



# WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL

Council Office, The Beacon, Wantage, OX12 9BX

Town Clerk: Julia Evans 01235 763459

[www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk)

Minutes of Wantage Town Council meeting held on 03 November 2025 at 7.30pm in  
The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BX  
The minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting

## Councillors Present:

I Cameron (Chair), A Crawford, S Cunningham, A Dunford, J Hannaby, E Johnson, P Kirby-Harris, A Menzies, K Morris, S Third, C Walters, V Wright

**Others present:** Alderwoman J Hutchinson

## In attendance:

Town Clerk: Julia Evans

Deputy Town Clerk: Sheryl Sanders

		ACTION
83	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Cllrs Gilhome, Todd	
84	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None	
85	<b>To appoint the new Mayor's Cadet</b> Certificates were presented to the outgoing cadets. They were thanked for their work with both the current former Mayors. Sgt Diamond (air training corps) and Sgt Bridle (army cadet) were presented with their badges.	
86	<b>Statements and questions from the public</b> Alderwoman Hutchinson provided background to the Beacon working Group which was looking into the financial viability of the centre. She felt that the current committee was unbalanced and wanted the Town Council to understand what was happening. The Clerk was to write to the Chair requesting more information on the process.  The matter to be added to the next L&A agenda.	<b>Clerk</b>  <b>Deputy Clerk</b>
87	<b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2025 and consider matters arising</b> The minutes were approved and signed.  Proposed Cllr Menzies Seconded Cllr Third RESOLVED.  a) Meeting with KAs It was reported that a good overview of Sweatbox services had been provided. The reasons for not obtaining charitable status were outlined. Although the Council thought that the reasons given were inaccurate it was felt that Sweatbox would not pursue this at the moment. CLOSED.	

		ACTION
	<p>b) Mayor's pendant and chain and Deputy Mayor's pendant Almost complete and will be ready for remembrance day. CLOSED</p> <p>c) Remembrance Parade Meeting held. Route was to be as requested by RBL. To be assessed after the event. It was noted that the cadets had not received any orders. RBL to arrange this. Deputy Clerk to contact them.</p> <p>d) Plan/costs for future civic visits To be covered under budget review. CLOSED.</p>	Deputy Clerk
88	<p><b>To receive and note the minutes of the following committees:</b></p> <p>a) PC&amp;E – 18 August &amp; 29 September – presented and noted</p> <p>b) Climate Emergency – 1 September – presented and noted</p> <p>c) Planning – 22 September and 13 October – presented and noted</p> <p>d) Finance &amp; Grants – 13 October – presented and noted. An amendment to the minutes was required</p> <p>e) Leisure &amp; Amenities – 27 October – presented and noted</p> <p>f) Health – 30 October - The meeting was inquorate. It was noted that County Cllr Jane Hanna was now the leader of the ICB</p>	
89	<p><b>To consider the Councillor's Statement of Assurance</b> This was signed by those present. Clerk to remind the remaining members.</p>	Clerk
90	<p><b>To receive the interim Audit report</b> Received and noted. Clerk to implement the recommendations.</p>	Clerk
91	<p><b>To approve unbudgeted expenditure for repair and improvement to Town Council noticeboards</b> PC&amp;E to determine the details on this.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED</p>	Deputy Clerk
92	<p><b>To consider allotment rents for 2026</b> Cllrs Johnson, Third, Kirby-Harris and Morris declared an interest and did not participate in the voting. The Chair gave permission for them to remain in the room. The proposal was to increase the rent to £40 per full plot from next year. As future costs were not known it was agreed to review again next year. The proposal was approved.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded Cllr Cameron RESOLVED</p>	
93	<p><b>To approve the following policies:</b></p> <p>a) Flag policy It was agreed that the two Wyverns would be the default flags, but further clarification was required on other aspects of the proposed policy. The sentence about the Union flag was no longer required and was</p>	



		ACTION
99	<p><b>District and County Council Reports</b></p> <p>a) District report Decarbonisation of the leisure centre was being held up by the lack of a wayleave. LGR was taking up a lot of time. The local plan had been refused; the decision was to be appealed. The current local plan would remain in place until 2031 and the 5-year housing land supply was still being met.</p> <p>b) County report LGR was taking a lot of time. A new fire service model was to be consulted upon. The Oxford congestion charge was out for consultation</p>	
100	<p><b>Town Mayor's Communications</b> The Mayor's PA to circulate. The Deputy Mayor was thanked for standing in while the Mayor was in hospital.</p>	
101	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> 15 December 2025</p>	
<b>Confidential Items</b>		
	<p>It was agreed to enter into confidential session.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED</p>	
102	<p><b>To consider the recommendation for the Councils tenure of The Beacon</b> A Crawford left the meeting. The options available were explained. It was felt that the Council would be able to negotiate other things with a new lease. It was agreed to proceed with a new lease.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Johnson RESOLVED</p> <p>Clerk and Cllr Cameron to progress the matter.</p>	<b>Clerk and Mayor</b>
103	<p><b>To consider options for the Joint Use agreement relating to land in front of Charlton Centre</b> It was proposed that the JUA would not be relinquished. Any proposals for the use of the land should be brought to the Town Council.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Johnson Seconded Cllr Wright RESOLVED</p>	
104	<p><b>To receive and note the minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 26 September 2025</b> Noted</p>	
105	<p><b>To review the first draft of the Council budget for 2026/27</b> Following discussion, it was agreed to add £5k to the budget for weed spraying.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Johnson Seconded Cllr Dunford RESOLVED</p>	

The meeting closed at: 22.00pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_