

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, ON MONDAY,
29 JUNE, 2009, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor P M O'Leary (Town Mayor)
Councillor Major J Sibbald (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillors Mrs P Brundle, E C Goldsmith, M Green,
Mrs J Hannaby, P Kent, J Morgan, Mrs J Reynolds,
Mrs L Todd (part), Dr I C E Turcu and Mrs E A Turner.

Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B H Armitage, A Crawford, A J Geden and Ms N J Hanna.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Hannaby declared personal interests in the Twinning Committee, Health Committee, Nursing Home Trust, Hospital League of Friends, Royal British Legion and as a governor of a local primary school. Councillor Mrs Reynolds declared a personal interest in the Wantage Summer Festival. Councillor Major Sibbald declared a personal interest in the Royal British Legion. Councillor Mrs Turner declared a personal interest in the Wantage Silver Band.

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 18 May, 2009

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

12. Statements and Question from the Public

None.

13. Matters Arising from Council Meeting held on 6 April and Annual Council Meeting held on 18 May, 2009

Minutes – 6 April, 2009

73 – Town Mayor's Correspondence : Flower Container by King Alfred's Statue

The Town Mayor reported that the trough had been planted.

Minutes – 18 May, 2009

7(c) – Wantage Caring Network and 7(e) – Wantage Day Centre Management Committee

From enquiries made by the Council staff, it would appear that neither of these Committees was still operating.

14. Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 18 May, 1 June and 22 June, 2009

Councillor Mrs Todd arrived.

Councillor Kent gave his apologies for not attending the meeting on 22 June, 2009.

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

15. Minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 1 June, 2009

Allotment Matters

It was reported that vandals had caused severe damage at the Grove Road allotment site overnight on Saturday/Sunday 27/28 June, 2009. The incident had been referred to the Police and it was intended to refer the problem to the next Neighbourhood Action Group meeting. It was agreed that the Committee should meet the allotment-holders at the earliest opportunity.

Action : Reynolds

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

16. Minutes of the Environmental Committee Meeting held on 8 June, 2009

2(b) – Seat in Seesen Way

The Clerk was to give priority to the installation of the seat.

Action : Clerk

4(a) – Tree Works and Vehicular Entrance Improvements

Urgent attention needed to be given to cutting back the foliage on the roadside by the vehicular entrance to the Cemetery in order to improve sightlines. The Clerk was to press for this to be done.

Action : Clerk

5(b) – Fly-posting and Graffiti

It was noted that incidents of fly-posting in the District Council's car parks should be referred immediately to the responsible officer, so that appropriate action could be taken. It was agreed that Councillors should monitor the situation throughout the town before taking further action.

Action : All Councillors

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

17. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee Meeting held on 15 June, 2009

3(d) – Pedestrian Crossing at Limborough Road Development

Although the developer of Willow Grange had provided full funding for a pedestrian crossing, the County Council was considering installing only a refuge point and returning any surplus funds to the developer. The Clerk was to conduct further investigations into what discussions and obligations were entered into surrounding the planning application and its approval.

Action : Clerk

5.6(a) – Wantage Health-Check : HARBUG

It was reported that the Harwell Bicycle Users Group had completed its investigations and had prepared a report for referral to the County Council concerning gaps in the cycleway network in the Wantage and Grove area. Councillors expressed their appreciation of the work done by this volunteer group.

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

18. To Approve and Sign the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March, 2009, the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement

ON THE PROPOSITION Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
SECONDED by Councillor Morgan,
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Accounts, the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March, 2009, be approved and signed.

19. Town Mayor's Communications

The Town Mayor reported on various events that he and the Deputy Town Mayor had attended over the past month.

Poor Condition of Road at Junction of Ham Road/Ickleton Road

The burst water-main or some sort of drainage problem had damaged the road surface at this junction. The presence of water obscured the potholes in the road surface. These were of a size that could cause damage to cars and were extremely dangerous for motorcyclists and cyclists. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the County Council as a matter of urgency requesting that immediate action be taken to resolve this dangerous situation. **Action : Clerk**

The County Council was generally responsive to requests to deal with potholes. The procedure for reporting these was on its website. It was agreed that the Clerk should provide a link to this website on the Town Council's website. **Action : Clerk**

Water feature at Manor Road Recreation Ground

Councillor Mrs Hannaby reported that the water feature at the Manor Ground Recreation Ground had been opened. There had been problems with the arrangements for the opening ceremony. The Town Mayor had received an invitation by email on the day of the ceremony, and due to him not having access to his email during the working day, he had been unaware that the ceremony was taking place. The District Council officers had promised to give more notice and send out invitations sooner in the future.

Confidential Items 20 and 21

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald,
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brundle,
IT WAS RESOLVED that the confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 April, 2009, be approved and the minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee meeting held on 15 June, 2009, be adopted.

The meeting closed at 8.38 p.m.

WPF/KR