

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, ON MONDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY,  
2008, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor Mrs L Todd (Town Mayor to Item 1)  
Councillor P O'Leary (Town Mayor from Item 1 onwards)  
Councillors B H Armitage, Mrs P Brundle, A Crawford, J Geden,  
E C Goldsmith, M Green, B Griffin, Ms N J Hanna, Mrs J Hannaby,  
J Morgan, Mrs J Reynolds, Major J Sibbald, Dr I C E Turcu and Mrs  
E A Turner.

Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

Deputy Clerk: Mrs H Kell.

Two members of the public.

**Apologies for Absence**

None.

**Declarations of Interest**

These were to be given as the meeting proceeded.

**Statements and Questions from the Public**

None.

**1. Election of Town Mayor**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor O'Leary be Town Mayor.

**2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

After thanking the Councillors for electing him, Councillor O'Leary signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and took over as Chairman of the meeting.

**3. Election of Deputy Town Mayor**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Turner be Deputy  
Town Mayor.

Councillor Mrs Todd was thanked for her commitment and hard work as Town Mayor.

**4. Appointment of Standing Committees and Election of Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen**

The Clerk had prepared a schedule detailing the preferences submitted by Councillors for each Committee. It was agreed, in order to increase the number of Councillors on the Recreation and Amenities Committee, that Councillors Armitage and Major Sibbald also be included under this Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O'Leary,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds,

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IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillors be members of the principal Committees for which they had indicated first and second preferences, with Councillors Armitage and Major Sibbald also on the Recreation and Amenities Committee. The Town Mayor would be an ex-officio member of all Committees. The membership of other Committees would be in accordance with the expression of wish given by Councillors. Membership of Committees was therefore agreed as follows:-

(a) Planning Committee

Councillors Armitage, Mrs Brundle, Crawford, Goldsmith, Griffin, O'Leary, Morgan, Mrs Reynolds, Major Sibbald, Mrs Todd and Dr Turcu.

(b) Recreation and Amenities Committee

Councillors Armitage, Mrs Brundle, Crawford, Geden, Mrs Hannaby, O'Leary, Major Sibbald, Dr Turcu and Mrs Turner.

(c) Environmental Committee

Councillors Armitage, Geden, Goldsmith, Mrs Hannaby, Morgan, O'Leary, Mrs Reynolds, Major Sibbald, Mrs Todd and Mrs Turner.

(d) Hospital Committee\*

Councillors Armitage, Crawford, Mrs Hannaby, O'Leary, Mrs Reynolds, Mrs Todd and Dr Turcu.

(e) Secondary School Committee\*

Councillors Armitage, Mrs Hannaby, O'Leary, Major Sibbald, Mrs Todd and Dr Turcu.

(f) Policy, Management and Finance Committee

All Councillors.

\*It was noted that these Committees were open to Grove Parish Councillors and other members of the community who wished to participate.

**Election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen**

Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen were elected by members of each Committee.

(a) Planning Committee

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Crawford,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Major Sibbald be Chairman of the Planning Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goldsmith,  
SECONDED by Councillor Griffin,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Morgan be Chairman of the Planning Committee.

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In a vote, 7 were in favour of Councillor Major Sibbald, 4 in favour of Councillor Morgan. Councillor Major Sibbald was therefore elected Chairman of the Planning Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Major Sibbald,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Crawford be Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goldsmith,  
SECONDED by Councillor Griffin,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Morgan be Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee.

In a vote, 7 were in favour of Councillor Crawford, 4 in favour of Councillor Morgan. Councillor Crawford was therefore elected Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee.

(b) Recreation and Amenities Committee

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Geden,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brundle,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Mrs Brundle be Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Crawford,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Mrs Turner be Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

In a vote, 6 were in favour of Councillor Mrs Turner and 2 in favour of Councillor Mrs Brundle. Councillor Mrs Turner was therefore elected Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Dr Turcu,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Mrs Hannaby be Vice-Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Brundle,  
SECONDED by Councillor Geden,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Mrs Brundle be Vice-Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

In a vote, 6 were in favour of Councillor Mrs Hannaby, 2 in favour of Councillor Mrs Brundle. Councillor Mrs Hannaby was therefore elected Vice-Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee.

