

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

Present: Councillor B H Armitage (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs J Hannaby, P M O'Leary, J Morgan,  
Mrs J Reynolds and Mrs L Todd.

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

**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 Kent, Major J Sibbald, Dr I C E Turcu and Mrs E A Turner.

**Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Morgan declared a personal and prejudicial interest concerning agenda item 31(a) – Community group discounts : Wantage Civic Hall.

**Minutes of Meeting held on 20 July, 2009**

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

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

None.

**31. Matters Arising**

(a) Community Group Discounts : Wantage Civic Hall

Councillor Morgan had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter, and if it were discussed, would need to leave the meeting. The meeting would be inquorate. It was agreed to defer consideration of this item until later in the meeting to await the attendance of other Councillors.

(b) Town Council Website

There were still four photographs of Councillors missing. A Town Mayor's page had yet to be introduced. Councillor Kent, as Chairman of the Environmental Committee, was to be asked to look at updating information concerning the Chain Hill Cemetery and to provide photographs. More topical information was to be introduced to the website.

**Action: Clerk**

(c) Pedestrian Crossing at Limborough Road Development

There was no further progress to report.

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(d) Future of Wantage Civic Hall

The District Council was investigating the possibility of the Town Council offices relocating to the ground floor. There were reports that the Registrar's office was closing. The Clerk was to seek formal confirmation of this. If this was confirmed, the Clerk was to write to the County Council expressing disappointment, and asking for the decision to be re-considered. He was to seek statistical information on the current use of the office, and request that at least a part-time presence be maintained.

**Action: Clerk**

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

The Market Place consultants were developing estimates. There was an urgent need to submit applications for funding to the District and County Councils in order to get into their budget cycles for the coming financial year.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Todd,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk, in consultation with Councillors Armitage and Mrs Hannaby, be given delegated authority to produce a costed application to the District and County Councils for funding for the Market Place project. This was unanimously approved. It was agreed that Grove Parish Council should be advised of the actions being taken. It should be emphasised that the final lay-out would be dependent upon further public consultation.

**Action: Clerk**

It was reported that the County Council was proceeding with arrangements for the introduction of real-time information at bus stops. This would involve the provision of new-style bus shelters. The County Council was to be asked to give priority to replacing the shelters in Charlton Village Road and Grove Road. **Action: Clerk**

(f) Consideration of Organisational Arrangements of the Displays Committee

There was an immediate need to produce a constitution for the current Displays Committee in order to secure funding for this year's displays from the District Council. The Clerk was progressing this with Councillor Mrs Hutchinson. He agreed to give this priority.

**Action: Clerk**

After this, there was a need to consider future arrangements for the Displays Committee. Key officers intended to step down, and therefore new members needed to be sought. At the same time there was a need to address the future constitutional arrangements for the Committee with a view to recognising the obligations arising from health and safety, and other legislation. The Clerk was investigating the possibility of establishing a town trust. The Committee felt that if this was not achievable, it would be incumbent upon the Town Council to take a more direct responsibility.

**POLICY**

**32. Minutes of the Joint Environmental Trust Meeting held on 23 July, 2009**

The minutes were considered. Under item 12 it was noted that Ambassador Travel was in Mill Street, not in the Market Place, and item 13 should refer to Alfred's Bath.

**33. Minutes of the Joint Economic Forum Meeting held on 6 August, 2009**

The minutes were noted.

3 – Wantage and Grove Street Pastors

The launch of the scheme was due to take place at Wantage Parish Church on Friday, 9 October, at 8.15 p.m.

4(f) – King Alfred’s Statue Repairs

The plaque had been installed.

**34. Wantage Rejuvenated : Consideration of the Feasibility of the Group Holding Regular Events in the Market Place on the Second Sunday of Each Month**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Morgan,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that where practical, permission should be given for Wantage Rejuvenated to hold regular events in the Market Place on the second Sunday of each month.

**35. Consideration of Proposal by the Town Mayor to hold a Reception for Volunteers**

The Town Mayor gave further information on what he envisaged. The reception would be held in the Civic Hall using one of the Town Mayor’s free bookings. He felt there was a need for Councillors to be present, and for the event to be hosted by the Council rather than the Town Mayor. It would involve in the region of 80 volunteers from 40 community organisations. The reception would be a thank-you to the volunteers for their contribution to the community, and that the form of the event needed to reflect this. In total, there would be 100 people present. The event would be held from 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. The overall cost was estimated to be in the region of £1,100. Organisations would be contacted by email asking them to put forward two volunteers to attend the reception. The Chairman proposed that the event be organised by the Deputy Town Mayor plus two Councillors. The sole purpose was to reward volunteers, and therefore there would be no fund-raising activities such as raffles. Attendees would need to be provided with name badges.

It was agreed that it would be best that the event be held in February or early March in order to spread the administrative workload. There was a need to settle whether a dignitary such as the High Sheriff should be invited to attend, or whether to restrict it to Councillors.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS RESOLVED to recommend that support be given to the proposal to hold a volunteer reception, and that a budget of £1,100 be set for this.

MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

**36. Requests for Donations**

None.

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**37. Accounts for Payment**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Morgan,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that accounts for payment in the sum of £31,069.77 be approved.

**38. General Correspondence**

New Waste Collection and Recycling Services :  
Letter from Vale of White Horse District Council dated 14 September, 2009

The District Council requested that the Town Council nominate one or two Councillors to provide information relating to the introduction of the new waste collection services. The District Council was seeking to identify locations where there were practical problems in providing the service. It was agreed to seek volunteers from the Council by email, and to split this by ward. **Action: Clerk**

**31. Matters Arising - continued**

(a) Community Group Discounts : Wantage Civic Hall

The Clerk reported that a working party of Councillors had met after the previous Council meeting, and had made recommendations. He reported upon these.

The working group had recommended that the Town Council give a donation to each community group representing the additional amount charged by the reduction of the discount from 50% to 30%. The only organisation that the group felt did not meet the Council's criteria of being a voluntary organisation which was uniquely based in the local community, and should be excluded, was the Wantage Community Church. The Clerk had sought copy invoices from the community groups as evidence of the discount reduction. He intended to produce a statement for the Council meeting detailing the amounts involved. It was agreed that this matter be referred to the Council without discussion.

**Confidential Item 39**

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

The meeting closed at 9.32 p.m.

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