



# 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 18 May 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, T Gilhome, J Hannaby, E Johnson, A Menzies, K Morris, S Third, L Todd, C Walters

**Also Present:** A Yates (Town Centre Manager), C D'Arcy

**In attendance:**

Executive Officer: Julia Evans

		ACTION
1	<p><b>Election of Town Mayor</b> Cllr Cameron was nominated and appointed.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Hannaby Seconded: Cllr Walters RESOLVED</p>	
2	<p><b>Declaration of Acceptance of Office</b> Signed.</p>	
3	<p><b>Election of Deputy Town Mayor</b> Cllr Walters was nominated and appointed.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Crawford Seconded: Cllr Menzies RESOLVED</p>	
4	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> Cllrs Dunford, Kirby-Harris and Wright.</p>	
5	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b> None</p>	
6	<p><b>Statements and questions from the public</b> Mr D'Arcy spoke in support of his application for co-option. He noted that he was particularly interested in membership of the Health and PC&amp;E Committees. Mr D'Arcy was thanked for attending.</p>	
7	<p><b>Appointment of Standing Committees and the election of Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs</b> Nominations were:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><b>a) Planning Committee</b> Cllr Johnson (Chair), Cllr Cameron (Vice-Chair), Cllr Crawford, Cllr Gilhome, Cllr Menzies, Cllr Morris, Cllr Third, Cllr Kirby-Harris (Substitute), Cllr Wright (Substitute)</p>	

		ACTION
	<p><b>b) Leisure and Amenities Committee</b>  Cllr Hannaby (Chair), Cllr Third (Vice-Chair), Cllr Cunningham, Cllr Menzies, Cllr O’Leary, Cllr Todd, Cllr Walters, Cllr Dunford (Substitute), Cllr Kirby-Harris (Substitute), Cllr Morris (Substitute)</p>	
	<p><b>c) Promotions, Communications &amp; Events Committee</b>  Cllr Gilhome (Chair), Cllr Wright (Vice-Chair), Cllr Crawford, Cllr Dunford, Cllr Kirby-Harris, Cllr Hannaby (Substitute), Cllr Third (Substitute), Cllr Walters (Substitute)</p>	
	<p><b>d) Finance &amp; Grants Committee</b>  Cllr Crawford (Chair), Cllr Third (Vice-Chair), All other Councillors</p>	
	<p><b>e) Health Committee</b>  Cllr Hannaby (Chair), Cllr Wright (Vice-Chair), Cllr Cunningham, Cllr Morris, Cllr Walters, Cllr Todd (Substitute), Vacancy for substitute</p>	
	<p><b>f) Climate Emergency Committee</b>  Cllr Wright (Chair), Cllr Kirby-Harris (Vice-Chair), Cllr Dunford, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Morris, Cllr Walters, Cllr Crawford (Substitute), Cllr Third (Substitute)</p>	
	<p><b>g) Staffing Committee</b>  Cllr Cameron (Chair), Cllr Crawford (Vice-Chair), Cllr Gilhome, Cllr Hannaby, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Walters (Substitute)</p>	
	<p><b>h) Traffic Advisory Committee</b>  Cllr Hannaby (Chair), Cllr Cameron (Vice-Chair), Cllr Gilhome, Cllr Third</p> <p>All the above appointments were agreed.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Hannaby  Seconded: Cllr Crawford  RESOLVED</p>	
8	<p><b>Appointment of representatives on other bodies</b>  Nominations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Trustee of Vale &amp; Downland Museum – Cllr Cameron</li> <li>b) Letcombe Brook Project – Cllrs Cunningham and Gilhome</li> <li>c) Vale Community Impact – Cllr Walters</li> <li>d) Public Transport Representative – Cllr Cunningham</li> <li>e) Executive Committee of Wantage, Grove and District Twinning Association – Cllr Hannaby</li> <li>f) Dickensian Evening Working Party – Cllrs Gilhome, Hannaby and Third</li> <li>g) Friends of Sweatbox – Cllr Kirby-Harris</li> <li>h) Wantage and Grove Community Led Children’s Services – Cllr Walters</li> <li>i) Trustee of Robert Stiles Almshouses – Cllr Cunningham</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that Cllr Hannaby had been invited to attend the Letcombe Brook Project meetings.</p>	

