

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, ON MONDAY,
23 FEBRUARY, 2009, 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,
E C Goldsmith, Mrs J Hannaby, P Kent,
J Morgan, Mrs J Reynolds, Major J Sibbald,
Mrs L Todd 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 A Crawford, A J Geden, M Green and Ms N J Hanna.

Declarations of Interest

These were to be given as the meeting proceeded.

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 12 January, 2009

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

57. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

58. Matters Arising from Council Meetings held on 1 December, 2008 and 12 January, 2009

Minutes 12 January, 2009

54 – Complaints concerning Civic Hall Catering Arrangements

The Clerk had received details of the report upon which the District Council had decided to enter into a catering contract for a three-year period. The Clerk was to forward it by email to all Councillors. **Action : Clerk**

59. Minutes of Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 15 December, 2008 and 12 January, 27 January and 9 February, 2009

Minutes 9 February, 2009

34 – Wantage Market Place

It was agreed that BHP Harwood be asked to bring their presentation forward to the meeting to be held on 16 March, 2009, and that arrangements for meetings with the bus companies be arranged as soon as possible. **Action : Deputy Clerk**

35 – District Council's Core Strategy Plan – Section 3 : Vision and Objectives for Wantage and Grove

It was felt that there was a need for additional space for employment in Wantage and Grove beyond that provided at the Grove Business Park.

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

60. Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 27 January, 2009

24 – Action Plan : Use of Leisure Facilities in Wantage

There was an intention that the Committee should also liaise with the Leisure and Recreation Committee of Grove Parish Council to ensure that the facilities provided in each parish complemented each other.

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

61. Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 19 January, 2009

23(b) – Seat in Seesen Way

It was reported that a seat of suitable design might be available in a sale at Waterperry Garden Centre. The Deputy Clerk agreed to investigate. **Action : Deputy Clerk**

24(c) - Other Market Place Matters

In order to draw attention away from some of the empty shop premises, there had been a suggestion that floral displays be put in the vicinity of these to make the area look more attractive.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O’Leary,
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,
IT WAS RESOLVED that displays at a cost of £100 each be purchased for siting within the vicinity of empty shop premises.

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

62. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee held on 2 February, 2009

Future of Wantage Civic Hall

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O’Leary,
SECONDED by Councillor Dr Turcu,
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that a press release be issued stating that the Town Council was determined to ensure the future of the Civic Hall. Although unable to run it itself, the Council would work with any interested bodies to save the Hall for the wider use of the Vale.

The Clerk was to publicise the statement and issue it as a press release.

Action : Clerk

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It was agreed that the future of the Civic Hall should be an agenda item for the next Committee meeting.
Action : Clerk

57 – Alfred’s Bath

For clarification, it was noted that it was intended that the Bath should be maintained to a suitable standard on an on-going basis.

56(c) – Display Columns/Floral Displays

The Displays Committee was considering entering into long-term contracts for the provision of Christmas lighting. This prompted the need to review and confirm the legal status of the Committee. The Clerk was to make enquiries and refer this back to the next committee meeting.
Action : Clerk

56(f) – Town Council Website

The Clerk had copied photographs of Town Councillors who were also District Councillors from the District Council website. There was a need to obtain photographs of other Councillors. Councillor Kent agreed to bring his camera to Committee meetings and take photographs of Councillors for the website.
Action : Kent

61 – Requests for Donations : Wantage Air Training Corps

Through an oversight, the Clerk had failed to refer the donation request to the Committee. It was agreed that it be considered at the Council meeting.

Councillor Mrs Hannaby declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting for this item.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brundle,
IT WAS MOVED that a donation of £200 be provided to cover some of the cost of providing the equipment required.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goldsmith,
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Todd,
IT WAS MOVED that the donation amount be amended to £500. The amendment and resolution was approved 9 in favour, none against.

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

63. Agenda for Town Electorate Meeting on 16 April, 2009

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,
SECONDED by Councillor Morgan,
IT WAS RESOLVED that the future of the Civic Hall be put on the agenda of the Town Electorate meeting with a view to allowing the public to put its views on this.

64. Town Mayor’s Communications

None.

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Confidential Items 65 and 66

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

The meeting closed at 8.37 p.m.

WPF/KR