



# 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 Finance & Grants meeting held on 13 April 2026 at 7.30pm in The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BX  
The minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting

**Councillors Present:** A Crawford (Chair), I Cameron, S Cunningham, A Dunford, J Hannaby, A Menzies, K Morris, P O'Leary, S Third

**Also present:** Mr T Gashe (Jigsaw), Mr G Hibbins (TAB), Mr J Mitchell (Summer Arts & Twinning)

**In attendance:** Julia Evans, Town Clerk

|    |   | <b>ACTION</b> |
|----|---|---------------|
| 85 | <b>Apologies for Absence</b><br>Cllrs P Kirby-Harris, E Johnson, L Todd, C Walters, V Wright  |               |
| 86 | <b>Declarations of Interest</b><br>Cllr A Crawford for agenda item 101.   |               |
| 87 | <b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2026</b><br><br>The minutes were approved and signed.<br><br>Proposed Cllr Third<br>Seconded Cllr Menzies<br>RESOLVED  |               |
| 88 | <b>Statements &amp; Questions from the Public</b><br>None.  |               |
| 89 | <b>Applicants in support of grant applications</b><br>a) Mr Hibbins of The Abingdon Bridge thanked the Council for their support. He noted that their name was to be changed to The Bridge to reflect their work in the wider area. He reported that Wantage was the biggest referrer after Abingdon. The waiting list was the shorted it had ever been as they are now able to respond more quickly. The organisation had been a lifesaver for many young people. They had also launched a new group aimed at young people aged between 18 and 25 as people of this age find themselves more isolated. Copies of reports were left for Councillors to read. .<br>b) Mr Gashe of Jigsaw Stage Productions reported that they were keen to get more young people involved in their activities; 11 were taking part in their next production. They have cut back on production this year and are focussing on smaller venues. They are working to purchase their own equipment which would enable them to perform in village halls.<br>c) Mr Mitchell reported that over 20 people would be attending the Twinning visit on 5 July.<br>d) Mr Mitchell reported that the Summer Arts Festival had been running for over 30 years and was a celebration of culture in Wantage. 25 events had been arranged for 2026 so far. |               |

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|    | All the applicants were thanked for attending.   |  |
| 90 | <p><b>Matters arising from the minutes</b></p> <p>a) Update on laptop refurbishment. Four of the old laptops had been refurbished. They had all been updated and their performance had improved. It was noted that the oldest one was not in a very good condition although it was still functional. Cllrs Dunford and Menzies to present their machines for updating. Cllr Crawford to chase for the laptop that had not yet been returned.</p> <p>b) Seesen Visit. The costs for the last visit were not easily available. The amount previously agreed would cover the visit. It was agreed that Councillors would pay for their own dinners.</p> | <p><b>KM/AD/AM</b></p> <p><b>AC</b></p> <p><b>CLOSED</b></p> |
| 91 | <p><b>To receive and sign the end of year financial statements for 2026.</b></p> <p>Approved and signed.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Crawford<br/>Seconded Cllr Cameron<br/>RESOLVED</p>  |  |
| 92 | <p><b>To sign the bank reconciliation statements</b></p> <p>The reconciliation reports were noted and signed.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Crawford<br/>Seconded Cllr Hannaby<br/>RESOLVED</p>   |  |
| 93 | <p><b>To review the Barclaycard Statement for February and March</b></p> <p>The statements were reviewed, approved and signed. It was noted that the March statement was paid from the Barclays account to avoid charges.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Crawford<br/>Seconded Cllr Menzies<br/>RESOLVED</p>   |  |
| 94 | <p><b>To approve the Publication Scheme</b></p> <p>The scheme was approved.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr O'Leary<br/>Seconded Cllr Hannaby.<br/>RESOLVED.</p> <p>It was noted that Councillor's postal addresses were available on the VWHDC website. Clerk to ask all Councillors if they consented to having their postal addresses on the Town Council website.</p>   | <p><b>Clerk</b></p>  |
| 95 | <p><b>To approve the IT Policy</b></p> <p>Clerk to arrange a meeting with Cllrs Morris and Third to discuss the comments they had made on the policy. It was noted that the policy needed to be approved at the May Council meeting at the latest.</p>   | <p><b>Clerk/KM/ST</b></p>                                    |
| 96 | <p><b>To approve the Asset Register</b></p> <p>Approved.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hannaby<br/>Seconded Cllr Dunford<br/>RESOLVED</p>   |  |

