

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, ON MONDAY,  
12 OCTOBER, 2009, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor P M O'Leary (Town Mayor)  
Councillors B H Armitage, Mrs P Brundle,  
E C Goldsmith, Ms N J Hanna, Mrs J Hannaby,  
P Kent, J Morgan, Mrs J Reynolds, Dr I C E Turcu  
and Mrs E A Turner.

Mr Craig Hart, Mr S Dexter and Ms R Howard  
(Vale and Downland Museum – up to item 31 only)

Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Crawford, M Green, Major J Sibbald and Mrs L Todd.

Councillor Geden had died within the past fortnight. The Council stood in a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

**Declarations of Interest**

These were to be given as the meeting proceeded.

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 August and Special Council Meeting held on 28 September, 2009**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**31. Presentation by the Administrator of the Vale and Downland Museum, Mr Craig Hart, giving his initial experiences and findings in his new role**

Craig Hart, Stephen Dexter and Ruth Howard were welcomed to the meeting. Craig Hart gave a presentation on the activities of the Museum. As well as holding the Council's collection, the Museum had a local history library and provided the Visitor Information Point. Ruth Howard spoke concerning the Museum's collection policy. There was a need for this to be approved by the Town Council in order for the Museum to be able to obtain accreditation. It was noted that the collection was solely concerned with items relating to the town of Wantage. Items relating to surrounding villages were being collected by the County Council. Reference was made to the high cost charged by the County Council for storage of items of historic interest at its premises in Standlake. It was felt that there was a need to assess which items in the collection were worth retaining and which could be disposed of. The representatives of the Museum were reminded that the County Council had been procuring Section 106 contributions from developers for museum purposes. There was a strong case for part of the contributions raised from developments in Wantage being passed to the local museum. Mr Hart agreed to investigate this.

It was agreed that the issue of the level of funding and responsibility for the collection be referred to the Policy, Management and Finance Committee as an agenda item.

**Action : Clerk**

The Museum representatives left the meeting.

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**32. Statements and Questions from the Public**

None.

**33. Matters Arising from Council Meetings held on 3 August and 28 September, 2009**

None.

**34. Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 17 August, 7 September and 28 September, 2009**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O'Leary,  
SECONDED by Councillor Dr Turcu,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted.

**35. Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 7 September, 2009**

15(a) – Allotment Matters : Plots 25 and 26 Stockham Park

It was felt that there was a need to give greater priority to clearing the plots at Stockham Park. **Action : Deputy Clerk**

15(b) – Allotment Inspection : 1 October, 2009

It was agreed that there was a need for the Council to adopt a stricter policy concerning rubbish strewn on allotment plots. It was agreed that there was a need to do more to make the Grove Road site secure. It was suggested that consideration be given to planting of a bramble hedge and installing a more secure gate. Material removed from the Limborough Road development might be suitable for use. The Deputy Clerk was to investigate. **Action : Deputy Clerk**

These matters were to be referred back to the Committee. **Action : Deputy Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Reynolds,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

**36. Minutes of the Environmental Committee Meeting held on 14 September, 2009**

12(a) – Market Place : Bronze Plaque

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Roger Humphries for installing the plaque. **Action : Clerk**

Car Parking Area : “No Entry” Sign

Priority was to be given to re-painting the “No Entry” sign on the exit to the car parking area. **Action : Deputy Clerk**

12(d)(i) : French Market, 15 November, 2009

Although Wantage Rejuvenated was taking responsibility for this, the group was looking for funding to support the market.

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13 – Cemetery Matters

Soil was continuing to be dumped by the skip and under the trees at the cemetery by stonemasons. It was agreed that the provision of barriers to prevent vehicles entering the cemetery area be investigated. **Action : Deputy Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Kent,  
SECONDED by Councillor Morgan,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

**37. Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee held on 21 September, 2009**

31(c) : Pedestrian Crossing at Limborough Road Development

The County Council was developing proposals for a crossing.

31(d) : Future of Wantage Civic Hall

It was agreed to check to what extent the services of the Registrar's Office could be accommodated on-line. **Action : Clerk**

31(e) : Wantage Market Place Lay-Out Proposals

Funding applications had been made to the District and County Councils.

31(f) : Displays Committee

A letter was to be sent to the Floral Displays Committee thanking the group for the very attractive displays this year. **Action : Clerk**

A constitution for the existing arrangements for the Displays Committee had been prepared by Councillor Mrs Hutchinson and the Clerk. This should accommodate the release of the grant funding by the District Council. There was a need to attend to the future organisation and constitution arrangements for managing the displays. There had been discussion concerning the establishment of a town trust for the purposes of overseeing the activities of the Displays Committee and other activities within the town not covered by formal governance arrangements. It was agreed that "town trust" be referred to the next meeting of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee as an agenda item. **Action : Clerk**

33(3) : Wantage and Grove Street Pastors

The Street Pastors scheme had been launched on 9 October

35 : Consideration of Proposal by Town Mayor to hold a Reception for Volunteers

The Mayor reported that the Deputy Town Mayor had agreed to lead the arrangements for the reception for 2010. Councillors Mrs Hannaby, Morgan and Mrs Reynolds agreed to assist the Deputy Town Mayor in these arrangements.

**Action : Sibbald**

38 : New Waste Collection and Recycling Services

Councillor Armitage volunteered to assist the District Council officer with the arrangements of the new waste collection and recycling services. **Action : Armitage**

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31(a)(Cont'd) : Community Group Discounts : Wantage Civic Hall

Councillor Morgan declared a personal and prejudicial interest, and left the meeting for this item.

The Clerk had distributed a note identifying the additional costs involved for those groups using the Civic Hall that were entitled to community discounts for the year 2009/2010. Excluding the Community Church, the additional charges were in the region of £2,650. Councillors felt that the Community Church should also be entitled to grant support.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O'Leary,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the discount reduction involving an extra charge in 2009/2010, including the Community Church, should be funded by the Town Council for the current year, with no commitment to fund beyond the next year, with a cap of £5,000.

Wantage Association of Retired Persons  
Vale and Downland Beekeepers  
Wantage and District Fine Arts Association  
Wantage Field Club  
Wantage Flower Club  
Wantage Diving Club  
Wantage Stage Musical  
Wantage Community Church

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O'Leary,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

**38. Consideration of urgent request for a donation to support the Betjeman Tribute Festival in September, 2011**

Councillor Mrs Hannaby declared a personal interest as a member of the Betjeman Society.

A note had been received from Mr Jim Mitchell outlining proposals for the holding of the event in September, 2011. There were to be feeder events over the coming year to stimulate interest in, and to advertise the event.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O'Leary,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that a grant of £500 be given, subject to confirmation and evidence of expenditure incurred. Mr Mitchell was to be advised that the event should not compete with the Wantage Summer Festival. **Action : Clerk**

**39. Notice of Conclusion of Audit for 2008/2009**

The audit had been satisfactorily completed. The auditor had identified a need for the fidelity guarantee to be increased to cover the balances in 2009/2010. The Clerk agreed to arrange for the guarantee to be increased to an appropriate level.

**Action : Clerk**

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**40. Town Mayor's Communications**

The Town Mayor reported on various activities and events he had attended over the past two months.

**Confidential Item 41**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O'Leary,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O'Leary,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the resolutions made in confidential session be adopted.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

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WPF/KR