

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE
ON MONDAY 2ND OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30PM**

Committee members present: Councillor A Crawford (Chair)
Councillors I R Cameron, A Dunford, R Fitzjohn,
A Gilhome, J T Hannaby, E L Johnson, K Morris,
S Third, L Todd, C Walters and V Wright.

Others present: five Wantage traders and 6 taxi drivers

Town Clerk: J Evans

Administration Support Officer: W P Falkenau

Meeting adjourned at 7.32pm.

Meeting resumed at 8.20pm.

The traders and taxi drivers left the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Kirby-Harris and A C Menzies.

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

None.

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2023

The minutes were approved and signed.

23. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

24. Matters arising from the minutes

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

There had been a meeting with the Wantage traders and taxi drivers to discuss the pedestrianisation plans. It was agreed that the current scheme would be temporarily retracted. The Council would work together with the businesses and the taxi drivers to attempt to propose an amended scheme that would resolve their concerns but also remain acceptable to OCC Highways.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Johnson
SECONDED BY Councillor Dunford

IT WAS RESOLVED that a revised scheme would be worked on in collaboration with the businesses and taxi drivers.

b) Registration of Council land with HM Land Registry

HM Land Registry had advised that they would deal with this matter as soon as possible.

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c) Update re community bus service working group

Councillor Cameron gave a progress report. The next step was the development of a S106 application.
Action: Cameron

Councillor Cameron was thanked for his work on this matter.

d) Asset of Community Value - Wantage Community Hospital

The District Council had asked the Clerk to make some changes to the application. Mr Falkenau was working on this.
Action: Falkenau

e) Review of committee arrangements

Initial discussions had been held. Further work was required. **Action: Chair**

POLICY

25. Minutes of the Climate Emergency Sub-committee meeting held on 11 September 2023.

The minutes were considered, and actions approved.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Walters
SECONDED BY Councillor Dunford
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be approved.

26. Minutes of the Health Sub-committee meeting held on 10 July 2023

The minutes were considered, and actions approved. The hospital services survey was being finalised. Councillor Hannaby to circulate when complete. **Action: Hannaby**

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Crawford
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be approved.

27. Review of direct debits and standing orders.

The list was reviewed and noted. Mr Falkenau outlined the current issues with Barclaycard which meant that the Quickbooks subscription had not been paid. He requested that a new direct debit be set up for this payment.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Walters
SECONDED BY Councillor Dunford
IT WAS RESOLVED that the new direct debit be approved.

Management and Finance

28. To receive the External Audit Report and Certificate for 2022/23 and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit.

The External Audit Report was presented. Two minor points had been raised but there were no issues with the accounts.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Crawford
SECONDED BY Councillor Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED that the External Audit Report be accepted.

29. Accounts for Payment

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Crawford
SECONDED BY Councillor Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that the accounts for payment in the sum of £106,138.15 (attached) be approved.

30. General correspondence

None.

Confidential items

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Crawford

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.

31. To consider requests for donations and grants

a) My Vision Oxfordshire

A grant of £2,500 was requested. The charity supported 76 people from Wantage.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Hannaby
SECONDED BY Councillor Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED that a grant of £1250 be awarded.

b) The Old Stables – Makespace

A grant of £5,000 was requested. It was decided to defer a decision until further information had been received.

c) Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue

A grant of £10,000 was requested.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Dunford
SECONDED BY Councillor Third

IT WAS RESOLVED that a grant of £1000 be awarded along with a free space at the Earth Day event.

d) Jigsaw Stage Productions

A grant of £2823 was requested to purchase a new keyboard and support their May 2024 production.

It was agreed that the Council should purchase the keyboard as it is able to reclaim the VAT. A financial plan was required to show how their productions could break even in future.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Crawford
SECONDED BY Councillor Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that a grant of £1000 be awarded along with the keyboard which was to be purchased by the Council, and subject to the conditions above.

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- 32. To consider taking responsibility for Open Space and facilities at Kingsgrove and to consider a response to St Modwen concerning the provision of an allotment site and the request to contribute to the maintenance cost of the adjacent toilet block.**

It was resolved to write to St Modwen confirming that the Town Council would take responsibility for the allotment and the Community Orchard but would not take responsibility for the toilet block. The Council wished to open a discussion with St Modwen to consider whether there were other areas of open space that the Council might wish to adopt.

Action: Crawford and Hannaby

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Crawford

SECONDED BY Councillor Dunford

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Council would not accept responsibility for the toilet block.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.
