

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN WANTAGE CIVIC HALL, PORTWAY, ON MONDAY,
9 NOVEMBER, 2009, AT 7.30 P.M.**

Present: Councillor B H Armitage (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs P Brundle, E C Goldsmith (up to item 51),
M Green (part), Mrs J Hannaby, P Kent, J Morgan, P M
O'Leary, Mrs J Reynolds, Major J Sibbald, Mrs L Todd,
Dr I C E Turcu and Mrs E A Turner.

Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Crawford and Ms N J Hanna.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Morgan declared a personal and prejudicial interest concerning agenda item 41(a).

Minutes of Meeting held on 21 September, 2009

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Armitage,
SECONDED by Councillor Morgan,
IT WAS RESOLVED that the minutes be approved and signed.

40. Statements and Questions from the Public

None.

41. Matters Arising

(a) Community Group Discounts : Wantage Civic Hall

Councillor Green arrived. Councillor Morgan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter, and left the meeting for this item.

The Clerk reported that the amount involved in the reduction of community discounts relating to the Community Church was much greater than indicated at the Council meeting held on 12 October, 2009. The amount was in the region of £3,500.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Reynolds,
IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the amount of grant approved by the Council be increased from £5,000 to over £6,000 in total to accommodate the full grant amount for the Community Church.

(b) Town Council Website

Howard Hill, who manages the Wantage.com website, had offered to conduct a facelift of the Town Council's website for a fee of £135.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Major Sibbald,
SECONDED by Councillor Kent,
IT WAS RESOLVED that this offer be accepted. It was noted that many councils were adopting "..... gov.uk." website address. It was agreed that the Clerk should

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investigate securing the address for Wantage with a view to this providing a link to the existing website.

Action : Clerk

(c) Pedestrian Crossing at Limborough Road Development

The provision of the crossing and other traffic calming measures had been included in the County Council's scheme proposals for 2010/11.

(d) Future of Wantage Civic Hall

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

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

An informal meeting, to which all Councillors had been invited, had been held with the consultants on Monday, 26 October, 2009. Following the meeting, the consultants had provided an up-dated plan to include an area of car parking within the Market Place. There were still a number of questions and issues that needed to be settled concerning the plans. It was agreed that the consultants should be invited to the next meeting of the Planning Committee to be held on 23 November, 2009 for these to be discussed and considered. All Councillors were invited to attend.

Funding requests had been submitted to the District and County Councils. The consultants wanted to achieve full sign-off from the Town Council before proceeding with further discussions with County Council and District Council officers.

(f) Consideration of Organisational Arrangements of the Displays Committee

The principal officers of the Displays Committee had indicated that they intended to stand down in the New Year after many years of service. There were currently no other members who could replace them. Work on arranging the floral displays for 2010 was proceeding. It was agreed that if new officers could not be identified, the Environmental Committee should step in until longer-term arrangements were settled.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,
IT WAS RESOLVED that letters be sent to the retiring officers thanking them for their good and hard work over many years.

Action : Clerk

(g) Reception for Volunteers

Councillor Major Sibbald agreed to call a meeting of the sub-committee on 16 November, 2009. The sub-committee was to agree a date for the reception.

Action : Sibbald

POLICY

42. Report from the Joint Environmental Trust Meeting held on 15 October, 2009

The minutes of the meeting were not yet available. It was reported that Sally Wallington, the Letcombe Brook Officer, was working on a new scheme for Alfred's Bath. The Trust had agreed a 50% grant towards the cost of providing new finger-post signs in the Town Centre.

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

The minutes of the meeting were not yet available. Details of an application for funding which had been forwarded to SEEDA for various projects throughout the town, were noted. Each project required input from various community committees to progress them. One of the projects involved the reinstatement of the cinema. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact members of the cinema group for information on its current status. **Action : Clerk**

44. Consideration of the Appropriate Level of Funding for the Vale and Downland Museum Trust relating to the Town Council's Collection

Councillor Green declared a personal and prejudicial interest, and left the meeting for this item.

A number of issues had been raised at the Council meeting held on 12 October, 2009, which had been attended by Craig Hart, the Museum's Administrator. Mr Hart had provided a booklet which gave national guidance on museum disposal policies.

It was agreed that before giving this matter consideration, Councillors should acquaint themselves with the original agreement document by which the Museum was established. The Clerk agreed to distribute a copy of this. **Action : Clerk**

45. Consideration of Issues concerning the Possibility of Establishing a Town Trust

The Clerk had prepared a note explaining the role that a Town Trust might play. The note explained that the introduction of a Trust had been prompted by discussion concerning the future arrangements for the Displays Committee. The Committee currently comprised of a number of individuals who were keen and committed to its purposes, but not necessarily prepared to participate in governance arrangements that meet the higher statutory obligations of today. These were increasing and unlikely to diminish. This problem was also facing a number of other voluntary organisations within the community, and a way forward would be to create a single umbrella trust with suitably skilled members. This Committee could offer to oversee the activities of any voluntary activity within the town or district that was unable to constitute a suitable committee of its own. The Town Trust would specify health and safety practices, etc, and could, in due course, seek to promote new activities/initiatives. The Town Council could widen its scope to cover some of the activities, but would have a very specific role and responsibility confined to the Parish of Wantage. The Council would focus on its own purpose, but could act as a support for the Trust rather than seek to do its work itself. It would be unlikely that the County and District Councils would fill a void in these areas.

