



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 9 March 2026 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, J Hannaby, E Johnson, A Menzies, K Morris, P O'Leary, S Third, L Todd, C Walters

Also Present: PC Oldroyd and PCSO Horner

In attendance:

Town Clerk: Julia Evans

		ACTION
134	Apologies for Absence Cllrs Dunford, Gilhome, Kirby-Harris and Wright.	
135	Declarations of Interest None	
136	Statements and questions from the public None	
137	Presentation from PC Oldroyd Key points from the presentation were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional PCs were expected to join the team soon • Funding had been received for a youth mentoring scheme which had seen positive results • Assistance in setting up community speedwatch teams had been provided. There was a discussion on ASBs and on Speedwatch. It was suggested that the Town Council encourages speedwatch groups to form. Clerk to liaise with Communications Officer.	Clerk
138	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2026 and consider matters arising The minutes were approved and signed. There were no matters arising. Proposed Cllr Third Seconded Cllr O'Leary RESOLVED	
139	To receive and note the minutes of the following committees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promotions, Communications and Events – 2 February b) Staffing – 11 February c) Planning – 16 February d) Finance and Grants – 23 February e) Leisure and Amenities – 2 March All the above were received and noted.	

		ACTION
140	<p>To consider any proposals from the above committees</p> <p>a) To ratify the proposed transfer of funds to EMR at year end – F&G minute reference 82a. Approved.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED</p> <p>b) To ratify the proposed release of EMR funds – F&G minute reference 82b Approved.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded Cllr O’Leary RESOLVED</p>	
141	<p>To review and approve the following documents:</p> <p>a) Standing Orders. Approved.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hannaby Seconded Cllr Cameron RESOLVED</p> <p>b) Financial Regulations Approved</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Crawford Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED</p> <p>c) Risk Assessment Approved</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Third Seconded Cllr Johnson RESOLVED</p> <p>The Clerk and team were thanked for their work on the above.</p>	
142	<p>To approve expenditure for the Civic Visit from Seesen The visit had been confirmed. Awaiting details from the Burgermeister. Expenditure to the full amount of EMR was approved.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr O’Leary RESOLVED</p>	
143	<p>To consider a Council response to the LGR consultation. Cllrs Crawford and Hannaby declared an interest and left the room. Discussion followed on the pros and cons of each option. While the One Oxfordshire option appeared to make more savings, it was felt that localism would be reduced. The two councils option put Wantage in a better position. It was</p>	

		ACTION
	<p>proposed that the Council respond in favour of the two councils option.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Johnson RESOLVED All those present and voting were in favour. Cllr Cameron to develop a response for the Clerk to submit.</p>	IC/Clerk
144	<p>Report from Town Centre Manager The report had been circulated. Although it was dated January there had been no change since then. Otro Burrito had asked for the Town Centre Manager to be thanked for her help in setting up his business.</p>	
145	<p>District and County Council Reports</p> <p>a) District report One of the property team surveyors was to look at the parking situation at Harcourt Green. A meeting had been held regarding land at the bottom of Locks Lane. The tree officer had ordered the land clearance to stop.</p> <p>b) County report Information on pothole repairs was being published. There had been issues getting enough contractors. The fire and rescue consultation had closed</p>	
146	<p>Town Mayor's Communications The report had been circulated. The Mayor had attended the Covid-19 Day of Reflection. It was not well attended.</p>	
	<p>It was resolved to enter into confidential session.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Walters</p>	
147	<p>Review and approval of Kingsgrove allotment lease The following questions and issues were raised:</p> <p>a) What did the hatched area on the plan mean b) References to drainage – clarification required c) Consistency required on the landlord name d) Confirmation required that the site had been developed to the agreed specification e) Reference to the Community Orchard should be removed – a separate lease was required f) Compliance with CMD regulations was not relevant and should be removed</p> <p>The Clerk, the Mayor and the Chair of the F&G committee were given delegated authority to approve the lease subject to the above matters being resolved.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Hannaby RESOLVED</p>	
148	<p>Date of next meeting 20 April 2026</p>	

The meeting closed at: pm 21.13

Signed: _____ Date: _____