

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD  
IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, ON MONDAY, 30 JUNE, 2008,  
AT 7.30 P M**

Present: Councillor P M O'Leary (Town Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs E A Turner (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Councillors B H Armitage, Mrs P Brundle, A J Geden,  
M Green, Mrs J T Hannaby, Mrs J Reynolds,  
Major J Sibbald, Mrs L Todd and Dr I C E Turcu (part).

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

One member of the public.

The Town Mayor presented Councillor Mrs Todd with her Past Mayor badge. She was thanked for her service as Town Mayor.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Crawford, E C Goldsmith, B Griffin, Ms N J Hanna and J Morgan.

**Declarations of Interest**

These were to be given as the meeting proceeded.

**Minutes of Annual Council Meeting held on 19 May, 2008**

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

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

None.

**13. Matters Arising from Council Meeting held on 14 April and Annual Council Meeting held on 19 May, 2008**

Councillor Dr Turcu arrived.

Minutes 14 May, 2008

6(f) – Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils

The Clerk had been advised that it was the policy of the OALC not to send advice of meetings to individual councillors or representatives. All correspondence was directed to council offices with the expectation that it would be forwarded to the appropriate person.

**14. Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 14 April, 28 April, 19 May, 27 May, 16 June and 24 June, 2008**

Minutes 24 June, 2008

Planning Recommendations (b) – WAN/2186/17 : St Mary’s School Site

The application had been amended and the deadline for comments extended to 7 July, 2008. The District Council had already recorded the Town Council’s comments on the original application. Any further comments from the Town Council would need to be broader than those already submitted. It was agreed that the amended plans be referred to the Planning Committee on 7 July, 2008. The District Council had agreed to accept comments on 8 July, 2008.

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

**15. Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 27 May, 2008**

2(a) – Stockham Park Amenity Area

It was noted that the grassed areas were being damaged by vehicles of allotment-holders being driven across it. The Clerk was to write to the tenants involved requesting that they take whatever action is necessary to avoid causing this damage.

**Action: Clerk**

2(b) – Grove Road Allotments

Mr Harris, the handyman, was to be thanked for his work in clearing the overgrown brambles.

**Action: Clerk**

4(b) – Letter from Wantage Methodist Church

This should read “... Mr McClatchie of the Wantage Arts Group .....”.

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

**16. Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 9 June, 2008**

3(a) – King Alfred’s Statue

(iii) – Bronze Plaque

Mr Roger Humphries had agreed to fix the bronze plaque to the Statue at no charge to the Town Council.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to proceed with the purchase of the replacement plaque from Falcon Signs at a cost of £1,500.

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3(a) – King Alfred’s Statue

(i) – Cleaning of Statue and Repair to Broken Flagstones

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to proceed with the cleaning of the Statue  
and replacement of the flagstones by Joslins at a cost of £1,829 for cleaning, and  
£1,094 for the replacement of the flagstones.

3(b) French Market

It was noted that it was practical to proceed with the French market on 13 July, 2008,  
and it was agreed that it should be held. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

4(a) – Church of England School Footpath

The Clerk was to seek clarification regarding who was to pay for the provision of the  
gateway in the school perimeter fence. **Action: Clerk**

Chain Hill Cemetery Entrance

It was reported that the Joint Environmental Trust would be willing to consider a  
grant application for improving the sightlines and upgrading the driveway at the  
Cemetery.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that quotes for these works be obtained.

**Action: Deputy Clerk**

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

**17. Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee  
held on 16 June, 2008**

2(e) – Flooding

Councillors were concerned that there was no single body that had overall  
responsibility for the watercourses. There was a need for a strategic body to take a  
long-term view in order to deal with the whole length of the Letcombe Brook  
watercourse from Wantage through to Abingdon. The recently-published Pitt review  
refers to councils and authorities linking together to address these issues. The Clerk  
was to refer to this review when writing to those detailed. **Action: Clerk**

2(d) – Willow Walk Cycleway

The District Council was to proceed with a planning application adopting the route  
that had originally been detailed in the Local Plan. There had been a complaint from  
a resident in the Willow Walk area about vandalism and anti-social behaviour. This  
had been reported to the Police and actions were being taken.

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2(f) – Civic Visit to Seesen in September, 2008

A letter had been drafted.

6 – Refurbishment of Market Place

BHP Harwood had provided further information regarding their services in an e-mail dated 25 June, 2008. Combined with their letter of 7 May, 2008, this provided a clear statement of what services were covered.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to proceed with the contract in the sum of £3,000 with BHP Harwood for the provision of services to support the next stage of consultation concerning the Market Place refurbishment.

It was agreed that Councillors should meet with BHP Harwood in the Market Place.  
**Action: Clerk**

14(a) – Letters concerning Government Polyclinic Proposals

A meeting of the Hospital Committee had been arranged for 24 July, 2008. There was a need to seek firmer information from the Primary Care Trust regarding its intentions concerning polyclinics.

14(d) – Wantage Churches Together : Street Pastor Activity

There was a need for more specific information before this matter could be thoroughly considered.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor O’Leary,  
SECONDED by Councillor Major Sibbald,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that this matter be referred back to the Committee.  
**Action: Clerk**

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

**18. To Approve and Sign the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March, 2008, the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March, 2008, the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed.

**19. Town Mayor’s Communications**

The Town Mayor reported on activities and events that he had recently been involved with and had attended.

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**Confidential Item 20**

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

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

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WPF/KR