



WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL

Council Office, The Beacon, Wantage, OX12 9BX

Town Clerk: Julia Evans 01235 763459

www.wantagetowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of Wantage Town Council meeting held on 26 January 2026 at 7.50pm 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, J Hannaby, E Johnson, A Menzies, K Morris, P O'Leary, S Third, L Todd, C Walters, V Wright

In attendance:

Town Clerk: Julia Evans

		ACTION
117	Apologies for Absence Cllrs Dunford, Gilhome and Kirby-Harris.	
118	Declarations of Interest Cllr Crawford for agenda item 132.	
119	Statements and questions from the public None	
120	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2025 and consider matters arising A manual amendment was made to minute reference 113. The minutes were approved and signed. There were no matters arising. Proposed Cllr Wright Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED	
121	To receive and note the minutes of the following committees: a) Climate Emergency – 5 January. Proposals for Big Green Week were requested. b) Planning – 5 January. c) TAC – 8 January. d) Finance and Grants – 12 January. e) Leisure and Amenities – 19 January. All the above were received and noted.	
122	To consider any proposals from the above committees a) To ratify the policy for the removal of unauthorised fixings on Town Council Property. Approved at the L&A committee meeting on 19 January – minute reference 52b. Approved. Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr O'Leary RESOLVED	
123	To approve the Council's Flag Policy. The Pride flag was only to be flown for one week. Policy to be	

		ACTION
	amended. The policy was adopted subject to this change. Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED	Deputy Clerk
124	To review and approve the Investment Strategy An additional point to included stating that recognition would be given to the ethical credentials of any organisation. The strategy was approved subject to this addition. Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED	Clerk
125	To receive a report on the Town Survey and agree actions. The Communications Officer was congratulated on the report. It was proposed that a working group be set up to consider what actions could be taken forward. Proposed Cllr Hannaby Seconded Cllr Johnson RESOLVED	Communications Officer
126	To review proposals for Youth Engagement The report was reviewed. The YouTube category to be broken down. Contact to be make with Sweatbox with a view to inviting young people to engage, A working group was to be established. Cllrs Cameron, Hannaby, Kirby-Harris and Walters to join the group.	Communications Officer
127	To approve the meeting dates for 2026/27 The maximum time for meetings in the Standing Orders to be reduced to 2 hours. The proposed meeting dates were approved. Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Third RESOLVED.	Clerk
128	District and County Council Reports a) District report The deed of easement for the leisure centre had been signed. The decarbonisation project could now proceed. The Vale had inspected the allotments, all weather pitch and pavilion at Kingsgrove. b) County report Budget setting was in progress. The Fire service consultation had been extended to 31 January.	
129	Town Mayor's Communications The report had been circulated. It was agreed to take a stall at the Wantage & Grove extravaganza on 13 th June. The Vicar had suggested an event to try and bring the community together. The proposed date was 8 th March. There was general support for the proposal. Communications Officer to liaise with the Mayor.	Communications Officer
	It was agreed to enter into confidential session. Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded Cllr Cameron	

		ACTION
130	<p>Mayor's Allowance 2026/27 It was agreed that this would remain the same as 2025/26.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Johnson Seconded Cllr Menzies RESOLVED</p>	
131	<p>Heads of Terms of Beacon Lease for Council offices and storage facility Cllr Crawford left the meeting. The amount to be contributed toward insurance costs to be queried. The Mayor's use of the building was clarified. Decent WIFI was to be included as one of the conditions. The Heads of Terms were approved subject to clarity on the insurance contribution.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Johnson Seconded Cllr Menzies RESOLVED There was one abstention.</p> <p>Cllr Crawford returned.</p>	
132	<p>Appointment of Solicitor It was agreed to appoint Slade Legal as the Council's legal representation in lease negotiations.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Wright RESOLVED.</p>	
133	<p>Date of next meeting 9 March 2026</p>	

The meeting closed at: pm 21.49pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____