

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PROMOTION, COMMUNICATION AND EVENTS
COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON,
PORTWAY, ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 PM**

Committee members present: Councillors T Gilhome (Chair) and P Kirby-Harris

Substitute committee members: Councillors K Morris and S Third

In attendance: Deputy Clerk (DC) S Sanders
Town Centre Manager (TCM) A Yates

25. Apologies for absence.

Councillors A Crawford, A Dunford and V Wright

26. Declaration of disposable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-registrable interests.

None

27. To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held 7 October 2024.

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.

28. Statements and questions from the public.

None.

29. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

None

30. To receive the income and expenditure report

Members noted the report dated 12/11/24

31. To agree the budget for 2025/26

The proposed budget had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Gilhome

SECONDED BY Councillor Third

IT WAS RESOLVED TO agree the budget as proposed, for agreement at the council meeting on 2 December 2024.

32. Events 24/25

a) To review the remaining planned events for 2024

Christmas market 1 December 2024.

Carols around the Christmas tree 24 December 2024 – it was noted that last year buses were idling their engines during the service. Bus operators to be asked to turn engines off if waiting at the stops without passengers boarding.

Action: DC

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b) **To receive feedback from the Alfred Fest event 26 October 2024**

It was noted that once the mass and WSB had finished, the event was quiet. There were not many spectators for The Vale Islanders. It was felt that the event would be better held on a Sunday. TCM to suggest this to the vicar of Wantage. The cost of the event was £550. **Action: TCM**

c) **To receive feedback from the French Market held 8 November 2024**

The market was small with not many traders attending. It was hoped that France at Home would attend the planned food festival in July 2025.

d) **To consider if the St George's Day event planned for 27 April 2025 should proceed.**

ON THE PROPOSITION OF Councillor Gilhome
SECONDED BY Councillor Kirby-Harris

IT WAS RESOLVED TO cancel the event due to the VE Day event being held two weeks after the planned date.

e) **To receive an update on the preparations for VE Day event 11 May 2025 and consider any recommendations from the events working group.**

The theme for the event is to be a 1940s street party. The Wantage Big Band, Vintage Sweethearts, and a swing music band had been booked. It is hoped that Swing Dance Summertown could attend to perform and give Lindy Hop dance lessons. There were more acts to be booked. The PA system and stage had not been booked. There would not be any food stalls. Local businesses would be encouraged to provide food and drink in the market place.

33. To receive items for the next newsletter

The next newsletter was due to be published in March 2025. There were no suggestions for any articles.

34. Agenda items for the next meeting

There were no items to be added. Next meeting to be held 3 February 2025

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.
