

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE
COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY,
WANTAGE, ON MONDAY 15 JULY 2024 AT 7.30PM

Committee members Present: Councillors A Crawford (Chair), I Cameron, K Morris, C Walters,
A Duveen, S Third, A Menzies, E Johnson, V Wright, J Hannaby,
A Dunford (Mayor), Sheryl Sanders

Others present: A Yates & 1 member of the public

Clerk: J Evans

Apologies for absence: Councillors P Kirby-Harris, T Gilhome, L Todd, P O'Leary

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

None.

15. To approve the minutes of the meeting held 10 June 2024.

Approved and signed

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Third
SECONDED BY CLLR Wright
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be approved and signed

16. Statements and questions from the public.

None

17. Matters arising from the minutes:

a) Update re community bus service working group.

Two public meetings had been held. They were not well attended but there was some useful input. The next stage is to define a bus route and advertise this. It was suggested that social media could be useful for this. It was also suggested that Vale Community Impact could help with this especially for those who did not use social media. The S106 agreement had not yet been approved.

b) Asset of Community Value - Wantage Community Hospital and allotment sites. c/f

18. Briefings by applicants for donations and grants

a) Wantage Dickensian evening

Ms Lewis-Pride was unable to attend.

b) Issie Winter Productions for Legends of White Horse Project

Written details on the project were handed out. The aim was to involve local people and local venues. Children would be able to participate in the development of the production via workshops held at local schools. A Regional tour was to take place next year. They hoped to partner with the Town Council to support the project. It was an ambitious project, but a number of contingency plans were in place.

Policy

19. To review and approve the Financial Regulations.

The proposal for 3-year budget forecast was agreed as was the extension of delegated authority to the Deputy clerk. A new paragraph was to be included: consider the climate emergency when making spending decisions. Clerk to draft a statement for approval.

Document to be amended and taken to full council for approval.

Action: Clerk

20. To consider a request to hold a 1940's day in the Market Place (a non-council event).

There were two issues – whether people can use our land and organisational issues such as responsibility for road closures. It was felt that this sort of event would be better in Manor Road Park. There was a detailed discussion. The applicant was to be informed that the Council was reviewing the use of the market place and suggest that either the West End or the Park be used for the event, however more detail was required. A policy on the third-party use of the market place was to be drafted. This needed to include a statement on limited road closures. It was proposed that the council only permits its own four events and the three historic events in the market place. There were 8 votes in favour. Motion carried.

Action: Clerk/Deputy Clerk

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Dunford

SECONDED BY CLLR Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Council only permits its four events and three historic events in the market place.

Management and Finance

21. To receive the finance report.

Received and noted.

22. Accounts for Payment.

Received and noted.

23. To review the Barclaycard payments for April and May.

Received and noted.

Confidential items

24. Grant application requests

a) Additional donation for Wantage Town Football Club

AC left the room. £2950 requested. JH made a statement and then left the room.

Following discussion two proposals were put forward. Cllr Wright proposed deferring the decision until there had been further clarification of the outstanding matters. Cllr Walters seconded. There were 3 votes in favour and 3 against. Cllr Johnson proposed awarding the requested funds subject to the conditions outlined at the last meeting being met and confirmation sent to the Clerk. Cllr Menzies seconded. There were 4 votes in favour and 2 against. Motion carried.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Johnson

SECONDED BY CLLR Menzies

IT WAS RESOLVED that requested funds are awarded subject to the conditions outlined in the last meeting being met and confirmation sent to the Clerk.

b) Wantage Dickensian evening

£1080 requested for security. This was approved. To come from the annual grant, not an extra sum.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Wright

SECONDED BY CLLR Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED that the requested funds for security be granted from the annual grant

c) Izzie Winter Productions

£1495 requested. The committee was impressed by the presentation given. However, backing from local schools and the museum were considered important. The decision was deferred. The applicant was to be encouraged to approach surrounding parishes for funding, make contact with the museum and to come back with detailed proposals for Wantage schools. The council supported the endeavour and would support a grant application if these conditions were met

25. To consider the appointment of a Town Crier

This was a voluntary position. To be taken to full council. Clerk to establish where the Town Crier's suit is and the cost of replacement/amendment. **Action: Clerk**

26. Grove Street traffic monitoring – next steps

Data from the OCC survey had been circulated.

CLlr Crawford proposed that the width and length restrictions be made mandatory and the County Council be asked to install stanchions on either side of the road to protect the buildings. **Action: Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Crawford

SECONDED BY CLLR Johnson

IT WAS RESOLVED that width and length restrictions are made mandatory and that OCC are asked to install stanchions. **Action: Clerk**

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

Discussion took place. It was agreed to hold an extraordinary confidential meeting on 19th August. Clerk to arrange.

Mtg closed @ 21.31pm