(c) Environmental Committee

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Reynolds be Chairman of the Environmental Committee.

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ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Todd be Vice-  
Chairman of the Environmental Committee.

(d) Secondary School Committee

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor O'Leary be Chairman of the Secondary School  
Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Hannaby be Vice-Chairman of the  
Secondary School Committee.

(e) Hospital Committee

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Dr Turcu,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Hananby be Chairman of the Hospital  
Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Reynolds be Vice-Chairman of the  
Hospital Committee.

(f) Policy, Management and Finance Committee

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Todd,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Armitage be Chairman of the Policy, Management  
and Finance Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goldsmith,  
SECONDED by Councillor Geden,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Griffin be Chairman of the Policy, Management  
and Finance Committee.

In a vote, 10 were in favour of Councillor Armitage, 5 in favour of Councillor Griffin.  
Councillor Armitage was therefore elected Chairman of the Policy, Management and  
Finance Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Crawford,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Dr Turcu be Vice-Chairman of the Policy,  
Management and Finance Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Brundle,  
SECONDED by Councillor Goldsmith,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Griffin be Vice-Chairman of the Policy,  
Management and Finance Committee.

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In a vote, 10 were in favour of Councillor Dr Turcu, 5 in favour of Councillor Griffin. Councillor Dr Turcu was therefore elected Vice-Chairman of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee.

**5. Appointment of Internal Auditor**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goldsmith,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Mr. Roger Symes should continue as the Internal Auditor for the purposes of completing the 2007/8 Annual Return.

**6. Appointment of Members on Joint Committees**

(a) Wantage and Grove Traffic Advisory Committee

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Major Sibbald, Dr Turcu and Mrs Hannaby be members of the Traffic Advisory Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Todd,  
SECONDED by Councillor Morgan,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Goldsmith be a member of the Traffic Advisory Committee.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Geden,  
SECONDED by Councillor Goldsmith,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Mrs Brundle be a member of the Traffic Advisory Committee.

There being only four members to be appointed to this Committee, Councillor Mrs Brundle withdrew her nomination.

Councillors Mrs Hannaby, Goldsmith, Major Sibbald and Turcu would therefore serve on the Wantage and Grove Traffic Advisory Committee for the ensuing year.

(b) Joint Environmental Trust

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillors Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Turner be members of the Joint Environmental Trust.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Geden,  
SECONDED by Councillor Morgan,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Goldsmith be a member of the Joint Environmental Trust.

There being no other nominations, it was agreed that the above three Councillors be members of the Wantage Joint Environmental Trust.

(c) Joint Economic Forum

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Major Sibbald,

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IT WAS MOVED that Councillors Armitage, O'Leary and Dr Turcu be members of the Joint Economic Forum.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Griffin,  
SECONDED by Councillor Goldsmith,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Mrs Brundle be a member of the Joint Economic Forum.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Morgan,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Todd,  
IT WAS MOVED that Councillor Goldsmith be a member of the Joint Economic Forum.

There being no other nominations, it was agreed that the above five Councillors be members of the Joint Economic Forum.

**7. Appointment of Representatives on Other Bodies**

(a) Vale and Downland Museum Trust

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Crawford,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Green be nominated as a Trustee of the Vale and Downland Museum Trust.

(b) Independent Advice Centre

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brundle,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Todd be the Council's representative on the Independent Advice Centre.

(c) Wantage Caring Network

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Crawford,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Todd be the Council's representative on the Wantage Caring Network.

(d) Parish Transport Representative

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Todd,  
SECONDED by Councillor Major Sibbald,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Morgan be the Council's parish transport representative.

(e) Wantage Day Centre Management Committee

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Geden,  
SECONDED by Councillor Goldsmith,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Todd be the Council's representative on the Wantage Day Centre Management Committee.

