

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

Present: Councillor P M O'Leary (Town Mayor)  
Councillor Major J Sibbald (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Councillors B H Armitage, A Crawford, E C Goldsmith, Mrs  
J Hannaby, P Kent, J Morgan, Mrs J Reynolds, D B Standen,  
Mrs L Todd, Dr I C E Turcu and Mrs E A Turner.

Vale of White Horse DC Mr David Buckle and Councillor Tony de Vere - to item 42

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

The Town Mayor welcomed Councillor Standen to his first meeting following his election as a Town Councillor.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P Brundle, M Green and Ms N J Hanna.

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on 12 October, 2009**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**42. Discussion with Mr David Buckle, Chief Executive, and Councillor Tony de Vere, Leader, Vale of White Horse District Council concerning Planning Issues and Local Services and Facilities provided by the District Council**

The Town Mayor welcomed Mr Buckle and Councillor de Vere to the meeting. In the discussions and questions, the following was noted:-

Market Place

It was a priority for the District Council to assist market town vitality.

Civic Hall

It had been decided to close the Civic Hall in the mornings to reduce costs. The District Council intended to market the Civic Hall to see if more users could be attracted. Consideration might be given to re-configuring the layout of the building to make more effective use of shared resource between the Town Council and the District Council. Mr Buckle was asked to ensure that the District Council put more effort into securing Section 106 contributions from developers towards the costs of providing local amenities and services.

Housing

The Town Council's concerns regarding the consequences of concentrating social housing in new developments and the impact on demands for services and the character of the town, were noted. It was agreed that there was a need for infrastructure to support new housing, but provision was dependent on whether it would fulfil its requirements. There was no point in providing infrastructure in one place if there was to be a detrimental effect elsewhere in the community.

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Wantage Museum

The District Council was committed to support the Museum, and was participating in the review of its governance.

Car Parking

The District Council car parks were currently under-used. There was a need to improve signage to direct drivers to them. There was still a problem with the lack of provision of coach parking. On-street car parking restrictions were not being enforced. Councillor Goldsmith agreed to ask the Neighbourhood Action Group to make parking enforcement a higher priority for the Police. **Action : Goldsmith**

Leisure Centre

The Leisure Centre was in need of refurbishment but for this to proceed, third party funding was required. The earliest opportunity at which this might be provided was when the management contract changed in 2014.

Manor Road Recreation Ground

It had been decided to cease operation of the pitch-and-putt facility, the operating costs of which were £7,000 per season. Only 200 people made use of this facility in a season. The cost of running the recreation ground represented a fairly high cost to the District Council; in the region of £42,000 per annum. Mr Buckle queried whether it might be more appropriate for the Town Council to take responsibility for it?

Youth Services

It was noted that responsibility for youth services rested with the County Council, and the District Council had very limited involvement.

Mr Buckle and Councillor de Vere were thanked for attending the meeting, and left.

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

None.

**44. Matters Arising from Council Meeting held on 12 October, 2009**

None.

**45. Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 12 October, 2 November and 23 November, 2009**

Minutes 23 November, 2009

22 – Presentation on the Vale of White Horse District Council Allocation Policy at St. Mary's School Site

Ms Novell and Ms Scaplehorn were to be thanked for their interesting presentation.  
**Action : Clerk**

23(a) – Matters Arising : Wantage Market Place Refurbishment

Consideration of this was to be referred to Item 49 on the agenda.

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29 – Wantage Magistrates Court

The closing date for consultation was 4 January, 2010. In the letter to the Magistrates Services, the need to retain the facility on sustainability grounds was to be emphasized. **Action : Clerk**

Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting held on 1 October, 2009 -  
27(a) : Update on Pedestrian Crossing and Refuge at Limborough Road

Further information was awaited on what was proposed.

27(b) : District Council Officer’s Report : Town Centre Parking

Particular reference was to be made to the availability of parking at the undercroft in Mill Street in “What’s On in Wantage”.

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

**46. Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 2 November, 2009**

21 – Allotment Matters

It was agreed that there was a need to reinforce to allotment-holders their duty to cultivate their plots. A robust approach was to be adopted by the Town Council’s officers.

