

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE
ON MONDAY 29TH JANUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM**

Committee members present: Cllr S Third (Chair)
Councillors I Cameron, A Dunford, A Duveen, J Hannaby, E Johnson, K Morris, P
O’Leary, L Todd and V Wright

Others present: 2 members of the public

Town Clerk: J Evans

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Crawford, R Fitzjohn, T Gilhome, A Menzies, P Kirby-Harris and C Walters.

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

Cllr Hannaby for agenda items 44 (as Director) and 45.

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2023

The minutes were approved and signed.

42. Statements and Questions from the Public

a) Grant application from GroW families.

Cllr Hannaby declared an interest.

The work of the charity was outlined. Their total budget for the year was £48k. They will only have three months funding left by the end of March. Groups are run at The Beacon, Wellington Gate, Wantage Library, East Challow village Hall and in Grove. They supported 240 families in 2023. Their toddler groups are full and have a waiting list. All groups are free and the charity aims to support those who cannot afford to pay for support elsewhere. They will also be approaching Grove Parish Council for funding.

43. The use of a Community Interest Company to establish a Community Bus operation.

Recognising the planning done by the Councils Community Bus Working Group, leading to the setting up of Wantage and District Community Transport CIC - a community interest company which is a legal vehicle to deliver a community bus operation, with councillors as directors, an asset lock and strict statements on the use of any surplus funds being used for community purposes

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR CAMERON
SECONDED BY CLLR DUNFORD

IT WAS RESOLVED that Wantage and District Community Transport CIC should be the vehicle by which it would utilise S106 moneys for appropriate Community bus Operations.

44. Wantage Town FC S106 Application

After providing background information Cllr Hannaby left the room.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR DUNFORD
SECONDED BY CLLR DUVEEN

IT WAS RESOLVED that Wantage Town Council supported the S106 application and would sent a letter to that effect.

Action: Clerk

45. Meeting dates for 2024/25

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR HANNABY
SECONDED BY CLLR WRIGHT
IT WAS RESOLVED that the proposed meeting dates be approved.

46. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Registration of Council land with HM Land Registry

Land Registry had requested further information.

Action: Clerk

b) Update re community bus service working group

Refer to minute reference 43 above.

c) Asset of Community Value - Wantage Community Hospital

Work was ongoing. The Clerk had scheduled a meeting with the relevant officer at the Vale.

Action: Clerk

d) Review of committee arrangements

Work was in progress.

Action: Clerk

POLICY

47. Minutes of the Climate Emergency Sub-committee meeting held on 8 January 2024

The minutes were considered, and actions approved.

48. Minutes of the Health Sub-Committee meeting held on 12 January 2024

The minutes were considered and approved. It was noted that the final decision on the future of the hospital would be made on 31 January. Thanks were given to all those involved in the project.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR CAMERON
SECONDED BY CLLR DUNFORD
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Mayor would write a letter of thanks.

Action: Mayor

Management and Finance

49. Accounts for Payment

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR DUNFORD
SECONDED BY CLLR JOHNSON
IT WAS RESOLVED that the accounts for payment in the sum of £56,455.49 be approved.

50. Interim Internal Audit Report

The internal audit report was reviewed and accepted.

Confidential items

ON THE PROPOSITION CLLR THIRD

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.

51. Review of Bank Accounts

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR DUNFORD

SECONDED BY CLLR HANNABY

IT WAS RESOLVED that the mandates for the following banks we changed:

- a) COOP
- b) Barclays
- c) Nationwide Building Society
- d) Bath Building Society

The mandate change form for the Coop Bank was signed.

Clerk to look into closing the Barclays account and opening a new current account at TSB.

Action: Clerk

52. Accounting System

Clerk to obtain a third quote.

Action: Clerk

53. Review of Payroll processing

Clerk to investigate other payroll processing options.

Action: Clerk

54. Staff Holiday entitlement

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR DUNFORD

SECONDED BY CLLR HANNABY

IT WAS RESOLVED to bring the staff holiday entitlement in line with NALC standards.

55. Update on plans to pedestrianise western end of the Market Place

Clerk to review the original design brief and produce a timeline of all the documents relating to the project.

Clerk to speak to OCC regarding the consolidation TRO.

Action: Clerk

56. GroW Families Grant application

To be considered at the Full Council meeting on 12 February 2024

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.
