

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD
IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, ON MONDAY,
20 JULY, 2009, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor B H Armitage (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs J Hannaby, P Kent,
Mrs J Reynolds, Councillor Major J Sibbald,
Mrs L Todd and Mrs E A Turner.

PC Darren James (Up to Item 19)

Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P Brundle, A Crawford, A J Geden, E C Goldsmith, M Green, Ms N J. Hanna, P O'Leary, J Morgan and Dr I C E Turcu.

Declarations of Interest

These were to be given as the meeting proceeded.

Minutes of Meeting held on 15 June, 2009

The minutes were approved and signed.

18. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

19. Reports from Community Officers: PC Darren James

PC James was welcomed to the meeting. He was asked to provide the Police's view on the introduction of the Street Pastors Scheme. He said that the Thames Valley Police Authority gave its support, but that some police authorities elsewhere did not support the scheme. He advised that all pastors would be well trained, and would seek to avoid involvement in conflict. The Committee advised that it would welcome his assessment in six months' time after the scheme's launch in October, 2009. Following recent incidents of vandalism at allotment sites, he advised that they were currently on the watch-list of the police. Incidents of vandalism were fairly infrequent, and therefore he could not guarantee that they would be on the watch-list in a few months' time. He advised that a lot of work was being undertaken to deal with underage drinking. Attention was being given to Betjeman Park, the area around the Sweatbox and the Chestnuts play area. He was asked to consider whether there would be any benefit to widening the number of areas covered by the "No Alcohol to be Consumed in a Public Place" Order. He agreed to consider this, but advised that underage drinking was covered by other legislation. He reported that the current most-reported crimes had involved stealing wheels from cars, stealing diggers and attacks on cash points in Abingdon. PC James asked to be kept informed of Council business through receipt of minutes and agendas, and agreed to attend future meetings as requested. **Action: Clerk**

PC James was thanked for his attendance, and left the meeting.

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20. **Matters Arising**

(a) Vale and Downland Museum Trust

Craig Hart, the Museum Administrator, had agreed to give a presentation to a Committee or Council meeting. Given the prospective lower attendance at the August Council meeting due to holidays, it was agreed to defer his presentation to the September meeting.

Action: Clerk

(b) Community Group Discounts : Wantage Civic Hall

The Clerk had been unable to produce a report for consideration by the Committee. He agreed to prepare a report for consideration at the Council meeting on 3 August, 2009.

Action: Clerk

(c) Town Council Website

The photographs of most Councillors had been added to the website. The Clerk intended to produce a new front page which could be maintained by the Town Council on an ongoing basis. The current front page required attention by Mr Howard Hill. It was agreed that a photographs page be introduced depicting scenes and events in the town. A Town Mayor's page was also to be added.

Action: Clerk

(d) Pedestrian Crossing at Limborough Road Development

Councillor Mrs Hannaby had been pressing the responsible County Council officer to proceed with the provision of a pedestrian crossing in Limborough Road. She agreed to provide the Clerk with details of this officer involved so that the Clerk could also press on behalf of the Town Council.

Action: Hannaby

(e) Future of Wantage Civic Hall

Councillor Armitage and the Clerk had met Councillor Richard Webber and Mr Matt Prosser of the District Council on 20 July, 2009. Councillor Webber and Mr Prosser re-stated that it was the intention of the District Council to seek ways of reducing the costs associated with the operation of the Civic Hall. However, it was not their expectation or intention that the Civic Hall should be closed altogether. The Clerk and Councillor Armitage had informed them that it was the Town Council's policy, although unable to run the Hall itself, to work with any interested bodies to save the Hall for the wider use of the district. Initial proposals from the District Council were likely to be put forward in the September/October period.

(f) Wantage Market Place Lay-Out Proposals : Next Stage

The Clerk had distributed electronic copies of the questionnaires to all Councillors. Councillor Kent reported that he had reviewed the responses, and that taking account of only those that gave unconditional support to the scheme, showed a 68% approval rate. The appointment of consultants to further develop the Market Place lay-out proposal was to be considered under Agenda Item 28. When the consultants' work was completed, there would be a need for a final public consultation before the Town Council committed itself to a final scheme. There was a need to involve Cabinet Members of both the District and County Councils to ensure these authorities were fully engaged in what the Town Council was doing. It was agreed that Councillor Ian Hudspeth, the Cabinet

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Member of the County Council for Growth and Infrastructure be invited to attend a meeting to be briefed. **Action: Clerk**

It was agreed that there was a need for the Council to settle more clearly its policy on various aspects of the lay-out scheme in advance of meeting the consultants. Councillors and the Clerk were to draw up a set of questions which required answering. The Clerk was to call a special meeting to develop and consider these questions. **Action: Clerk**

This was to be followed by a site meeting at which the practicalities would be fully considered. The meetings were to be called over the coming two weeks. There was an unresolved debate over at what stage testing of how the lay-out would operate would be undertaken in the Market Place itself. There was a need to consider the impact of traffic at the various key junctions leading to the Market Place, i.e the Wallingford Street/Seesen Way roundabout, the Ormond Road/Portway junction and the Camel Cross Roads.