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

**47. Minutes of the Environmental Committee Meeting held on 19 October, 2009**

17(a) – Car Park Signage

The Clerk advised that under the Town Council’s Off-Street Parking Places Order, 1989, the Council had the power to tow away vehicles. There were no explicit powers concerning the clamping of vehicles. He also advised that the obligations relating to the removal of vehicles were significant and that there was a difficulty in finding a local contractor who could meet these.

17(d) – Adopt a Public Telephone Box Scheme

There was a need to ascertain details of the cost and responsibilities involved in adopting the telephone boxes in the Market Place.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
IT WAS RESOLVED, in principle, to adopt one of the boxes.

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

**48. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee Meeting held on 9 November, 2009**

41(a) – Community Group Discounts : Wantage Civic Hall

The Clerk was to give priority to advising the organisations of the grants to be provided. **Action : Clerk**

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

Consideration of this item was deferred to Item 49 of the agenda.

41(f) – Consideration of Organisational Arrangements of the Displays Committee

There was a need to ensure that all members of the Displays Committee were aware of the support the Town Council was prepared to give to this activity.

**Action : Clerk**

41(g) – Reception for Volunteers

A date had not yet been set, but it was likely to be in March, 2010. Councillors were to advise the Deputy Town Clerk of persons to be invited to the reception.

**Action : All Councillors**

43 – Report from Joint Economic Forum Meeting held on 5 November, 2009

Toby Warren of the District Council and Oliver O’Dell, a consultant, were to be thanked for their work in the preparation of the application for funding to SEEDA.

**Action : Clerk**

The Clerk was to attend a meeting with the Cinema Group on Wednesday, 2 December, 2009.

**Action : Clerk**

45 – Consideration of issues concerning the possibility of establishing a Town Trust

The Clerk was working on the production of documents relating to the establishment of a community interest company.

50(a) – Remembrance Day Parade

The words “Councillors were reminded . . . . .” were deleted. The third sentence was amended to read “There was to be an Act of Remembrance . . . . .”

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

**49. Consideration of Motion concerning the Market Place Refurbishment**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds,  
IT WAS MOVED that “the Town Council agrees to proceed with the refurbishment of Wantage Market Place based on the layout drawing received from BHP Harwood on 31 October 2009 subject to –

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- regular car parking (if feasible) to be confined to a maximum of ten places distributed between the edge of the east-bound carriageway and the edge of the west-bound carriageway within the Market Place
- further attention be given to the pinch points and vehicular entrances to the Market Place
- a pedestrian crossing at or near the mid-point of the Market Place
- tests to demonstrate feasibility of two-way working both within, and at the entrances to the Market Place
- a favourable outcome at a final public consultation to be undertaken at the appropriate time
- the availability of finance”

Following discussion, a named vote was requested. In the vote Councillors Armitage, Crawford, Mrs Hannaby, O’Leary, Kent, Mrs Reynolds, Major Sibbald, Mrs Todd, Dr Turcu and Mrs Turner were in favour. Councillor Goldsmith was against. Councillors Morgan and Standen abstained. The motion was therefore approved.

In the discussion, the following points were agreed or clarified:-

- a letter had been received from Oxfordshire County Council requesting dialogue concerning the scheme and urging that no public consultation proceed until a scheme had been settled with them. It was agreed that this be accepted
- public consultation would be in the form of an A4 note to all households inviting comment on a final scheme
- representatives from the Town Council would be available to attend meetings of other organisations to explain the scheme.

**50. Town Mayor’s Communications**

The Town Mayor reported on all events and activities he had attended over the past six weeks. The Town Mayor thanked the Deputy Town Mayor for deputising for him on a number of occasions.

A meeting had been called for Tuesday, 12 January, 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in Old Mill Hall, Grove, by the District Council to brief Wantage Town Council and Grove Parish Council on the proposed housing development to the north-east of Wantage, adjacent to Charlton.

**Confidential Items 51 and 52**

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 available 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 9.45 p.m.

WPF/KR

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