

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE JOINT ECONOMIC
FORUM HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, ON
THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER, 2009, AT 7.00 PM.**

Members Present:

Wantage Town Council	Councillors B H Armitage and Dr I C E Turcu
Vale of White Horse D.C.	Councillors Mrs J Hannaby (Chairman), Mrs J Hutchinson and Mrs Z Patrick
Chamber of Commerce	Mr H Hill and Mr R Turnbull

Others Present:

Grove Parish Council (observer)	Councillor Mrs J E Nunn-Price
District Council officers	Ms T Godfrey and Mr T Warren (part)
Health-check consultant	Mr O O'Dell
Clerk	Mr W P Falkenau

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Major J Sibbald and Mrs Z Patrick.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Hannaby declared a personal interest in the Letcombe Brook and Tugwell Field projects. Councillor Mrs Hutchinson declared a personal interest in Letcombe Brook project.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on 6 August, 2009

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising

(a) Pedestrian Crossing at Limborough Road

The County Council was putting the crossing in its programme bid for 2010/2011. It was hoped that the work would proceed early in 2010.

(b) Wantage Rejuvenated

The group was deemed part of the Chamber of Commerce, and therefore did not require a separate constitution.

(c) King Alfred Statue Repairs

The plaque had been installed.

Mr Warren arrived.

5. Wantage Health-Check

(a) Progress Report

The work of the Steering Group had recently been focused on the application for SEEDA funding.

Outside the health check, there were a number of developments that could help with the revitalizing of the town:

- A planning application had been made to extend the Waitrose store.
- Costa Coffee was to occupy the Arbery building.
- Corals Bookmakers were moving into the former Dreweatt Neate property.
- The County Council was proceeding with the installation of real-time information at various bus stops in the town.

It was noted that the County Council was proceeding with consultation on its Local Transport Plan. Members were reminded that they should take the opportunity to comment upon this. **Action: All**

(b) Details of Proposed Funding Request to SEEDA Market Towns Fund

Copies of the proposed application had been circulated to all members of the Forum. It was felt that, with some minor amendments, the application was suitable. It was agreed that the Clerk and Councillor Mrs Nunn-Price, supported by Mr O'Dell and a representative of the Chamber of Commerce, should attend a meeting to be held on 10 December, 2009, to make a presentation in support.

6. General Correspondence and Other Business

(a) Dickensian Evening

Members were reminded that this would be held on 4 December, 2009.

(b) Christmas Lighting

The lighting was to be installed on 22 November, 2009.

(c) Car Park Survey

The District Council had recently conducted a car park survey. Councillor Mrs Hannaby, the District Council's Cabinet Member responsible for car parking, was seeking the introduction of free parking from 4 pm each day.

(d) Sainsbury's Car Park

It was noted that the signs in the car park adjacent to Sainsbury's should not indicate that parking was for Sainsbury's customers only. The store had been asked to modify the signs.

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(e) Grove as a Fairtrade Village

It was agreed that Grove Parish Council should be congratulated on the village achieving Fairtrade status. A reception was being held on Old Mill Hall on 14 November, 2009, to celebrate this. **Action: Clerk**

(f) V.C. Forecourt Noticeboard

It was noted that this was in a very poor condition and required refurbishment.

(g) Savile Way Shops

It was noted that parking restrictions were to be introduced at the shopping precinct putting a time limit on parking.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 11 February, 2010.

The meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

WPF/KR