



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

Councillors Present:

C Walters (Chair), A Arnold, S Cunningham, A Dunford, J Hannaby, A Menzies, K Morris, P O’Leary, S Third

In attendance:

Town Clerk: Julia Evans

Others present:

None

		ACTION
49	Apologies for Absence Cllrs I Cameron, A Crawford, T Gilhorne, E Johnson, P Kirby-Harris, V Wright	
50	Declarations of Interest None	
51	Statements & Questions from the Public Rules & Procedures None	
52	<p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2025 and consider matters arising The minutes were approved and signed.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hannaby Seconded Cllr Third RESOLVED</p> <p>a) Meeting with KA’s There had been no response. At the previous meeting Cllr Kirby-Harris agreed to chase this.</p> <p>b) Mayor’s pendant and chain and Deputy Mayor’s pendant The quotes had been circulated. Two councillors requested that another quote be obtained. It was pointed out that alternative quotes had previously been obtained. There were two motions: 1 – to obtain an alternative quote. Proposed Cllr Cunningham Seconded Cllr O’Leary. 1 in favour, 6 against. Not carried.</p> <p>2 – to accept the Fattorini quote Proposed Cllr Hannaby Seconded Cllr Third.</p>	Kirby-Harris

		ACTION
	<p>8 in favour, 1 against. RESOLVED.</p> <p>Clerk to arrange for the regalia to be sent to Fattorini.</p> <p>c) VC Forecourt policy. It was proposed that the policy be adopted as it stands, with no political or religious groups and that it was reviewed again in the future. Proposed Cllr Walters Seconded Cllr Hannaby RESOLVED</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>CLOSED</p>
53	<p>To receive and note the minutes of the following committees</p> <p>a) Leisure & Amenities – 30 June 2025 – Presented and accepted.</p> <p>b) Health – 3 July 2025 There was a discussion about parking during the hospital refurbishment and the issues of parking in Garston Lane. It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next TAC meeting.</p> <p>c) Policy, Management & Finance – 28 July 2025 – Presented and accepted.</p> <p>d) Planning – 23 June and 14 July 2025 – Presented and accepted.</p> <p>e) Promotion, Communication & Events – 21 July – No minutes as the meeting was inquorate. As discussion followed on the VJ day event scheduled for 2 September at 12 noon. Funds of up to £100 were approved for the event.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Walters Seconded Cllr Arnold. RESOLVED</p>	<p>Deputy Clerk</p>
54	<p>To consider the Financial Statements for July 2025 Received and signed. There was a discussion over the increased water costs.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hannaby Seconded Cllr Third RESOLVED</p>	
55	<p>To note the new NJC pay scales for 2025/26 effective April 25 Noted.</p>	
56	<p>To approve the S106 Funding Agreement for the Town Centre Manager The funding agreement was accepted. It was agreed that the Mayor and the Town Clerk should sign it. Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr Menzies RESOLVED</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
57	<p>Arrangements for World Peace Day It had previously been agreed that a white poppy wreath would be laid on World Peace Day on 21st September. The Vicar was very supportive and the event would take at 12 noon. It was suggested that the event be advertised. The Communications Officer to work on this, The Town Crier was to be asked to say something and music was to be arranged. Cllr Walters to liaise with the Vicar and the Mayor. Funds of £200 were approved.</p>	<p>Comms Officer</p> <p>Walters</p>

		ACTION
	Proposed Cllr Walters Seconded Cllr Third RESOLVED	
58	<p>To agree the responsibilities and costs for Remembrance Sunday Cllr Hannaby declared and interest. It was suggested that the new Police Constable be asked about rolling road closures. Deputy Clerk to investigate. The matter was to be discussed with the RBL again and brought to the next meeting. A budget of £250 was agreed for music for the event. Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr Menzies RESOLVED</p> <p>Costs for next year to be included in the budget. It was suggested that Oxford Security Services could be invited to quote for the event.</p>	Deputy Clerk/Clerk
59	<p>Update on S106 funding for the learner pool at Wantage Leisure Centre The Vale had been contacted for an update; awaiting a reply. It was suggested that the CEO or Deputy CEO be invited to the next meeting. Clerk to write and to express the Council's frustration and disappointment.</p>	Clerk
60	<p>To consider a Town Survey Some explanatory paragraphs on the responsibilities of all three Councils were to be added to the survey. It was agreed to explore free options initially and consider paid services later if necessary. The survey was approved. Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr Cunninham RESOLVED</p>	Comms Officer
61	<p>To consider signing up for a HUQ data subscription It was felt that the data would not be useful or worth the annual costs. It was agreed not to subscribe. Proposed Cllr Walters Seconded Cllr Menzies RESOLVED</p>	
62	<p>District and County Council Reports Cllr O'Leary reported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that £500k had been allocated to eco communities • on the Vale's concerns about the proposed reservoir • on the Vale's concerns about the proposed planning reforms <p>Cllr Hannaby reported that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the OCC consultation on congestion charges had ended • OCC were looking at future plans and budgeting • More funding would be available for roads • One Oxfordshire was being promoted 	Clerk
63	<p>Town Mayor's Communications This had been circulated to all Councillors.</p>	
	Date of next meeting 22 September 2025	

The meeting closed at: 21.14pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____