



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 24 March 2025 at 7.30pm in The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BX
The minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting

Councillors Present:

I Cameron (Chair), A Crawford, T Gilhome, J Hannaby, E Johnson, A Menzies, K Morris
P O'Leary, S Third & C Walters

In attendance:

Town Clerk: Julia Evans, L Brown, Communications Officer, P Watts, Market Manager
1 member of the public

		ACTION
105	Apologies for Absence Cllrs A Dunford, P Kirby-Harris, L Todd & V Wright.	
106	Declarations of Interest None	
107	<p>Statements & Questions from the Public Rules & Procedures</p> <p>a) Statements from candidates for co-option</p> <p>Mr Cunningham had sent a resume which had been circulated. Councillors asked questions pertaining to his application to join the Council.</p> <p>b) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February and consider matters arising</p> <p>The minutes were approved and signed Proposed Cllr Hannaby Seconded Cllr O'Leary. RESOLVED</p> <p>c) Request for a meeting with King Alfred's Academy</p> <p>There had been no feedback. Clerk to chase.</p> <p>d) Job Description for the Town Crier. In progress.</p> <p>e) Letter from the Mayor for the Town Crier. Completed.</p> <p>f) Email address for Town Crier. Completed.</p> <p>g) Business cards. The Town Crier had chosen a charity to donate any income to but was happy to split this with</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Closed</p> <p>Closed</p> <p>Closed</p>

		ACTION
	<p>Mayor's charity. Other staff had also requested business cards. Clerk to make the decision.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hannaby Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED</p>	
108	<p>To receive and note the minutes of the following committees:</p> <p>a) Planning – 3 March 2025 Presented & noted. Clerk to check whether the NP referendum would include whole electorate area. Approval was given to set up a Facebook account ahead of the review of the Communications Strategy in order to assist with publicity for the NP referendum.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hannaby Seconded Cllr Crawford RESOLVED</p> <p>b) Policy, Management & Finance – 10 March 2025 Presented and noted.</p> <p>c) Climate – 17 March 2025 Presented and noted</p>	Clerk
109	<p>To consider the Financial Statements for March 2025</p> <p>a) The Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet reports were received, noted and signed.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Menzies Seconded Cllr Third RESOLVED</p> <p>b) Rialtas budget. It was agreed to increase the agreed budget by £1210 to cover the new Asset module and one extra user.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded Cllr Hannaby RESOLVED</p>	
110	<p>To approve an increase to the budget for Alfredfest It was agreed to increase the budget to £4500.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Johnson RESOLVED</p>	
111	<p>To review and approve the transfers to EMR at year end The proposal was reviewed. Proposals for Manor Road park, LED displays and Climate projects were removed.</p> <p>The remaining proposals were agreed.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Crawford RESOLVED</p>	
112	<p>To note the grant payments authorised by the Climate Emergency Committee Noted</p>	

		ACTION
113	<p>To sign the wayleave consent for an electricity supply to Flat 1, 11-12 Market Place, across the VC Forecourt</p> <p>The wayleave needed to state that the heritage flags and cobbles would be replaced as they were found rather than to current standards. Any damage done to the flags or cobbles was to be replaced like for like and not with modern equivalents. Any problems with the replaced flags and cobbles were to be resolved promptly. Assurance was required that planning permission was not required since it was a conservation area. A £5k indemnity was to be requested against damage.</p>	Clerk
114	<p>To approve the Terms of Reference for the Traffic Advisory Committee</p> <p>The proposed Terms of Reference were to be changed to enable the committee to determine the time of the meeting, to change 'Council' to 'Councillors' and to clarify the reference to other officers.</p> <p>Approved subject to these amendments</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Johnson Seconded Cllr Menzies RESOLVED</p>	
115	<p>To receive an update on the pendant for the Deputy Mayor's chain</p> <p>Fattorini had been contacted. Awaiting a reply.</p>	Clerk
116	<p>District and County Council Reports</p> <p>a) District Council report – the District Council had been very involved in the reorganisation. There had been many meetings, but the way forward was still undecided. A decision would not be made by the Government until November. Work had started on the Leisure Centre.</p> <p>b) County Council report - the County Council had also been working on the reorganisation. The budget had been passed and included a significant sum for roads and flooding.</p>	
117	<p>Town Mayor's Communications</p> <p>None</p>	
118	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Annual Electorate – 24 April 2025 Annual Council meeting – 12 May 2025</p>	
	<p>Confidential Items</p> <p>Cllr Crawford proposed entering into confidential session. Cllr Third seconded RESOLVED</p>	
119	<p>To note the resolution of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 10 March 2025</p> <p>Noted</p>	
120	<p>To consider the candidates for co-option</p> <p>It was agreed to co-opt Mr Cunningham.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr O'Leary Seconded Cllr Crawford RESOLVED</p>	

		ACTION
121	Cllr Hannaby was concerned about the scope of the Town Crier's role. This would be clarified in the Job Description (minute reference 107d above).	

The meeting closed at: 9.01pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____