



# 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 20 April 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, A Dunford, J Hannaby, P Kirby-Harris, A Menzies, K Morris, P O’Leary, S Third, L Todd, C Walters, V Wright

**Also Present:** L Brown (Communication and Events Officer)

**In attendance:**

Town Clerk: Julia Evans

		ACTION
149	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Cllrs Gilhome and Johnson.	
150	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> None	
151	<b>Statements and questions from the public</b> None	
152	<b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2026 and consider matters arising</b> The minutes were approved and signed. There were no matters arising.  Proposed Cllr Walters Seconded Cllr Menzies RESOLVED	
153	<b>To receive and note the minutes of the following committees:</b> a) Climate Emergency – 16 March b) Plans Only – 30 March c) Finance and Grants – 13 April d) Staffing – 15 April  All the above were received and noted.	
154	<b>To consider any proposals from the above committees</b> a) To ratify the approval by the Finance and Grants Committee of the Kingsgrove Allotment lease. Approved.  Proposed Cllr Hannaby Seconded Cllr Third RESOLVED	

		ACTION
	<p>b) To ratify the policies approved by the Staffing Committee. Approved.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Walters Seconded Cllr Menzies RESOLVED</p>	
155	<p><b>To receive an update from the Working Group on Youth Engagement and agree future action</b> An initial meeting had been held and members of the group had attended a Sweatbox session. Sweatbox organisers had suggested that attendance at a Friday session would be more beneficial. It was agreed that attendance at a Friday session should be arranged, with a working group meeting beforehand. Proposed dates to be circulated. Councillors to check their diaries.</p>	<b>LB/All Councillors</b>
156	<p><b>To receive an update from the Town Survey Working Group and agree future action</b> An initial meeting had been held and things that the Council could action had been identified. It was agreed that these items should be taken to the relevant committees and brought back to Council once proposals had been agreed. Lists to be sent to relevant committees.</p>	<b>LB</b>
157	<p><b>To approve the application for Nature Towns and Cities Accreditation.</b> The application was for foundation level. It was agreed that the Clerk should submit the application.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Kirby-Harris Seconded Cllr Dunford RESOLVED</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
158	<p><b>To receive an update on the Civic Visit from Seesen</b> The visit was to take place from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June. A programme for the visit had been circulated. The Community Minibus would be available for transport. The charge was to be confirmed. Councillors who wished to attend the events were to notify the Mayor's PA.</p>	<b>IC/All councillors</b>
159	<p><b>District and County Council Reports</b></p> <p>a) District report The consultation on LGR had closed. The Government also wanted to create a Strategic Authority; the decision would be made later in the year. The Culham waste site was to close. A new site at Great Hasely had been acquired. Waste schedules may need to change due to travel distances for the vehicles.</p> <p>b) County report Oxfordshire was in the top 5 for waste handling. The Fire &amp; Rescue consultation had received record responses. Waste disposal sites were now charging; this was in line with other areas. A proposal had been put forward to keep park and ride charges the same.</p>	
160	<p><b>Town Mayor's Communications</b> The Kings Centre had closed as a shop but would be available as a community space. The Mayor was to meet with</p>	

		ACTION
	the owner at the end of April and asked for suggestions for the use of the space. Andy Sweeney was to give a presentation on the Market Place improvement project at the Annual Electorate meeting on 7 May. The community minibus was to be on display at the St George's day event with outlines of the route it would cover. People were to be asked to suggest a name for the minibus company.	
	<b>It was resolved to enter into confidential session.</b>  <b>Proposed Cllr Cameron</b> <b>Seconded Cllr Dunford</b>	
161	<b>To consider staff job titles.</b> The proposal put forward by the Staffing Committee was considered. It was agreed that the Clerk would be known as the Executive Officer and the Deputy Clerk would become the Deputy Executive Officer.  Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr Cameron RESOLVED  <b>End of confidential session.</b>	
162	<b>Date of next meeting</b> Annual Electorate meeting – 7 <sup>th</sup> May at Sykes Hall; Annual Council meeting 18 <sup>th</sup> May.	

The meeting closed at: 20:29

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