



WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL

Council Office, The Beacon, Wantage, OX12 9BX

Town Clerk: Julia Evans 01235 763459

www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of Wantage Town Council meeting held on 10 February 2025 at 7.30pm in
The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BX
The minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting

Councillors Present:

A Dunford (Chair) | Cameron (Vice Chair), A Crawford, J Hannaby, E Johnson, A Menzies, K Morris, S Third, L Todd, C Walters, V Wright

In attendance:

Town Clerk: Julia Evans

		ACTION
88	Apologies for Absence Cllrs: T Gilhome, P Kirby Harris	
89	Declarations of Interest None	
90	Statements & Questions from the Public None	
91	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2024 and consider matters arising The minutes were approved Proposed: Cllr Dunford Seconded: Cllr Third Resolved The minutes were signed a) Palm Sunday Event The Church did not want a road closure but wanted to hold the event in the market place. This would incur a cost of approx. £100 to have barriers etc put out to close the car park. There was no reply to the request for information on the Good Friday plans. There was no objection to the event in the market place, but the Church would need to pay the costs. Proposed: Cllr Dunford Seconded: Cllr Walters RESOLVED. b) Sweatbox meeting. The school wanted to know what the council wanted to discuss before they would consider a meeting. The Council wanted to understand financial arrangements going forward. This was related to funding and their request for more money. The Council had asked whether they had considered charitable status, and this was to be discussed.	
92	To receive and note the minutes of the following committees: a) Climate Emergency 6 January Received and noted.	

		ACTION
	<p>b) Health 9 January – verbal update Confidential papers were discussed, as was Health Day which was to be advertised in the newsletter. Extra funding for the hospital was available. Contractors were likely to start work in July. The committee would be looking at dentistry next.</p> <p>c) Leisure & Amenities 13 January Received and noted.</p> <p>d) Planning 20 January Received and noted</p> <p>e) Policy, Management & Finance 27 January Received and noted.</p> <p>f) Promotion, Communication & Events 3 February Received and noted</p>	
93	<p>To approve the spend against the VE Day event budget as agreed at the PC&E committee meeting held on 3 February 2025 The total cost was £9415. This was approved. Proposed: Cllr Dunford Seconded: Cllr Johnson RESOLVED</p>	
94	<p>To consider the Financial Statements for January 2025 Proposed: Cllr Dunford Seconded: Cllr Wright Resolved</p>	
95	<p>To sign the easement agreement for the Kingsgrove SW outfall There was a discussion on the payment to OCC. It was suggested that they be asked to ensure the funds are used for maintenance in Wantage. The funds should be about maintenance. The easement deed was approved. Proposed: Cllr Dunford Seconded: Cllr Cameron RESOLVED The deed was signed.</p>	
96	<p>To sign the wayleave consent for an electricity supply to Flat 1, 11-12 Market Place, across the VC Forecourt There was concern about cutting into heritage slabs and about reinstating the setts. A statement was required in the document to protect the heritage slabs. Document to be revised and brought to the next meeting.</p>	Clerk
97	<p>To receive an update on the appointment of the Town Crier</p> <p>a) Responsibilities - These needed to be defined. A job description had been sent to the Clerk. It was suggested that it would be acceptable to take bookings, but Town Council events must take priority. Bookings should not be for commercial purposes; they must have a local connection, and any funds received should go to the mayor's charity fund. Clerk to create a job description.</p> <p>b) Membership of the Ancient and Honourable guild of Town Criers. This was approved. The mayor to write a letter confirming his position.</p> <p>c) Town Crier competitions. It was agreed that Wantage could be put forward to host one/some of the Town Crier competitions organised by the guild.</p>	Clerk Mayor

		ACTION
	<p>d) Email address - this was approved.</p> <p>e) Business cards - the Council wanted to understand what they would be used for and whether there was an expectation of payment for private work. Clerk to establish this. To be put on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
98	<p>To ratify the appointment of the Town Market Manager and the Communications Officer</p> <p>Ratified.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Dunford</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr Walters</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
99	<p>To consider a pendant for the Deputy Mayor's Chain</p> <p>The mayor's pendant was to be sent for repair. Cllr A Dunford and Cllr Cameron to finalise the design. Approval was given for the repair to the mayor's pendant and a replacement pendant for the Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Dunford</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr Wright</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	<p>Cllrs Dunford & Cameron</p>
100	<p>District and County Council Reports</p> <p>a) District Council report - The Vale Budget was to be agreed this week. There was no information about the proposed local government reorganisation, but the implications would be significant.</p> <p>b) County Council report – the senior leaders were talking to surrounding areas regarding local government reorganisation. The budget was to be discussed on 11th February. There would be more funds for road maintenance, flooding and social care.</p>	
101	<p>Town Mayor's Communications</p> <p>The report had been published on the website.</p>	
102	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>24 March 2025</p>	
	<p>Confidential Items</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Hannaby</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr Johnson</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
103	<p>To consider support for the press release to be issued by Grove Parish Council regarding the VWHDC Leisure Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy</p> <p>The Press release had been circulated. Representative from Grove Parish Council presented the background. It was agreed that Wantage Town Council would support the letter as stated.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Dunford</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr Hannaby</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
104	<p>Update on plans to pedestrianise the western end of the Market Place</p> <p>A verbal report was given on the meeting with local businesses hosted by OCC.</p>	

The meeting closed at: 21.12

Signed: _____ Date: _____