

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE  
BEACON, PORTWAY  
ON MONDAY, 24 JUNE 2024, AT 7.30 PM**

Council members present: Councillors: A Dunford (Chair), J Hannaby, T Gilhome, L Todd, E Johnson, S Third, A Duveen, A Crawford, K Morris, C Walters, P Kirby-Harris

Others present: Matthew Barber (Police Crime Commissioner), Andrea Yates, (Town Centre Manager)

Clerk: J Evans

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors I Cameron, A Menzies

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

None

**24. Statements and questions from the public**

None

**25. To receive an update from Police Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber about policing in Wantage**

Mr Barber gave an update on local policing, after which he answered questions from the Council.

Mr Barber was thanked for attending.

**26. To approve and sign minutes of the Council meeting held on 13 May 2024, and consider matters arising**

The minutes were approved and signed.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Dunford

SECONDED BY Councillor Hannaby

It was RESOLVED that minutes were approved and signed

a) Named substitutes for committees.

All Committees were to name their substitutes and report back at next meeting. Clerk to amend the standing orders to remove the 3 days clause and change it to 2 hours before the meeting. It was the responsibility of those who can't attend a meeting to contact the substitutes. **Action: Clerk**

b) D Day – Jim Mitchell had been looking into a church service, but it wasn't available. The Council did not want to overshadow what was happening in Grove. It was agreed to look at future events – clerk to add to agenda for next meeting. A small event for Armed Forces Day on 29<sup>th</sup> June was agreed. Andrea Yates agreed to contact Wantage Silver Band and arrange a bugler for 10am on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Action: Andrea Yates

**27. To receive the minutes of the following committees**

Leisure and Amenities – 20 May

It was noted that anti-social behaviour at Stockham Park had been issues especially with fires. A decision was required on the trees to be planted.

a) Traffic Advisory – 23 May

A decision on the future of the group was required. To be discussed at the planning committee.

- b) Health Committee – 23 May  
It was reported that the hospital project was progressing.
- c) Planning Committee – 3 June  
An update was given. The planning guidance hierarchy provided by the Vale was noted. It was agreed that comments on the Basic Conditions Statement should be fed back to the Clerk before the next planning meeting. No comment would be taken as approval,
- d) Climate Emergency – 6 June  
The meeting was inquorate.
- e) Policy, Management & Finance – 10 June  
The minutes were presented. There were no questions.
- f) Promotion, Communication & Events 17 June  
The meeting was inquorate.

**28. To consider the Financial Statements for May 2024.**

Accepted.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Dunford  
SECONDED BY Councillor Johnson

It was RESOLVED that financial statements for May be accepted.

- a) To approve a budget virement from 4600 – St George's Day to 4605 Food Festival. Approval to overspend on Food Festival & to move underspend from St George's day to Food Festival – 4600/4605. Agreed to virement from St George's day and Alfred Fest.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Crawford  
SECONDED BY Councillor Walters

It was RESOLVED to approve budget virement from 4600 to 4605.

**29. To approve the quotes for the cemetery extension investigations.**

The Environment Agency had insisted that bore holes were necessary, to take readings and samples for analysis. Two quotes were present. CDS £22k and GMD £4015. It was noted that the GMD quote did not cover all the work for the cemetery extension. There was concern about the unknown costs. It was agreed to accept the GMD quote on the basis that the full cost of the project subject to final costs not exceeding £18k RESOLVED. The full cost of the project to be determined. **Action Clerk/Deputy Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Crawford  
SECONDED BY Councillor Gilhome

It was RESOLVED that the GMD quote be accepted

**30. Thames Water consultation on the proposed South East Strategic Reservoir Option.**

The deadline was the end of July. The planning committee was to consider a response.

**Action: Planning Committee**

**31. District County Councillors' reports.**

It was reported that All Vale staff were working on the elections. There had been a meeting about the Larkhill cycle track. Cllr Hannaby to circulate the slides from the meeting along with an update from the County CEO. **Action: Hannaby**

**32. Town Mayor's Communications.**

Nothing to report. The D Day issued had already been covered.

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**33. Civic Visit to Seesen.**

Five people had registered to attend. Cllr Hannaby to look at other people who may be interested in attending.

**Action: Hannaby**

The meeting closed 21.15pm

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