



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 23 June 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, S Cunningham, A Dunford, J Hannaby, E Johnson, P Kirby-Harris, A Menzies, K Morris, P O’Leary, S Third, L Todd

In attendance:

Town Clerk: Julia Evans, E Johnson

Others present:

PC Jez Oldroyd, 1 member of the public

		ACTION
25	Apologies for Absence Cllrs T Gilhome, C Walters	
26	Declarations of Interest None	
27	Statements & Questions from the Public Rules & Procedures None a) Applicant for co-option to speak in support of their application Mr Arnold gave a brief introduction. Members of the Council asked him questions. Cllrs Crawford and Cameron voiced their support for his application. b) Introduction from PC Oldroyd PC.Oldroyd introduced himself as the new PC for the area. He outlined the local team. Another PCSO will join in August, and another PC is also due. A community survey has been developed and there will be a roadshow in each village in the neighbourhood area. The results will point to the things that need to be focussed on. Members of the council asked questions about various Policing matters. PC Oldroyd was thanked for attending.	
28	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2025 and consider matters arising It was noted that there was a missing S from Cllr Walters name. This was amended by hand. The minutes were approved and signed. Proposed Cllr Johnson Seconded Cllr Menzies RESOLVED	

		ACTION
	<p>a) Meeting with KA's There had been no response. Cllr Kirby-Harris agreed to chase this. The importance of a meeting was stressed. Cllr Kirby-Harris has a school event in 2nd week of September and he asked if other Councillors would be interested in attending. Cllr Kirby-Harris to set up a timetable and circulate to members.</p> <p>b) Mayor's pendant and chain and Deputy Mayor's pendant Information had been sent to Fattorini. Clerk to check when the regalia can be sent off to them.</p>	<p>Cllr Kirby-Harris</p> <p>Clerk</p>
29	<p>To receive and note the minutes of the following committees</p> <p>a) Leisure & Amenities – 19 May 2025 - Noted</p> <p>b) Health – 21 May & 18 June 2025 A hospital visit was planned on 24th June. A letter had been received about a delay to the hospital improvement project. The end date would now be Spring 26. The minutes were noted</p> <p>c) Policy, Management & Finance – 2 June 2025 - Noted</p> <p>d) Planning – 2 June 2025 – WTC will need to respond to JLP. The Neighbourhood Plan has been made. The minutes were noted.</p> <p>e) Promotion, Communication & Events – 9 June – Noted</p> <p>f) Climate – 16 June 2025 – Request for an additional meeting in November. The committee would like to liaise with the flood group. It was noted that the immediate flood items related to planning. Cllr Morris to update the tree spreadsheet and look into tree mapping.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Morris</p>
30	<p>To receive the internal audit report for 2024/2025 Received and noted</p>	
31	<p>To review and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 Approved. Proposed Cllr Kirby-Harris Seconded Cllr Hannaby RESOLVED</p>	
32	<p>To review and approve the Annual Accounting Statement for 2024/2025 Approved Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded Cllr Cameron RESOLVED</p>	
33	<p>To agree the dates for the period of electors rights 25th June to 5th August was agreed. Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr O'Leary RESOLVED</p>	
34	<p>To consider the Financial Statements for May 2025 Received and signed Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr Cameron</p>	

		ACTION
	RESOLVED	
35	<p>To approve changes to the TAC Terms of Reference A member of active travel was to be included on the committee.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Johnson Seconded Cllr Kirby-Harris RESOLVED</p>	
36	<p>To approve the VC Forecourt Policy The policy had been agreed at L&A. A number of issues were raised: it had been previously agreed that political groups would be permitted; religious groups should be allowed; businesses should be allowed. It was agreed to review and ask Councillors for their views on the type of use. It was suggested that pathways across the forecourt should be kept clear; a layout for use was suggested.</p>	Clerk Deputy Clerk
37	<p>To approve the Noticeboard Policy Withdrawn</p>	
38	<p>To approve the introduction of an e-newsletter The proposal had been circulated. Concern was raised about the format especially if it contained lots of graphics. The proposal was approved.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr Kirby-Harris RESOLVED</p>	
39	<p>To approve the funding agreement relating to the maintenance of four previously provided bus shelters Approved</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Dunford RESOLVED</p>	
40	<p>To consider enhancing Remembrance wreath laying to acknowledge civilian lives lost and affirming our commitment to peace Cllr Hannaby declared an interest on RBL and the poppy appeal. The proposal was for a white poppy wreath. Discussion followed it was suggested that laying the wreath on a different day to Remembrance Sunday might be more appropriate. The UN day of Peace in September was suggested. This was agreed.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Dunford RESOLVED</p>	
41	<p>To formalise the options available to the Mayor for selecting their assistants It was agreed that the Mayor was free to select their own assistance as they saw fit.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr O'Leary Seconded Cllr Hannaby. RESOLVED</p>	
42	<p>To consider a response for WTC to the survey from SODC and VWHDS regarding the two unitary authorities proposal – closing date 16 July Cllr Crawford left the room. Following discussion, it was suggested that some Councillors should attend the meeting on 25th June. It</p>	Cllr Cameron

		ACTION
	<p>was agreed that Cllr Cameron would complete the survey on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Johnson RESOLVED</p>	
43	<p>To consider a response from WTC on the proposed Part Night: Lighting – Implementation Framework – closing date 6 July The proposal was not to identify areas where lights should be switched off, it was about the principle. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Town Council would not submit a response.</p>	
44	<p>To consider modifying the current parking arrangements on the eastbound carriageway in Mill Street Postponed to next Council meeting.</p>	
45	<p>District and County Council Reports Cllr Hannaby reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County had been busy with the proposed reorganisation. • There was not enough money for SEND. • There would be no charge for children aged 16 and over for school transport. • There was to be a consultation on a congestion charge for Oxford. Clerk to circulate the link when available. 	Clerk
46	<p>Town Mayor's Communications The list of events attended was not available. An open letter to the Vale about flooding was presented. It was agreed to support the letter.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Johnson Seconded Cllr Menzies RESOLVED</p>	
47	<p>To consider the applicant(s) for co-option to the Council It was agreed to co-opt Mr Arnold.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded Cllr Cameron RESOLVED.</p> <p>Mr Arnold signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.</p>	
48	<p>Date of next meeting 4 August 2025</p>	

The meeting closed at: 21.34pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____