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|    | Thanks to the Deputy Clerk were recorded for her effort on this project.   |  |
| 97 | <p><b>Offer for the purchase of the old shed</b><br/>An offer of £500 had been received for the old metal shed. This was accepted.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Crawford<br/>Seconded Cllr Menzies<br/>RESOLVED</p>  |  |
| 98 | <p><b>Date of next meeting</b><br/>1 June 2026</p>   |  |
|    | <p><b>It was agreed to go into confidential session.</b><br/>Proposed Cllr Dunford<br/>Seconded Cllr Menzies<br/>RESOLVED</p>  |  |
| 99 | <p><b>To consider the following grant applications</b></p> <p>a) <b>The Abingdon Bridge.</b> £5000 requested. £3000 had been allocated in the budget. The full amount was awarded.<br/>Proposed Cllr Dunford<br/>Seconded Cllr Third<br/>RESOLVED</p> <p>b) <b>Wantage Summer Arts Festival.</b> £1000 requested.<br/>Approved.<br/>Proposed Cllr Menzies<br/>Seconded Cllr Dunford<br/>RESOLVED</p> <p>c) <b>Wantage &amp; Grove Twinning Association.</b> £200 requested.<br/>Approved.<br/>Proposed Cllr Dunford<br/>Seconded Cllr Cameron<br/>RESOLVED</p> <p>d) <b>Pseudomyxoma Survivor.</b> Requested £450. The request was for the cost of hall hire for a fundraising event. It had originally been requested under the Mayor's gift but this facility was no longer available. It was noted that the charity was not local and the request did not meet the terms of our grant policy. Following detailed discussion it was put to the vote. 4 Councillors voted in favour of making the award, 5 voted against.<br/>Request refused.</p> <p>e) <b>Jigsaw Stage Productions.</b> £1500 requested.<br/>Approved.<br/>Proposed Cllr Crawford<br/>Seconded Cllr Cameron<br/>RESOLVED</p> <p>f) <b>Wantage Community Larder.</b> £2000 requested.<br/>Approved.<br/>Proposed Cllr Crawford<br/>Seconded Cllr Third<br/>RESOLVED</p> <p>g) <b>Ray Collins Trust.</b> £448 requested. Approved.<br/>Proposed Cllr Dunford<br/>Seconded Cllr Morris</p> |  |

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|     | RESOLVED.  |  |
| 100 | <p><b>To consider sponsorship of the Wantage Literary Festival</b><br/>Cllr Hannaby declared an interest and left the room.</p> <p>It was agreed to take gold sponsorship.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Dunford<br/>Seconded Cllr Morris<br/>RESOLVED</p> <p>Cllr Hannaby returned</p>   |  |
| 101 | <p><b>Update on the transfer of land at Kingsgrove</b><br/>The Chair brought this matter forward.</p> <p>An update on the status of the transfer had been requested. A pre-market assessment for the grounds maintenance work was to be sent out in the next week/</p> <p><b>a) To review the updated lease for the Kingsgrove allotments.</b><br/>A draft lease had previously been circulated and comments returned. The updated lease had resolved the issues raised. An error was noted in section 4.3 and an explanation of the hatched area on the plan was still required. It was noted that the name on the back of the document was incorrect. There was a question on item 1.1 (interpretation) on page 3 which needed to be answered. Clerk to confirm that the cycle racks would be moved prior to the Council taking possession. The lease was agreed subject to the items above.<br/>Proposed Cllr Crawford<br/>Seconded Cllr Hannaby<br/>RESOLVED</p> |  |
| 102 | <p><b>To consider the contract for CCTV maintenance</b><br/>Cllr Crawford left the room.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the contract. The 50% contingency that had been included was an issue. The camera in Wallingford Street had still not been implemented. The wrong council was stated in the document.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Council would not sign the contract until the Wallingford Street camera had been installed and the contingency cost reviewed. The contract should reflect what the Council was expected to pay.</p> <p>Cllr Cunningham asked to review the contract. He was to send comments to the Clerk by Thursday 16 April.</p> <p>Cllr Crawford returned.</p> <p><b>End of confidential session</b></p>  |  |

The meeting closed at: 21.05

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

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