

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE
ON MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2023 AT 7.30PM**

Committee members present: Cllr A Crawford (Chair)
Councillors I Cameron, A Duveen, J Hannaby, E Johnson, K Morris, P O’Leary,
S Third, L Todd, C Walters 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 Dunford, T Gilhome, R Fitzjohn, E Johnson, A Menzies,

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

None

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2024

The minutes were approved and signed.

56. Statements and Questions from the Public

None

57. Matters arising from the minutes:

- a) Update on plans to pedestrianise western end of Market Place. Covered under confidential.
- b) Registration of council land with HM Land Registry. The clerk had replied to the request for information had. Awaiting an update.
- c) Update re community bus service working group. A meeting was to be held with OCC this week. £40k had been paid and was being held in EMR by the council. It was agreed that the people who could sign the legal agreement were to be: Clerk, Councillors I Cameron, T Gilhome, J Hannaby, and Mayor A Dunford

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR CAMERON
SECONDED BY CLLR TODD

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk and Councillors I Cameron, T Gilhome, J Hannaby, and Mayor A Dunford were authorised to be signatories to Section 106 documents and any Third Party Funding Agreement on behalf of the Council.

- d) Asset of Community Value - Wantage Community Hospital and allotment sites. A meeting had been held with the Vale. No further progress.
- e) Review of committee arrangements. To be taken to March Full Council meeting.

Action: Clerk

58. Briefings by applicants for donations and grants

- a) Wantage and Grove street pastors. Not Present
- b) Grove day centre. Not Present
- c) AmEgos Theatre. The performance was to be held in Wantage Parish Church. This will be cheaper than a theatre. Without a grant they were looking at a substantial deficit. £1200 was requested to help reduce the deficit on this production. It was felt that performing in the church was a good idea. The Council felt it was important to keep the arts going. The impact of covid on the theatre group was explained. The group had been working on other things and cutting down on scenery to help reduce

costs. They were asked what other challenges they face and how they would deal with these. The group replied that the cast pays a performance fee and they scrape along.

Policy

59. Minutes of the Climate Emergency sub-committee meeting held on 19 February 2024

Received

60. Minutes of the Health sub-committee meeting held on 22 February 2024

Received.

Cllr Hannaby had met with the architects at the hospital. It was hoped that drawings might be available in April. A formal request had gone to the Vale to secure the CIL funds. Cllr Cameron asked about IT infrastructure. Cllr Hannaby explained that this was the first thing that they had looked at. There was a need to ensure that the right services were in place. There was a question over a single project manager – it was confirmed that one was now in place.

Management and Finance

61. Accounts for Payment

Approved

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR CAMERON
SECONDED BY CLLR WALTERS
IT WAS RESOLVED accounts for payment were approved

62. To approve the release of grant payments for 2024/25

It was agreed to bring the payment dates forward to April and September. Payments of the grants were approved.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR HANNABY
SECONDED BY CLLR O'LEARY
IT WAS RESOLVED to bring the grant payment dates forward to April and September

63. Charging for third party events

It was suggested that there was a need a general policy to cover this but there might be some events that would be given blanket approval. A list with outline of costs to be provided. **Action: Clerk**

Confidential items

64. Update on GRoW grant. It was pointed out that there would not be enough left in the budget if the full request was awarded. Cllrs Hannaby and Walters declared an interest. It was agreed to pay £12,600 in April and wait to see what Grove PC awarded them.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR CAMERON
SECONDED BY CLLR WRIGHT
IT WAS RESOLVED to pay £12,600 in April and wait to see that Grove PC awarded them.

65. Grant application requests

- a) Wantage and Grove Street Pastors. £550 was requested. It was noted that they had significant sums of S106 money to claim. Clerk to write saying that we are aware that funds were due from S106 from the

Crab Hill development. The council was happy to write a letter of support to help them claim the funds.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR CAMERON
SECONDED BY CLLR Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk would write to them about S106 funds available from Crab Hill.

- b) Grove day centre. £5610 was requested. £2800 was awarded. Clerk to ask them to come back after Grove PC had made an award. **Action: Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR CRAWFORD
SECONDED BY CLLR CAMERON

IT WAS RESOLVED to ask Grove Day Centre to get in touch after they have had received an award from Grove PC.

- c) AmEgos Theatre. £1200 requested. Full amount awarded.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR HANNABY
SECONDED BY CLLR CAMERON

IT WAS RESOLVED to award £1200.

66. West End traffic survey and next steps

The project to date was outlined. A meeting with Lee Turner has been requested; no response received yet. £35k has been spent already. The previous issues were outlined. A survey went out to businesses in December but there had been only two replies. It was noted that there was a need to get the taxis on board. It was suggested that if the scheme remained the same the current situation would prevail. The traffic survey data was presented. The survey did not any capture large vehicles; most vehicles were large transit vans. It was felt that if the area could stay as it is it would work. It was noted that there was a difference between what actually happened and what OCC was prepared to approve. A limit larger vehicles was suggested vehicle. The following actions were agreed:

1. Arrange a meeting with the taxi drivers. **Action: Clerk**
2. Share the traffic survey with the retailers. Tell them that we were disappointed in the results from our survey.
Cllr Third to work on the presentation of the data. **Action: Cllr Third**
When complete Clerk to write to the retailers. **Action: Clerk**
3. Clerk to establish whether would OCC need to consult again if the scheme was resubmitted.

Action: Clerk

Note to the Public

There is an agenda item at the beginning of each meeting “Statements and questions from the public”. This is an opportunity for members of the public to personally raise with the Council points of issue or concern.

Advance notice must be given. A guide on the rules and procedures relating to this is available from the website www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

The meeting closed at 8.42pm

Julia Evans
Clerk