gilhome

SECONDED BY Councillor Crawford

IT WAS RESOLVED to incorporate the We are your Wantage guide into the next newsletter.

**Action: TCM**

- b) To receive an update on the purchase of an LED display board

Councillor Gilhome had not yet met with the Chamber of Commerce. **Action: Chair**

**20. Events 2024**

- a) To receive and agree the calendar of events for 2024

The dates for all events had not been finalised but the following had been agreed/noted:

20 April - Earth Day  
28 April - St George's Day market  
9 June - Ray Collins carnival  
July (date to be agreed) - Food festival  
26 October - AlfredFest  
10 November - Remembrance Parade  
24 November - Christmas market  
7 December - Dickensian Evening  
24 December - Carols in the Market Square  
26 December - Wantage Mummers (VC Forecourt)

It was not yet known if fairs would take place in May, September, or October or if France at Home planned to return with their French Market. The TCM was to contact France at Home.

**Action: TCM**

Feedback will be sought from the community following Dickensian Evening on 1 December.

**Action: TCM**

- b) To consider the request from The Ray Collins Charitable Trust to hold events requiring road closures on 21 April and 22 September 2024

Members considered the request but agreed that there was a need to limit the road closures in 2024. It was agreed that the events would not be permitted. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

- c) To note the Big Thankyou Service event held at The Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul on 21 April 2024

It was noted that Councillor Dunford was planning an event. Details were to be confirmed.

**Action: Dunford**

- d) To note the Climate Emergency Committee's Earth Day event on 20 April 2024

A working group had been formed and were planning the event.

**Action: Earth Day Event Working Group**

**21. To consider creating a community calendar.**

It was noted that there was a calendar of events on the Love Wantage website (What's on in Wantage) It was agreed that the calendar could be used to advertise community events in Wantage. This will be communicated in the next issue of the newsletter. **Action: TCM**

**22. To consider the installation of the Union and Wyvern flags on buildings around Market Place and surrounding streets.**

It was agreed that the flags that have been used were not fit for purpose because they became tattered quickly and were continually wrapped around the flagpoles. Flags were initially installed for the celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and had been replaced and reinstalled for the summer every year since to make the town look cheerful.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby

SECONDED BY Councillor Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED TO order 4 flags made from woven material with an extra eyelet and a rope tether and trial these for a season to assess the durability. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

It was noted that there were very few flagpole holders installed around the market place. The TCM was to engage with businesses/Wantage Chamber of Commerce with a view to installing more. **Action: TCM**

**23. To receive a report from the TCM about the progress of Wantage Chamber of Commerce.**

The TCM gave a brief update. There were five new members, making a total of eighteen. They were looking into ideas for their involvement in the themed events being held in 2024.

**24. To agree the date and content of the next issue of the newsletter**

It was agreed that future newsletters would be distributed in March, June, September and late November. The TPC was to send a list of items to be included in the issue prior to the submission to the editor to allow for any additions if appropriate. **Action: TPC**

**25. To receive and consider the 2024/25 estimates**

The estimate sheet was discussed, and a couple of amendments were agreed.

**Action: Chair**

**26. To consider agenda items for the next meeting to be held 5 February 2024.**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

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