

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

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

Mr D Buckle, Chief Executive, Vale of White Horse
District Council (Up to Item 41 only)

One member of the public.

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

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Green.

Declarations of Interest

These were to be given as the meeting proceeded.

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 13 October, 2008

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

40. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

41. Briefing by David Buckle, Chief Executive of the Vale of White Horse District Council

The Town Mayor welcomed David Buckle to the meeting. Having previously been the Chief Executive for South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC), he had recently become the Chief Executive for the combined administrative services of the SODC and the Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC). He advised that work was proceeding on the VWHDC's budgets. The situation was tight because the grant from the Government was static, and due to economic conditions, income from other sources was down. He advised that town centre regeneration was becoming a higher priority for the Government and district councils. In the following week VWHDC would be publishing consultation concerning future housing for the district. The Civic Hall continued to pose a problem with its operating costs of over £250,000 per annum. There was a need to look at how costs could be reduced or the viability improved. The District Councils would be proceeding with a new contractor for refuse collection services. This would not affect the VWHDC until 2010. It was hoped that the arrangements for the opening of Tugwell Field would be completed in early 2009. VWHDC officers were still trying to sort out arrangements for the cycleway in the Willow Walk area. At the Town Clerk's request, Mr Buckle had considered the balance of VWHDC's expenditure between communities across the district. He advised that based on numbers of properties, there was little difference between communities. Mr Buckle was advised of the Town Council's plans concerning the

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refurbishment of the Market Place. He agreed that the Town and District Councils should work together to develop a strategy. He requested that the Town Council provide a report to brief him on what it felt was desirable. He agreed to consider providing VWHDC officer time to support the initiative. The issue of Section 106 contributions from developers was raised. Mr Buckle advised that the VWHDC had been unable to recruit a Section 106 officer and had put the post on hold for the time being. It was noted that some authorities had developed a formula for application of Section 106 contributions. He agreed to consider the suitability of this for the VWHDC. Mr Buckle was thanked for attending the meeting. It was agreed that he should return at least once, or possibly twice, a year to brief the Council. Mr Buckle left the meeting.

42. Matters Arising from the Council meeting held on 13 October, 2008

None.

43. Minutes of Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 13 October, 3 November and 24 November, 2008

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It was reported that although planning permission had been refused, the encroachment onto the highway verge had not been rectified. The Clerk was to ask the District Council's Planning Department to advise on what actions were proposed. **Action: Clerk**

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The meeting to be held on 15 December, 2008, would involve a presentation by the Town Council's consultants concerning the refurbishment. All Councillors were invited to attend.

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

44. Minutes of Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 3 November, 2008

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

45. Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 20 October, 2008

18(a) – King Alfred's Statue

The term "DNA spray" would be more appropriately worded "identifier spray". The spray would be applied to the back of the plaque.

21(a) – Seat in Seesen Way

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
SECONDED by Councillor Major Sibbald,
IT WAS RESOLVED that delegated authority be given to the Chairman of the Environmental Committee and the Clerk to proceed with the purchase and installation of the seat.

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

46. Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee held on 10 November, 2008

41(e) - Display Columns/Floral Displays

It was noted that where invoices for charges related to property for which the Town Council had responsibility, they were paid by the Town Council and the amount deducted from the grant. The Town Council was entitled to recover the VAT on these invoices in the normal way.

41(f) – Flooding

The Clerk was to arrange for Ms Sally Wallington, the Letcombe Brook Officer, to attend a future meeting. **Action: Clerk**

42.4(e) – JEF Website

The Clerk was to give priority to the inclusion of agendas and minutes on the website. **Action: Clerk**

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

47. Notice of Conclusion of Audit for the Year Ended 31 March, 2008

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O’Leary,
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,
IT WAS RESOLVED that the conclusion of the audit be noted.

48. Town Mayor’s Communications

The Town Mayor reported on recent activities. He thanked Councillors for attending the Remembrance Act on 11 November. He and other Councillors had attended the “Into the Light” performance. The Town Mayor’s Christmas Craft Fair had taken place on 16 November. The Carol Concert was due to be held on 10 December. A number of shops in the Market Place were intending to open late on 19 December, 2008.

Confidential Items 49 and 50

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

The meeting closed at 8.53 p.m.

WPF/KR