

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE  
COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY,  
WANTAGE, ON MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM

Committee members Present: Councillors A Crawford (Chair), I Cameron, J Hannaby, A Menzies,  
K Morris, S Third, L Todd, C Walters

Others present: 3 members of the public

Clerk: J Evans

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors P Kirby-Harris, A Dunford, E Johnson

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

JH – October club, CW – Wantage Choral society, AC- Wantage FB club

**28. To approve the minutes of the meeting held 15 July 2024.**

Approved and signed

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Third

SECONDED BY CLLR Cameron

IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be approved and signed

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

None

**30. Matters arising from the minutes:**

- a) Update re community bus service working group.  
The S106 funds had been approved. The legal agreement will take a few weeks.  
Another meeting was to be arranged with OCC transport group. Work on the route was progressing.
- b) Asset of Community Value - Wantage Community Hospital and allotment sites.  
The applications for Wantage Community Hospital and Grove Road allotments had been submitted. The application for Larkhill allotments was ready. The officer had requested a meeting and wanted to have at least one Councillor present. Awaiting a date for the meeting

**31. Briefings by applicants for donations and grants**

- a) Home Start Southern Oxfordshire – not present
- b) Sweatbox  
Demand for their services had increased. They are supporting a wider range of people. They had not yet applied for charity status for a number of reasons. It was suggested that a different approach might be needed. Questions were asked about other support that they received. They were unable to access the S106 funding for youth facilities from Grove airfield.
- c) Amegos Theatre  
They were grateful for the support they had received so far. They were requesting a more modest amount this time as they had managed to reduce production costs.

- d) Wantage Twinning  
JH declared an interest. The association needs younger, more active members. The funding request was for a campaign to attract new members.

### Policy

#### **32. To review and approve the Grants Policy**

The document had been circulated. It was noted that there was a word missing from 5.6. It was felt that Section 5.5 should have more prominence and include a summary to set out key points. The section on VAT recovery was to be removed. It was agreed that minor changes could be made to the document by Chair & Vice-Chair of PMF. The Clerk suggested only considering grants at specific times of the year. It was agreed that they would be three times per year and applications would need to be in 14 days before a meeting. The policy was adopted subject to minor amendments.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Crawford

SECONDED BY CLLR Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED that the policy be adopted subject to minor amendments

### Management and Finance

#### **33. To receive the income & expenditure report.**

The TCM cost centre was to be removed. No other comments.

#### **34. To receive the Financial Report for the Wantage Arts Festival.**

Unspent funds were to be carried forward to next year. AC to consider what information should be presented in future.

**Action: A Crawford**

#### **35. Accounts for payment.**

Received and noted.

#### **36. To review the Barclaycard Statement for September.**

Received and noted.

#### **37. To appoint the internal auditor for 2024/25.**

Lightatouch was appointed on a 3-year fixed price agreement.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Cameron

SECONDED BY CLLR Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED that Lightatouch be appointed as internal auditors on a 3-year fixed term basis.

#### **38. To review the draft PM&F budget for 2025/26 and financial forecast for the following three years.**

The Dickensian grant was to be reduced to £1.5k and the Museum grant to £24k. Wantage Silver band was to be given as a one-off payment in 25/26 and reviewed in future years. Clerk to inform them.

**Action: Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Crawford

SECONDED BY CLLR Walters

IT WAS RESOLVED to reduce the Dickensian grant to £15k, reduce Museum grant to £24k and make a one-off grant to Wantage Silver Band in 25/26 to be reviewed in future years.

**Confidential items**

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Crawford  
SECONDED BY CLLR Cameron  
IT WAS RESOLVED to move to confidential session

AC left the room. There was a debate over the grant to WTFC. It was agreed to include the grant for 25/26 but WTFC would need to apply for it and explain what the funds were for.

It was agreed that the grant would be included for 25/26 only, but WTFC would need to apply for it and explain what it was needed for. CW left the meeting. AC returned.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Cameron  
SECONDED BY CLLR Hannaby  
IT WAS RESOLVED that WTFC need to apply for further funds and explain what the funds are needed for.

**39. Grant application requests**

- a) **Wantage Choral Society**  
£500 requested. The application was refused.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Todd  
SECONDED BY CLLR Crawford  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the request from Wantage Choral Society be refused

- b) **Wantage Art Group**  
£500 requested. Approved.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Hannaby  
SECONDED BY CLLR Menzies  
IT WAS RESOLVED that £500 grant to Wantage Art Group was approved.

- c) **Amegos Theatre**  
£400 requested. Approved.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Crawford  
SECONDED BY CLLR Todd  
IT WAS RESOLVED that £500 grant to Amegos Theatre was approved.

- d) **Home Start Southern Oxfordshire**  
£2000 requested. There was concern that their activities might overlap with GRoW.  
£1000 approved.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Crawford  
SECONDED BY CLLR Todd  
IT WAS RESOLVED that £1000 grant to Home Start Southern Oxfordshire was approved.

- e) **Sweatbox (additional grant)**  
£15000 requested. They had already received £15750. It was not clear what the funding was for. It was suggested that a meeting with the school was required. £10k was approved subject to a meeting with the school.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Hannaby

SECONDED BY CLLR Menzies

IT WAS RESOLVED that £10k grant to Sweatbox was approved subject to meeting with the school.

**f) Wantage and Grove Twinning Association**

£675 requested.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Cameron

SECONDED BY CLLR Crawford

IT WAS RESOLVED that £675 grant to Wantage and Grove Twinning Association be approved.

**40. Grove Street traffic monitoring – next steps**

No update from OCC. Clerk to chase.

**Action: Clerk**

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

No update – Clerk to chase.

**Action: Clerk**

**42. Reservoir consultation**

WTC were omitted from the formal notification. The Planning committee had produced a response, and KM had added to it. IC suggested that this be submitted.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF CLLR Crawford

SECONDED BY CLLR Hannaby

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Planning Committee response be submitted

**43. Kingsgrove Easement**

JH was unhappy with the situation and wanted to see what benefit the town would receive.

There was a discussion on why it was necessary. Awaiting receipt of documents.

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Meeting closed @ 21.56