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ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
SECONDED by Councillor Armitage,
IT WAS RESOLVED to support, in principle, the concept of establishing an
independent Town Trust. It was agreed that the Clerk should draft whatever
documents were required for its establishment. **Action : Clerk**

46. **To note the attendance at the next Council Meeting of David Buckle, Chief Executive and Tony de Vere, Leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council and consideration of points and topics to be referred to them**

It was agreed that the following topics should be raised with Mr Buckle and Councillor de Vere:-

- Market Place
- Future of Wantage Civic Hall
- Housing
- Local infrastructure
- Museum
- Car parking
- Leisure services
- Youth facilities

MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

47. **Estimates 2010/2011**

The estimates working sheet was noted. In the current economic climate, it was felt that it would be inappropriate to make any increase in the overall level of expenditure and precept. This climate was also increasing the workload of the Independent Advice Centre and Wantage Counselling Service.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Mrs Hannaby,
SECONDED by Councillor Major Sibbald,
IT WAS RESOLVED that the overall expenditure for the Policy, Management and Finance Committee should remain at £107,790 for 2010/2011, and that the Clerk should review individual lines of expenditure to see whether this could be reduced in some areas with a view to releasing more funds for areas where there could be a greater need. **Action : Clerk**

48. **Requests for Donations**

None.

49. **Accounts for Payment**

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goldsmith,
SECONDED by Councillor Mrs Brundle,
IT WAS RESOLVED that accounts for payment in the sum of £22,826.34 be approved.

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50. General Correspondence

(a) Remembrance Day Parade

Councillors were reminded that the Remembrance Day Parade would take place on Sunday, 8 November, 2009, at Wantage Parish Church. Councillors should arrive at 10.45 a.m. There was also to be an Act of Remembrance on the VC Forcourt at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 11 November. Councillors were invited to attend.

(b) “Future of Wantage” Meeting : Friday, 13 November, 2009

It was noted that this meeting was not a formal town meeting or one called by the Town Council.

51 & 52. Confidential Item

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

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

WPF/KR

Wantage Town Council

Accounts for Payment - October to November 2009					
Date	Payee	Description	Powers	Ref	£
01/10/2009	VWHDC	Rates cemetery	Burial	DD	£ 55.00
01/10/2009	VWHDC	Rates car park	OA 1985	DD	£ 325.00
01/10/2009	VWHDC	Rates Market	OA 1985	DD	£ 388.00
01/11/2009	VWHDC	Rates car park	OA 1985	DD	£ 325.00
01/11/2009	VWHDC	Rates Market	OA 1985	DD	£ 388.00
		Total direct debits			£ 1,481.00
12/10/2009	White Horse Horticulture	Cemetery and play area grasscutting Sept	Burials/Recreation	304501	£ 515.00
12/10/2009	TVE Hire	Cones for market	Office/OA1985	304502	£ 41.17
12/10/2009	Red Corner	Photocopying charges September	Office	304503	£ 25.24
12/10/2009	OCC	Half year rent Larkhill allotments	Allotments	304504	£ 187.88
12/10/2009	Independent Advice Centre	2nd Half Grant	Information	304505	£ 1,850.00
12/10/2009	V&D Museum Trust	3rd qtr grant Museum	Tourism	304506	£ 4,150.00
12/10/2009	V&D Museum Trust	3rd qtr grant VIP	Tourism	304507	£ 1,395.00
16/10/2009	White Horse Horticulture	Cemetery and play area grasscutting Oct	Burials/Recreation	304508	£ 360.00
16/10/2009	Falcon Signs	Market no parking signs	OA 1985	304509	£ 115.00
16/10/2009	BDO Stoy Haywood	Audit 08/09	LGA 1972	304510	£ 632.50
16/10/2009	Faringdon Newspapers	Wantage.com advert (JEF item)	Information	304511	£ 57.48
26/10/2009	P Harris	Maintenance - various	Burials/Allotments	304512	£ 255.00
26/10/2009	M Francis	Fair closure signs	OA 1985	304513	£ 325.00
26/10/2009	VWHDC	Licence re French Market (JEF item)	Tourism	304514	£ 21.00
05/11/2009	Red Corner	Photocopying charges October	Office	304515	£ 24.98
05/11/2009	Viking Direct	Stationery	OA 1985	304516	£ 99.85
05/11/2009	BT	Internet services	Office	304517	£ 103.46
05/11/2009	PB Property Services	Bus shelter cleaning	Street furniture	304518	£ 50.00
05/11/2009	Mr D Fisher	Fair attendant	OA 1985	304519	£ 360.00
05/11/2009	BHP Harwood	Market Place plans	Highways/tourism	304520	£ 5,117.50
05/11/2009	Sapphire Construction	Cemetery entrance resurface	Burials	304521	£ 2,509.28
05/11/2009	Wantage JET	Grant 2nd Half	Tourism	304522	£ 2,150.00
05/11/2009	Cllr P O'Leary	2nd half TM Allowance	LGA 1972	304523	£ 1,000.00
		Total cheques			£ 21,345.34
		Total payments October to November 2009			£ 22,826.34