

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WANTAGE JOINT ECONOMIC  
FORUM HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, ON  
THURSDAY, 6 AUGUST, 2009, AT 7.00 P.M.**

**Members present:**

Wantage Town Council	Councillor Mrs J Hannaby (Chairman) (part)
Vale of White Horse D.C.	Councillors Mrs J Hutchinson and R Webber
Chamber of Commerce	Mr H Hill and Mr R Turnbull (Chairman - part)

**Others present:**

Grove Parish Council (observer)	Councillor Mrs J E Nunn-Price
District Council officer	Mr T Warren
Wantage and Grove Street Pastors	Mrs M Monk and Mr David Law
Clerk	Mr W P Falkenau

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Wantage Town Councillors B H Armitage, E C Goldsmith, Mrs J Reynolds, Major J Sibbald and Dr I C E Turcu, and District Councillors W Mellotti and Mrs Z Patrick. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Hannaby did not arrive at the beginning of the meeting, and Mr Turbull acted as Chairman until her arrival.

It was reported, with sadness, that Councillor Peter Hadcroft who had been an observer at the meeting on behalf of Grove Parish Council, had died the previous Thursday.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

These were to be given as the meeting proceeded.

**3. Minutes of Meeting held on 28 May, 2009**

It was agreed that these were an accurate record of the meeting, and were approved and signed.

Wantage and Grove Street Pastors

Councillor Mrs Hannaby arrived and took over as Chairman.

A written presentation prepared by the Street Pastors was distributed to the meeting.

Mrs Monk and David Law reported on the introduction of the Street Pastors scheme in Wantage. The Town Council had given a donation of £400 towards the cost of training. The scheme was due to begin on Friday, 9 October, 2009. The scheme was intended to complement the work of the police in the Town Centre in the late evenings of Fridays and Saturdays. It was hoped that it would help to discourage bad behaviour and vandalism and support the vulnerable. A fund-raising sub-committee had been established to help cover the costs associated with the scheme. All Street Pastors had to be fully trained and appropriately clothed.

Mrs Monk and David Law were thanked for their report, and they left the meeting.

4. **Matters Arising**

(a) Wantage Health-Check : Consideration of report of Steering Group meeting held on 21 July, 2009 and any other matters not covered by the report

The report of the meeting held on 21 July, 2009 was noted. Mr Oliver O'Dell had been identified as a suitable consultant to assist in the work of preparing and submitting a grant application to the Market Town Fund. He had quoted a day rate of £320. It was envisaged that between 10 and 15 days would be required for the work involved.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,  
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Hutchinson,  
IT WAS RESOLVED to proceed with the appointment of Mr O'Dell at a rate of £320 per day for between 10 and 15 days for the purpose of preparing a grant application to the Market Town Fund.

Elsewhere Councillor Mrs Nunn-Price had offered to provide a copy of a leaflet prepared by Mr Douglas Iles which consisted of a write-up of a nature walk between Wantage and Grove. It was agreed that a copy of the leaflet be scanned by the Town Council.

Appointment of an ecologist to survey and report on local areas

Councillor Mrs Hutchinson reported that she had raised this matter at the District Council, and had been advised that there was little or no prospect that the District Council would be in a position to employ an ecologist. Mr Hill reported that he was a fully-qualified ecologist and that he might be able to give some limited assistance.

Provision of discounted leisure facilities

The report of Kit Campbell had still not been widely distributed. The next meeting of the Steering Group meeting had been set for 3 September, 2009. This coincided with a meeting of the Independent Advice Centre. The Clerk was to arrange for a new date to be set. **Action : Clerk**

(b) French Markets

A market had been held on 19 July. The next market was to be held on 15 November, 2009. The Christmas lighting was due to be installed on 22 November, 2009.

(c) Business Directory on Wantage.com

Mr Hill had received photographs from Councillor Kent which he was using on the website. An Entertainments Licence for busking in the Town Council would only be required if a charge was made to the public for this service.

(d) "Welcome Heroes Back" Campaign

It was felt that the Forum was not in a position to take any further action on this.

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(e) Pedestrian Crossing at Limborough Road

Councillor Mrs Hannaby was continuing to press for the provision of the crossing. A substantial contribution had been provided to the County Council by the developer of Willow Grange for this purpose.

(f) King Alfred's Statue Repairs

It was hoped that the plaque would be installed by the end of August, 2009.

(g) Wantage Rejuvenated

The Clerk had not yet obtained any details of a business plan from the group.

**Action : Clerk**

It was suggested that the bandstand in the Manor Road recreation ground could be used to hold events.

**5. Financial Statement to July, 2009**

The attached financial statement was noted. The contribution from the District Council had not yet been received. The Clerk was to formally apply to Toby Warren for this.

**Action : Clerk**

**6. Market Place Public Consultation : Consideration of providing financial contribution towards printing costs associated with questionnaire distribution**

The Clerk reported that the costs to the Town Council had been fairly modest and fully covered within its budgets. It was agreed that it was unnecessary for the Forum to make a contribution to this cost.

**7. General Correspondence and Other Business**

Market Town Fund

It was noted that Wallingford Town Council was proceeding with an application for a grant of £100,000 towards projects and initiatives in the town. The application could provide a useful template and guidance for an application by the Town Council.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday, 5 November, 2009, at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.27 p.m.

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**WANTAGE JOINT ECONOMIC FORUM**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2009/10 AS AT JULY 2009**

	<b>2008/9</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Wantage Town Council	1,000	1,000
Vale of White Horse District Council	1,000	
	2,000	1,000
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
What's On - Wantage.com advert	100	50
Royal Wantage leaflets reprint	577	
VWHDC meeting rooms	145	
French Market		21
Wantage Healthcheck consultation	2,083	
	2,905	71
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>(905)</b>	<b>929</b>
Reserve balance bfwd	15,478	14,573
	14,573	15,502
<b>Reserve balance cfwd</b>	<b>14,573</b>	<b>15,502</b>