



WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL

Council Office, The Beacon, Wantage, OX12 9BX

Town Clerk: Julia Evans 01235 763459

www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of Policy Management & Finance meeting held on 14 April 2025 at 7.30pm
in The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BX
The minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting

Councillors Present: A Crawford (Chair), I Cameron, S Cunningham, J Hannaby, P Kirby-Harris, A Menzies, S Third, C Walters

In attendance:

Julia Evans

Town Clerk

		ACTION
96	Apologies for Absence Cllrs Dunford, Gilhome, Johnson, Morris, Todd, Wright	
97	Declarations of Interest Cllr Crawford for Wantage Literary Festival sponsorship and Public Open Spaces. Cllr Hannaby for Wantage Literary Festival sponsorship.	
98	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2025 The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting. The minutes were signed. PROPOSED BY Cllr Walters SECONDED BY Cllr Cameron RESOLVED	
99	Statements & Questions from the Public a) Applications in support of their grant request: i. Youth Challenge Oxfordshire They had started a new youth group in Wantage in January for young people aged 13-21. They helped young people overcome their issues and boost their confidence. Councillors asked questions about the work of the organisation. ii. Amegos Theatre The Theatre had been running for 13 years, and they stage 2 shows per year. All their funding comes from ticket sales and show fees, plus grants and advertising. A musical costs £10-12k to stage. iii. The Abingdon Bridge The Council was thanked for their support last year. WTC was the first Council to help them and it had led to other support. They supported 45 people on a 1-1 basis last	

	<p>year in Wantage and will be supporting more in the coming year.</p> <p>All applicants were thanked for attending.</p> <p>b) Presentation by Barry Gooch on flood mitigation It was noted that no council in Britain was prepared for future changes in the weather due to climate change. His group was looking into flooding. Parish Councils from surrounding area were members of the group. They were building a model of the brook to understand what was happening. They had discovered that the monitor gauges on the brook were broken but the Environment Agency did not have the funding to replace them and they were looking for grants for this. They will be asking parishes for feedback on the flood maps and were hoping to get parliament to make changes at national level. It was suggested that the Town Council set up a flooding sub-committee and it was felt that this should sit under the Climate Committee.</p> <p>Mr Gooch was thanked for attending.</p>	Full Council
100	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>a) Update re community bus service working group A meeting had been held with OCC. A map of the route was published in the newsletter. The Timetable has been agreed. The next step was to purchase a bus and engage drivers.</p> <p>b) Asset of Community Value – Wantage Community Hospital and allotment sites Work on the allotment sites was in progress. It was agreed to remove the hospital from the agenda.</p>	Deputy Clerk
Policy		
101	<p>Update on the draft Emergency Plan Clerk to liaise with OCC and look at other council's plans. Officers were to take ownership of this. C Walters and J Hannaby offered to help.</p>	Clerk
102	<p>To consider proposals to take on the management of public open space at Kingsgrove A Crawford left the room. S Third took the Chair. A meeting had been held with St Modwen. I Cameron explained the extent of the space to be considered. There was S106 funding available to support the maintenance. Areas of responsibility were to be defined. It was proposed that the Clerk be authorised to enter into negotiations with the Vale and St Modwen.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED</p> <p>A Crawford returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.</p>	

Management & Finance		
103	To receive the income and expenditure report Reviewed and noted	
104	To review and sign the accounts for payment Reviewed and approved. The Accounts for payment list was signed. Proposed Cllr Kirby-Harris Seconded Cllr Cameron RESOLVED	
105	To sign the bank reconciliation statements Reviewed and approved. The bank reconciliation statements were signed. Proposed Cllr Hannaby Seconded Cllr Menzies RESOLVED	
106	To review the Barclaycard statement for March Reviewed and noted.	
107	Date of next meeting 2 June 2025	
Confidential Items		
108	<p>To consider the following grant applications:</p> <p>a) Youth Challenge Oxfordshire Requested £2k, full amount awarded.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Kirby-Harris Seconded Cllr Hannaby RESOLVED</p> <p>b) Amegos Theatre £1330 requested, full amount awarded.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hannaby Seconded Cllr Kirby-Harris RESOLVED</p> <p>c) Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue No specific amount requested. Refused.</p> <p>d) The Abingdon Bridge Requested £5k, full amount awarded.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Walters Seconded Menzies RESOLVED</p> <p>e) Wantage Arts Festival Requested £1k. This was already included in the budget</p> <p>f) Dickensian Evening</p>	

	<p>It was agreed that the Town Council would book the security.</p> <p>g) Wantage Literary Festival Cllrs Crawford and Hannaby left the meeting. Cllr Third took the Chair. Gold sponsorship was agreed.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Menzies Seconded Kirby-Harris RESOLVED</p> <p>Cllrs Crawford and Hannaby returned. Cllr Crawford resumed the Chair.</p> <p>h) WARP £500 requested. Refused.</p> <p>i) Orchard Counselling It was noted that the organisation had moved to Swindon. It was not clear whether they supported people in Wantage. £2k was requested. Refused.</p>	<p>Deputy Clerk</p>
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The meeting closed at: 21.10

Signed: _____

Date: _____