

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2023, AT 7.30PM

Councillors present: Councillor A Dunford (Town Mayor)  
Councillors I Cameron, A Crawford, R Fitzjohn, J Hannaby, P Kirby-Harris, S Third, L Todd, C Walters, V Wright

Others present:

Clerk: J Evans

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Gilhome, E Johnson and A C Menzies.

**Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and nonregistrable interests**

None.

**37. To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 31 July 2023**

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

The minutes were signed.

**38. Statements and Questions from the public**

None.

**39. Matters arising from the Council meeting held on 31 July 2023**

None.

**40. Endorsement of the Vale and Downland Museum application for the release of S106 funds.**

The funds were for improvements to the museum, including the reception desk, shop and café. A full proposal would follow on from the design stage. A copy of the application to be sent to the Cabinet Member for finance. **Action: Cameron**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Dunford  
SECONDED BY Councillor Crawford  
IT WAS RESOLVED to support the application for the release of S106 funds for museum improvements.

**41. Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 21 August, 4 September and 25 September 2023**

The minutes were received.  
ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Hannaby  
SECONDED BY Councillor Walters  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

**42. Minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 18 September 2023**

A meeting was to be arranged to resolve the allotment issues. **Action: Hannaby**  
There had been a great deal of correspondence regarding the proposed public toilets at Kingsgrove. The Vale planning committee to be made aware that there were other toilets in the vicinity. **Action: Crawford**

Work on the Changing Places facility had started and was on target.  
A discussion with OCC was required regarding trees in the Marketplace. **Action: Hannaby**  
Discussions were underway with the Vale about the new learner pool and decarbonization work.  
The cemetery extension was awaiting information from the Environment Agency. Options for a new notice board in the cemetery were presented. The man-made option was dismissed. Oak and aluminium were considered.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Hannaby  
SECONDED BY Councillor Todd  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the aluminium notice board be purchased. The minutes were adopted.

**43. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on the 2 October 2023**

A survey was to go out to the business in the west end area to get a better understanding of their needs and to seek confirmation that they were in favour of pedestrianisation. The situation regarding the taxi rank was to be clarified with the Vale. **Action: Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Dunford  
SECONDED BY Councillor Fitzjohn  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

**44. Minutes of the Promotion, Communication and Events Committee meeting held on 9 October 2023**

The welcome pack was to be reviewed. Feedback from the food festival had been good; another one was being planned for 2024. The Mayor was to open AlfredFest on 28 October at 10am. Road Closures had been planned for the Christmas Market and the Ray Collins event next year. The purchase of more Love Wantage bags had been approved. The quiz evening was a great success. The organisers were thanked.

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

**45. District and County Councillors' reports**

County Council

Children's services needed to be reviewed. The first budget meeting was due to be held shortly. The new living wage would have an impact on all OCC budgets.

District Council

The budget setting process had started. No significant budget cuts were anticipated. The Joint Local Plan was close to consultation. The waste contract would expire shortly; there

was to be a short extension but it would be going out to tender. The lease on the Culham depot was coming to an end.

**46. Town Mayor's communications**

The Town Mayor reported on events and activities that she had attended.

Report on Boundary Changes

A summary of the report had been circulated. The report related to the County but would have consequences for Wantage. There had not been any local representation in the development of the proposals. The consultation on the report was open until December. A meeting was to be set up to develop a response. Cllr Cameron to lead. **Action: Cameron**

**CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

**47. Request for funding from the Dickensian evening.**

£1820 was requested for event marshalling. It was suggested that a local organisation be used for this in future.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Dunford

SECONDED BY Councillor Crawford

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Town Council engages the event marshals on behalf of the Dickensian evening.

**48. Confidential Minutes of Policy Management and Finance Committee meeting held on the 2 October 2023**

31 Grants and donations

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Dunford

SECONDED BY Councillor Crawford

IT WAS RESOLVED that the grant and donation awards be approved.

32 Open Spaces at Kingsgrove

An amendment to the minutes was proposed:

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 Modwens to consider whether there were other areas of open space that the Council might wish to adopt.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Crawford

SECONDED BY Councillor Dunford

IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted subject to the amendment above.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.