

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

Present: Councillor P M O'Leary (Town Mayor)
Councillors B H Armitage, Mrs P Brundle, A J Geden,
E C Goldsmith, Mrs J Hannaby, P Kent, 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.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Crawford, M Green, Ms N J Hanna and Mrs E A Turner.

Declarations of Interest

These were to be given as the meeting proceeded.

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 23 February, 2009

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

67. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

68. Matters Arising from Council Meeting held on 23 February, 2009

60.24 – Action Plan : Use of Leisure Facilities in Wantage

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that any liaison with Grove Parish Council be postponed until there had been more progress on the development proposals for Grove.

69. Minutes of the Meetings of the Planning Committee held on 23 February, 16 March and 31 March, 2009

Minutes 31 March, 2009

42.38 –Minutes of Traffic Advisory Committee Meeting held on 2 October, 2008 :
Pedestrian Crossing at Sainsbury's Development

Although the County Council had received a significant contribution from the developer of the Willow Grange complex, it only intended to install a refuge at a crossing point in Limborough Road. Councillor Mrs Hannaby was pressing the County Council to provide a full crossing at an appropriate location where it was most needed.

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43 – Wantage Market Place layout

A meeting had been arranged with BHP Harwood for 2 p.m. on 16 April, 2009 with a view to modifying the plans prior to public consultation. The production of a narrative to go with the plans was needed. Consideration was to be given to incorporating the agreement of the bus companies to drop off and pick up passengers in the Market Place. Any consultation activity should take place before the end of May, 2009. **Action : Clerk**

44(d) – WAN/12562/6 : 25 Harcourt Green, Wantage (Deferred Item)

No objections had been received from neighbours to this application.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald,
SECONDED by Councillor Morgan,
IT WAS RESOLVED to support the application subject to there being a condition that the attached two storey dwelling and the existing dwelling remain as one dwelling.

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

70. Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 16 March, 2009

27(b) – Stockham Park Amenity Area

It was reported that the District Council had carried out various works to clear footpaths and overhanging foliage on property it owned in the Stockham Park area. The fencing along the boundary with Mr Wasbrough's property remained in a poor condition. The District Council would be asking Mr Wasbrough to arrange for tidying up work to be undertaken. The Clerk was to write to Mr Wasbrough supporting this. **Action : Clerk**

Councillor Mrs Hannaby had details of the ownership of footpaths in the Stockham Park area, and would pass these to Councillors on request. The County Council had reinstated its budget for weed clearance of footpaths. Councillors were to advise Councillor Mrs Hannaby of any areas requiring attention. **Action : All**

The Clerk and some Councillors had received an email from Mrs Mellotti giving details of the names of footpaths in the vicinity of Locks Lane and The Mill. The Clerk was to forward a copy of the email to all Councillors. **Action : Clerk**

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

71. Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Committee held on 2 March, 2009

29(a) – King Alfred's Statue

It was reported that Councillors had been unable to accept a invitation to visit the CCTV centre in Abingdon. The Deputy Clerk was to arrange for visits by Councillors after the end of April, 2009. **Action : Deputy Clerk**

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Insurers had given approval to proceed with the repairs to the Statue. The Deputy Clerk was to give urgent attention to progressing this. **Action : Deputy Clerk**

The Police had been unsuccessful in tracing the culprits who had damaged the Statue, and they were closing their files on this.

The cost of applying an identification gel to the Town Council's property would be in the region of £34 per annum.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,
IT WAS RESOLVED to proceed with the use of identification gel on all Town Council equipment and property at a cost of £34 per annum.

31 – Cemetery Items
(c) – Other Cemetery Matters

The development works on the St Mary's site had exposed some rusty barbed wire on the Cemetery boundary. The Deputy Clerk was to arrange for this to be removed as a matter of urgency. **Action : Deputy Clerk**

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

72. Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy, Management and Finance Committee held on 23 March, 2009

69(b) – Report by Ms Sally Wallington, Letcombe Brook Project Officer

The District Council had agreed to continue to fund this project. Argos was still leaving a stack of catalogues on the pavement outside their shop, with the risk that vandals might throw these into the Brook. The Clerk was to write to Argos requesting that the catalogues be kept inside its premises. **Action : Clerk**

A number of trees were being damaged by vandals in the vicinity of the Brook. The public was to be invited to report incidents to the Police. This was to be referred to "What's On in Wantage". **Action : Clerk**

70(e) – Invitation to Seesen for Civic Visit in April, 2009

The Town Mayor urged all Councillors to attend at least one, or possibly two, of the events being arranged for the visit from 23 – 27 April, 2009.

71(d) – Undercroft Car Park in Mill Street

The graffiti had been dealt with. The District Council was proceeding with an agreement with Sainsbury's to take over the undercroft, subject to an indemnity regarding potential future defects.

72 – Future of Wantage Civic Hall

An informal meeting with Jed Webber, the District Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Civic Hall, had been arranged for 7.30 p.m. on 20th April, 2009.

74 – Wantage Market Place Lay-out Proposals : Next Stages

The Clerk was to seek quotes from contractors recommended by both the District and County Councils. **Action : Clerk**

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

73. Town Mayor's Correspondence

The Town Mayor reported on recent events and activities in which he had been involved and gave details of further events he would be attending over the coming weeks.

Following an article in the Daily Mail concerning the poor state of the Town Centre, the Town Mayor had given a television interview commenting on the initiatives being promoted by the Town Council to revitalize the Town Centre. He was keen that everything possible should be done to improve the environment and visual appearance of the Market Place. The Town Council should ensure that its own property was maintained to a suitable standard. The signs in the car parking area were in a particularly poor condition. The Clerk was to seek quotes for replacement signs. Consideration was to be given to the installation of smaller and more discreet signs that were more in keeping with the Town Centre environment.

Action : Clerk

The container by the Statue needed planting. It was agreed that this be referred to the Displays Committee. **Action : Clerk**

Confidential Item 74

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.

WPF/KR