



## WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL

Council Office, The Beacon, Wantage, OX12 9BX

Town Clerk: Julia Evans 01235 763459

[www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk)

Minutes of Wantage Town Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 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, S Cunningham, A Dunford, J Hannaby, P Kirby-Harris, E Johnson, A Menzies, K Morris, S Third, L Todd, C Walters (Deputy Mayor), V Wright.

### Others Present:

E Bold, L Downes, T Kershaw, D Farrant, J Sibbald, S Sanders, A Sweeney

### In attendance:

Julia Evans

Town Clerk

1 member of the public

		ACTION
1	<b>Election of Town Mayor</b> Cllr Cameron was nominated. Proposed Cllr Todd Seconded Cllr Johnson RESOLVED. Cllr Dunford thanked Cllr Cameron for his work as Deputy Mayor. All Councillors were thanked for their support over the last two years. Devon Farrant (Army Cadet) and Jacob Topping (air cadet) were thanked.	
2	<b>Declaration of Acceptance of Office</b> Cllr Cameron signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Town Mayor and took the Chair. Cllr Dunford was thanked for her work as Mayor and was presented with a bouquet of flowers.	
3	<b>Election of Deputy Mayor</b> Cllr Walters was nominated. Proposed Cllr Menzies Seconded Cllr Hannaby RESOLVED.	
4	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Councillor Gilhome	
5	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None	
6	<b>Statements &amp; Questions from the Public</b> None	

7	<p><b>Appointment of Mayor's cadets</b> Devon Farrant was reappointed as Mayor's Army Cadet. Jacob Topping was reappointed as Mayor's Air Cadet. Both Cadets will accompany the Mayor at the D Day commemoration on 7<sup>th</sup> June.</p>	
	<p><b>Confidential Session</b> Cllr Dunford proposed entering into confidential session. Cllr Johnson seconded. RESOLVED The members of the public left the meeting.</p>	
8	<p><b>Update from OCC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) An update was given on the status of the western end. Approval was given to proceed with the OCC recommendation. Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded Cllr Wright RESOLVED. Mr Sweeney was thanked for his work on this.</li> <li>b) An update was given on the status of the Market Place improvement project. It was hoped that formal engagement would begin before the summer holidays. Mr Sweeney to work with the Communications Officer to publicise this and to include an item in the next newsletter.</li> </ul>	Andy Sweeney/ Louise Brown
9	<p><b>Draft lease for The Beacon</b> Cllr Crawford declared an interest and left the room. Cllr Todd left the meeting. A working group was to be set up to discuss this matter. Cllrs Cunningham, Dunford, Hannaby and Kirby-Harris volunteered to make up the group. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor also volunteered to attend. Clerk to arrange a meeting. Cllr Crawford returned.</p>	Clerk
	<p><b>The confidential session ended.</b> Members of the public returned.</p>	
10	<p><b>Appointment of members to standing committees and the election of chairs and vice-chairs.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Planning committee. Cllr Johnson – Chair, Cllr Cameron – Vice-Chair, Cllr Crawford, Gilhome, Menzies, Morris, Third. Substitutes: Cllrs Kirby-Harris and Wright.</li> <li>b) Leisure and Amenities committee. Cllr Hannaby – Chair, Cllr Third – Vice-Chair, Cllrs Cunningham, Menzies, O'Leary, Todd, Walters. Substitutes: Cllrs Dunford, Kirby-Harris and Morris.</li> <li>c) Promotion, Communication and Events committee. Cllr Gilhome, Chair, Cllr Wright - Vice-Chair, Cllrs Crawford, Dunford and Kirby-Harris. Substitutes: Cllrs Hannaby, Third and Walters.</li> <li>d) Policy, Management and Finance Committee. Cllr Crawford – Chair, Cllr Third – Vice-Chair, all other Councillors to be members.</li> <li>e) Health Committee. Cllr Hannaby – Chair, Cllr Wright – Vice-Chair, Cllrs Cunningham, Morris, Walters. Substitutes: Cllr Todd and one vacancy.</li> <li>f) Climate Emergency Committee. Cllr Wright – Chair, Cllr Kirby-Harris – Vice-Chair, Cllrs Dunford, Johnson, Morris, Walters. Substitutes: Cllrs Crawford and Third.</li> <li>g) Staffing Committee. Cllr Cameron – Chair, Cllr Crawford – Vice-Chair, Cllrs Gilhome, Hannaby, Johnson. Substitute: Cllr Walters.</li> </ul> <p>All the above appointments were Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Crawford RESOLVED.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h) Traffic Advisory Committee. Cllr Hannaby – Chair, Cllr Cameron – Vice-Chair, Cllrs Gilhome, Third.</li> <li>i) Community Bus Working group. This group was no longer required.</li> </ul> <p>Items h) and j) above were Proposed Cllr Cameron</p>	

	Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED.	
11	<p><b>Appointment of representatives on other bodies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Trustee of Vale and Downland Museum (Wantage) – Cllr Cameron</li> <li>b) Letcombe Brook Project – Cllrs Cunningham and Gilhome</li> <li>c) Vale Community Impact – Cllr Walters</li> <li>d) Parish Transport Representative – Cllr Cunningham</li> <li>e) Executive Committee of Wantage and Grove Twinning Association – Cllr Hannaby</li> <li>f) Dickensian Evening Working Party – Cllrs Gilhome, Hannaby, Third</li> <li>g) Friends of Sweatbox – Cllr Kirby-Harris</li> <li>h) Wantage and Grove Community Led Children’s Services – Cllr Walter</li> <li>i) Trustee of Robert Stiles Almshouses – Cllr Cunningham</li> <li>j) Flood Mitigation Working Party – Cllrs Cameron, Hannaby, Morris, Third, Walters</li> </ul> <p>All the above were Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded by Cllr Dunford RESOLVED.</p>	
12	<p><b>Flood Mitigation Working Group</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the group would report into the Climate Emergency Committee. Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Dunford RESOLVED.</p> <p>The next meeting would be at the end of May. A public meeting was suggested in July.</p>	
13	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March were approved. Proposed Cllr Menzies Seconded Cllr Walter RESOLVED.</p> <p>The minute were signed. Matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Meeting with KA’s – carried forward</li> <li>b) Town Crier job description. Approved. Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr Kirby-Harris RESOLVED.</li> <li>c) Mayor’s pendant and chain, and Deputy Mayor’s pendant. Clerk to send designs to the Deputy Mayor. Clasp on Mayor’s pendant to be fixed if the pendant was to be refurbished. Cllr Dunford’s name to be added to the Mayor’s chain.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>CLOSED</p> <p>Clerk</p>
14	<p><b>Minutes and notes of Committees</b></p> <p>The minutes of the following committee were received and noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Leisure and Amenities – 31<sup>st</sup> March.</li> <li>b) Promotion, Communication &amp; Events – 7<sup>th</sup> April</li> <li>c) Traffic Advisory – 10<sup>th</sup> April</li> <li>d) Policy, Management and Finance – 14<sup>th</sup> April</li> </ul>	
15	<p><b>Financial Statements and bank reconciliation at 31 March 2025.</b></p> <p>It was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting when the Annual Governance and Accounting Statement was to be reviewed. Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr Cameron RESOLVED.</p>	Clerk
16	<b>Financial Statement for April 2025</b>	

	Reviewed and approved. Proposed Cllr Wright Seconded Cllr Crawford RESOLVED.	
17	<b>Review of Council's bank accounts.</b> It was agreed to carry this forward to the next meeting. Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED.	Clerk
18	<b>Council's insurance policy</b> The Clerk was given authority to select the insurer, with a maximum cost of the current insurer's renewal quote. Authority was also given to enter into a Long Term Agreement. Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Dunford RESOLVED.	Clerk
19	<b>To sign the wayleave consent for an electricity supply to flat 1, 11-12 Market Place, across the VC Forecourt.</b> A letter had been received from SSE's Solicitor which covered the Council's requirements. The wayleave was agreed subject to the contents of the letter, which was to form part of the legal agreement. Proposed Cllr Walters Seconded Cllr Johnson RESOLVED. The wayleave was signed.	CLOSED
20	<b>Communications Strategy</b> BlueSky was to be added to the strategy, which was approved subject to this addition. Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr Johnson RESOLVED.	CLOSED
21	<b>Cemetery Expansion Project</b> An update on the project and the costs was given. S106 funds would not be available until the project was closer to the planning application stage. It was agreed to go ahead with the RIBA stages 1 and 2 using CIL funds, applying for S106 funds at RIBA stage 3. Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr Crawford RESOLVED.	Clerk
22	<b>District and County Council reports</b> It was reported that the District was focussing on reorganisation. Cllrs Hanna and Hannaby had been re-elected as County Council members.	
23	<b>Town Mayor's Communications</b> The Town Mayor' report had been circulated. A Freedom Plaque and Pride of Wantage had been presented. To be included in the next newsletter. Recipients to be asked if they are happy for their names to be published.	Comms Officer
24	<b>Date of next meeting</b> Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025	

The meeting closed at: 21.01

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_