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(f) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils

Councillor Griffin had not received any advice of OALC meetings. The Clerk was uncertain about the current status of the OALC following its move to Crowmarsh. He advised that the National Association of Local Councils seemed to be taking a more prominent role in engaging with local councils. It was agreed that this be referred to the Policy, Management and Finance Committee for consideration.

**Action : Clerk**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Griffin continue as the Council's representative on the OALC.

(g) Executive Committee of Wantage, Grove and District Twinning Committee

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Goldsmith,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Reynolds be the Council's representative on the Executive Committee.

(h) Wantage and District Chamber of Commerce

(i) Dickensian Evening Working Party

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Crawford,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillors Mrs Hannaby, Major Sibbald and Mrs Turner be members of the Dickensian Evening Working Party.

Councillor Mrs Brundle also volunteered to be a member of the Working Party, and this was agreed.

(ii) Display Committee

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Goldsmith,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Reynolds be a member of the Display Committee.

**8. Approval of Payment of Grants for 2008/2009**

A memorandum, prepared by the Clerk detailing grants included in the budgets agreed in January, was noted. The Clerk had advised Councillors that given the financial uncertainty of the Museum, it should consider making grant payments on a quarterly-in-advance basis rather than half-yearly.

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

The Clerk had been unable to attend the AGM of the Museum on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2008. Annual reports had been published, but he had not had the opportunity yet to review them. Although he had recommended that the payment of the Museum's grant be changed to a quarterly basis, almost two months of the financial year had passed, and therefore it would be appropriate to proceed with the first half-year payment and review the situation when the October instalment was due to be paid. The Clerk's

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memorandum advised that larger grants were paid in two instalments, 50% in May and 50% in October. It was noted that the Council's current policy was that a larger grant was any sum above £1,000. There were a number of grants over this threshold.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that a "larger grant" be deemed to be over £1,500.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the first instalments due to the Museum and Visitor Information Point in the sums of £8,100 and £2,720 respectively be paid, and that the Clerk should, prior to the October instalment becoming due, thoroughly review the financial status of the Museum and report back.       **Action : Clerk**

Councillor Green re-joined the meeting.

It was noted that the Council had set aside a budget of £6,000 for the purchase of display columns. The Clerk advised that for a number of reasons it was appropriate for the funds to be retained by the Council rather than given as a grant to the Displays Committee. The Town Council would arrange the installation of the display columns in consultation with the Displays Committee. The new columns would be included within the Town Council's insurance policy.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brundle,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that all other grant payments, as per the memorandum, be paid in accordance with the Council's amended policy.

Dickensian Evening	£1,265
Displays	£3,570*
Independent Advice Centre	£3,600
Joint Economic Forum	£1,000
Joint Environmental Trust	£4,600
Wantage Museum	£16,200
Visitor Information Point	£5,440
Twinning Association	£625
Wantage Counselling Service	£575
Wantage Summer Festival	£1,150

\*This to be reduced by £238 to cover charges borne by the Town Council relating to the 2007 Christmas lighting.

**9. Approval of Signatories for Bank Mandate**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Dr Turcu,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor, Committee Chairmen and the Town Clerk be cheque signatories, with any three to sign.

**10. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 April, 2008**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be approved and signed.

**11. Other Business**

(a) Wantage Council Website

It was agreed that this item be referred to the Policy, Management and Finance  
Committee as an agenda item. **Action : Clerk**

(b) Meeting Protocol

Councillors were reminded that, in accordance with Standing Orders, they should  
stand when speaking and that comments should be addressed to the Chairman.

(c) Refurbishment of Market Place

A letter had been received from BHP Harwood indicating that further support for the  
Market Place consultations could be provided at a cost of £3,000 plus VAT. The  
letter did not give a precise breakdown of the work that would be undertaken.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Crawford,  
IT WAS RESOLVED 14 in favour, one against, that BHP Harwood be requested to  
provide more detail and itemize the tasks involved in the quotation. It was hoped that  
this could be provided in time for referral to the next Policy, Management and  
Finance Committee meeting. **Action : Clerk**

The meeting closed at 9.03 p.m.

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WPF/KR