

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, ON MONDAY,
13 OCTOBER, 2008, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor P M O'Leary (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs E A Turner (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillors Mrs P Brundle, A J Geden, E C Goldsmith,
Mrs J T Hannaby, P Kent, J Morgan, Mrs J Reynolds,
Major J Sibbald and Dr I C E Turcu.

Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.
Deputy Clerk: Mrs H Kell.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B H Armitage, A Crawford, M Green, Ms N J Hanna and Mrs L Todd.

Declarations of Interest

These were to be given as the meeting proceeded.

The death of Ms Dot Morrison, a former Town Clerk, was reported. The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect.

Councillor Kent was welcomed to the meeting having been elected to the Council at the recent by-election.

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 August, 2008

The minutes were approved and signed.

31. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

32. Matters Arising from Council Meeting held on 5 August, 2008

24.6(a) – Stockham Park Amenity Area

It was noted that the play area was being more actively used since the introduction of more frequent grass cuts. There were problems from some allotment-holders driving across the play area when children were playing. It was agreed that this be referred to the Recreation and Amenities Committee. **Action : Clerk/Turner**

33. Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 18 August, 8 September and 29 September, 2008

Minutes 29 September, 2008

15 – Vale of White Horse District Council briefing on Allocation of Affordable Housing

It was agreed that Miss Novelle be thanked for providing clarification concerning affordable housing. **Action : Clerk**

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17 – Wantage Market Place

It was reported that at the recent meeting of the Wantage and Grove Traffic Advisory Committee, Mr Ronald of the County Council had advised that he was unaware that the Town Council was intending to proceed with a refurbishment of the Market Place. He had only become aware of this when contacted by the Town Council's Consultants. The Clerk was to write to Mr Ronald expressing surprise. Brian Short and Joanne Clegg, his County Council colleagues, had both been fully briefed on this in the past. **Action : Clerk**

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

34. Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 8 September, 2008

11(a) – Stockham Park Amenity Area

It was noted that the entrance gate had been taken off its hinges and laid down. The Clerk was to arrange for this to be reinstated. **Action : Clerk**

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

35. Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 1 September, 2008

Apologies for Absence

It was noted that Councillor Mrs Turner had given her apologies for absence.

13(c) - Policy re Use of the Market Square for Other Activities

The Clerk had suggested that the policy outlined in the minutes was still too restrictive, in that requests were received from a range of organizations that were not necessarily charities, and whose activities would act as an additional attraction for the public to visit the Market Place.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald,
SECONDED by Councillor Goldsmith,
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to support additional activities being accommodated on the V C Forecourt and the Market Square, subject to priority being given to market traders. The decision as to what activities should be allowed should be delegated to the Town Mayor, the Chairman of the Environmental Committee and the Town Clerk in consultation.

Councillor Morgan declared a personal interest, his wife being involved in a local organization which, on occasions, used the V C Forecourt.

14(a) – Ashes Plots

The Clerk was to write to Mrs Berry updating her on actions being taken concerning the maintenance of areas around the ashes plots. **Action : Clerk**

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

**36. Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee
held on 22 September, 2008**

28(c) – Vale and Downland Museum Trust

The Clerk had received copies of the statutory accounts, but had not yet reviewed them. It was noted that the County Council was increasing expenditure on museums elsewhere in the county. It was to be suggested to the Museum that the County Council's advice be sought on how additional funding could be secured.

Action : Clerk

28(e) – Flooding

It was reported that there was a new Government initiative which would provide funds to deal with flooding and other risks. The District Council had held a Flooding Fair on 7th October in Wantage Civic Hall.

31 – Community Group Discounts : Wantage Civic Hall

It was agreed that an item "Wantage Civic Hall" be referred to the Recreation and Amenities Committee for it to consider ways in which the Civic Hall could be better used.

Action : Clerk/Turner

30.10(f) – "Welcome Heroes Back" Campaign

It was reported that the Wantage Branch of the British Legion had achieved runner-up in the Poppy Appeal rankings for 2007. It was agreed to write a congratulatory letter to Mr Robert Newton who was responsible for the local collection.

Action : Clerk

33 – Consideration of the Chamber of Commerce Displays Committee's request that the Council's budget for additional display columns (£6,000) be used for the purchase of floral displays instead of display columns

The Display Committee had advised that it was finding it impractical to locate columns in Mill Street or Grove Street due to the narrow width of footpaths. The Committee was in discussions with property owners in both these streets concerning hanging displays from their properties. It was agreed to give support to the Committee, but more specific information was required concerning their proposals.

Request for Donation

A request for a donation had been received from Mr Richardson of Wantage Parish Music Guild. A concert was to be held on 15 November in the Parish Church. The overall cost was in the region of £8,000. A donation towards the cost of this was sought.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O'Leary,
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
IT WAS MOVED that a donation of £400 be made. This was approved 8 in favour, 2 against.

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

37. Town Mayor's Communications

The Mayor reported on recent activities.

Confidential Items 38 and 39

The confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 August, 2008, and of the Environmental Committee held on 1 September, 2008 were noted.

The meeting closed at 8.29 p.m.

WPF/KR