

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, ON TUESDAY,
5 AUGUST, 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,
Mrs J Hannaby, 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.

One member of the public.

Apologies for Absence

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

Declarations of Interest

These were to be given as the meeting proceeded.

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 30 June, 2008

The minutes were approved and signed.

21. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

22. Matters Arising from Council Meeting held on 30 June, 2008

16.3(a) – King Alfred's Statue

Work on cleaning the Statue had been completed.

23. Minutes of Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 7 July and 28 July, 2008

Minutes of 28 July, 2008

13(a) – Letter from Vale of White Horse District Council Planning Department re WAN/4581/13A

It was clarified that the objection of the Town Council was based on the sign's proximity to adjacent residential properties. The original planning application considered in February, 2008 had not specified the location of the signs. A letter was to be sent to the District Council's Planning Department advising of this.

Action : Deputy Clerk

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

24. Minutes of the Meetings of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 7 July and 28 July, 2008

Minutes 7 July, 2008

6(a) – Stockham Park Amenity Area

It was noted that the grass had been cut lower.

Minutes 28 July, 2008

9 – Allotment Tenancy Agreement

The proposed wording of the agreement would exclude current tenants who were not residents of Wantage parish. It was agreed that it was not intended that existing tenants should be required to vacate their plots. It was noted that the introduction of new terms under the agreement would not have effect for a year, although where infringements occurred under the current agreement, the Council would be free to seek adherence to those terms. The Clerk advised that it was unnecessary for him to be a signatory to the tenancy agreement. Only the tenant's signature was required to acknowledge acceptance of the terms.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the up-dated tenancy agreement be adopted, subject to the Clerk modifying it to accommodate current tenants who reside outside the parish.

The Committee Chairman and the Deputy Clerk were to work together on the implementation of the new agreement terms. **Action : Turner/Deputy Clerk**

25. Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 15 July, 2008

9(c) – Any Other Cemetery Matters

It was reported that quotes were being sought for improving the sight-lines and the visual aspect at the vehicular entrance to the Cemetery. Concerns were expressed at the speed of vehicles approaching the Cemetery entrance from the south, making it difficult for vehicles to safely emerge onto the highway from the Cemetery. The County Council had previously introduced measures to reduce vehicle speed in this area, but these were no longer apparent. It was agreed that this be referred to the next meeting of the Traffic Advisory Committee to consider action.

Action : Deputy Clerk

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

26. Minutes of the Meeting of the Hospital Committee held on 24 July, 2008

Councillor Mrs Hannaby declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Wantage Nursing Home.

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ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,
IT WAS RESOLVED that the name of the Committee be changed to "Community Health Committee".

A letter dated 24 July, 2008 had been received from Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust concerning future medical cover for community hospitals. It was agreed that a brief meeting of the Committee be called to consider a response to this.

Action : Hannaby

It was reported that Mrs Josephine Pryde would be retiring as cook at Wantage Community Hospital on 28 August, 2008 after over thirty years' service. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mrs Pryde from the Town Council.

Action : Town Mayor

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

27. Minutes of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee Meeting held on 21 July, 2008

18(d) - Willow Walk Cycleway

A letter had been received from the District Council advising that it was intended to submit a planning application for the introduction of a cycleway.

18(e) – Flooding

It was reported that a letter had been received from the Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council advising of grants which were available to communities to assist in the relief of flooding risks. The Clerk was to arrange for the letter to be distributed to all Councillors.

Action : Clerk

18(g) – Council's Tax Base : Boundary Changes

The Clerk had been advised that implementation of the boundary changes would not have effect until the elections to be held in 2011. The Clerk was to check whether the implementation could proceed sooner than this.

Action : Clerk

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

28. Town Mayor's Communications

(a) Community Group Discounts : Wantage Civic Hall
Letter from Vale of White Horse District Council dated 31 July, 2008

It was noted that it was the intention of the District Council to remove its current policy of allowing discounts to community organizations.

Councillor Morgan declared a personal interest, his wife being involved with a community group entitled to a discount for use of the Civic Hall.

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It was agreed that the letter be referred to Policy, Management and Finance
Committee for its consideration. **Action : Clerk**

(b) Town Mayor's Activities

Councillor O'Leary reported on various activities and events which he had attended
over the past month as Town Mayor.

Confidential Items 29 and 30

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

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

WPF/KR