(g) Consideration of Organisational Arrangements of the Displays Committee

The Clerk had not had time to draft the constitution. He agreed to give the matter urgent attention. There was a need to progress this as soon as possible. **Action: Clerk**

(h) Office Safety and Security

The resolution of staff safety formed part of the issues relating to the future operation of the Civic Hall under Item 20(e) above.

POLICY

21. Minutes of the Joint Environment Trust Meeting held on 23 April, 2009

Alfred's Bath

Arrangements were being progressed for the future on-going maintenance of the Bath. There was a need to replace the rotten wooden material. The replacement materials needed to be sufficiently durable. There was a need to divert the water flow across the footpath in order reduce future damage. **Action: Clerk**

The agenda for the meeting on 23 July, 2009, indicated that the wording for the sign at Alfred's Bath had not been signed off by the Town Council. Councillors believed this to be incorrect. The Clerk was to refer this to the Deputy Clerk on her return from holiday, for her to advise the District Council. **Action: Clerk**

22. Street Pastors Scheme : Note from Neil Townsend

A comprehensive note on the proposed scheme had been provided. The scheme was due for launch in October, 2009. The Committee suggested that the performance of the scheme should be reviewed after six months. A request for a donation of £400 towards training costs had been received.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Todd,
IT WAS MOVED that a donation of £400 be made.

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

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IT WAS MOVED that a donation of £200 be made immediately, and a further donation of £200 be made in six months, dependent upon the performance review.

In a vote, the amendment was defeated 2 in favour, 5 against. The principal resolution, for making a donation of £400 immediately, was unanimously approved.

MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

23. Financial Statements to July, 2009

Due to damage to the Clerk's computer, he had been unable to complete the financial statements in time for submission to the meeting. He agreed that these be referred to the full Council meeting for consideration. **Action: Clerk**

24. Requests for Donations

None, other than the one received in respect of the Street Pastors scheme, above.

25. Accounts for Payment

The Council did not currently employ a car park attendant. The work was undertaken by the Market Attendant when he had the time. It was agreed to include this as an item to the agenda of the next meeting for consideration to be given to the recruitment of a parking attendant.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald,
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
IT WAS RESOLVED that accounts for payment in the sum of £13,334.46 be approved.

26. General Correspondence

None.

Confidential Items 27, 28 and 29

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

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

WPF/KR

Wantage Town Council

Accounts for Payment - June to July 2009

Date	Payee	Description	Powers	Ref	£
01/07/2009	VWHDC	Rates cemetery	Burial	DD	£ 55.00
01/07/2009	VWHDC	Rates car park	OA 1985	DD	£ 325.00
01/07/2009	VWHDC	Rates Market	OA 1985	DD	£ 388.00
19/06/2009	Various	Staff salaries June 09	Office/OA1985	DD	£ 3,478.36
Total direct debits					£ 4,246.36
22/06/2009	Cliveden Conservation	Repair to Statue	Property	304457	£ 2,829.00
22/06/2009	RJS(1A) Ltd	Internal audit fee	LGA 1972	304458	£ 1,180.33
29/06/2009	Cllr P O'Leary	Town Mayor's allowance 1st half	LGA 1972	304459	£ 851.95
29/06/2009	Viking Direct	Stationery	Office	304460	£ 168.82
29/06/2009	Thames Water	Water rates - various	Allotments/Burials etc	304461	£ 220.06
29/06/2009	ORCC	Annual subscription	LGA 1972	304462	£ 20.00
11/07/2009	Inland Revenue	1st quarter PAYE	Office/OA 1985	304463	£ 2,579.47
11/07/2009	Stockham School PA	Donation	S137	304464	£ 250.00
11/07/2009	White Horse Horticulture	Cemetery and play area grasscutting June	Burials/Recreation	304465	£ 740.00
11/07/2009	Red Corner	Photocopying charges - June	Office	304466	£ 29.06
11/07/2009	WP Falkenau	Stationery	Office	304467	£ 7.99
13/07/2009	Mrs P Legge	June wages - BACS rejected	Office	304468	£ 120.33
20/07/2009	Ms A Stewart	Plants for Statue trough	Tourism	304469	£ 39.43
20/07/2009	Viking Direct	Stationery	Office	304470	£ 51.66
Total cheques					£ 9,088.10
Total payments June to July 2009					£ 13,334.46