		ACTION
	<p>All the above appointments were agreed.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Cameron            Seconded: Cllr Johnson            RESOLVED</p>	
9	<p><b>Review of Committee Terms of Reference</b>            The ToR for the PC&amp;E to be updated to 3 substitutes.            PM&amp;F to be changed to F&amp;G.            The disappointing attendance at the Health Committee meetings over the last year was noted. Councillors to be reminded that they must inform the Executive Officer in good time if they are unable to attend a meeting and they must arrange for substitutes to attend.</p> <p>The Terms of Reference were approved subject to the above changes.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Johnson            Seconded: Cllr Cameron            RESOLVED.</p>	EO
10	<p><b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2026 and consider matters arising</b>            The minutes were approved and signed.            There were no matters arising.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Menzies            Seconded Cllr Morris            RESOLVED</p>	
11	<p><b>To receive and note the minutes of the following committees:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Planning – 20 April</li> <li>b) Promotions, Communications &amp; Events – 27 April</li> <li>c) Leisure and Amenities– 11 May</li> </ul> <p>All the above were received and noted.</p>	
12	<p><b>To consider any proposals from the above committees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To ratify the approval by the Leisure and Amenities Committee of the VC Forecourt policy.            The text ‘for council run or council supported events <b>only</b>, commercial traders and other activities may be permitted’ to be moved from the introduction to section 2.            Approved subject to the change above.</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Cllr Third            Seconded Cllr Todd            RESOLVED</p>	DEO
13	<p><b>To approve the IT Policy</b>            Section 2.4 to be changed to state ‘not to be forwarded to Councillor’s personal email address’. Change ‘Clerk’ to ‘Proper Officer’ throughout the document. Remove the footer.            It was noted that standard signature blocks could be set up in outlook and these should be used.</p>	

		ACTION
	The policy was adopted subject to these changes. Proposed: Cllr Johnson Seconded: Cllr Morris RESOLVED	
14	<b>To receive the internal audit report.</b> Received and noted.	
15	<b>To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26</b> Approved and signed.  Proposed: Cllr Cameron Seconded: Cllr Johnson RESOLVED	
16	<b>To approve the Annual Accounting Statement for 2025/26</b> Approved and signed.  Proposed: Cllr Hannaby Seconded: Cllr Crawford RESOLVED	
17	<b>To agree the dates for the period of Elector's Rights</b> The dates were agreed. The period would start on 3 <sup>rd</sup> June and end on 14 <sup>th</sup> July.  Proposed: Cllr Cameron Seconded: Cllr Walters RESOLVED	
18	<b>To approve the renewal of the Council's Insurance Policy</b> Approved. It was noted that the Council was in a three year Long Term agreement.  Proposed: Cllr Johnson Seconded: Cllr Third RESOLVED	
19	<b>To approve the marking of the World Day of Peace</b> The event was approved. Details to be determined.  Proposed: Cllr Walters Seconded: Cllr Crawford RESOLVED	<b>CW</b>
20	<b>S106 Funds for the Cemetery Expansion Project</b> It was resolved to use of the S106 funds assigned to Chain Hill Cemetery for the Cemetery Expansion Project. Cllrs Cameron and Hannaby to sign the Funding Agreement when it was available.  Proposed: Cllr Todd Seconded: Cllr Walters RESOLVED	
21	<b>Update on Civic Visit from Seesen</b> Councillors were reminded of the dates of the visit and the programme of events.	
22	<b>District and County Council Reports</b> a) District report There has been discussion on SESRO; there were a lot of issues to be dealt with. The 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wantage Leisure Centre would be celebrated on the	

		ACTION
	<p>weekend of 23/24 May. Tenders had been issued for refurbishment of the changing rooms. Work for improved protection for chalk streams was being carried out. The Climate Change grant fund was open.</p> <p>b) County report OCC was working on budgets. The grant from central Government had been reduced. A large percentage of the budget was being spent on Adult social care and SEND. The school transport issue was likely to come up again soon. There had been changes to cabinet members. A new leader was to be announced on Wednesday. A decision of LGR was expected in July.</p>	
23	<p><b>Town Mayor's Communications</b> A written update had been circulated. Approval for draft letter to be sent from the Mayor regarding problems filling units in Kings Walk. Discussion on the issue followed. A slight rephrasing was requested. It was agreed to support the letter which would be sent from the Mayor.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Gilhome Seconded: Cllr Walters RESOLVED</p> <p>The Town Centre Manager to amend the letter and discuss with Bushbuy. Any changes to be sent back to the Mayor for approval prior to the letter being sent.</p>	TCM
	<p><b>It was resolved to enter into confidential session.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Cllr Cameron</b> <b>Seconded Cllr Walters</b></p>	
24	<p><b>To consider the applicant for co-option.</b> It was unanimously resolved to co-opt Mr D'Arcy to the Council.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Cameron Seconded Cllr Walters RESOLVED</p> <p><b>End of confidential session.</b></p>	
25	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> Monday 22 June 2026.</p>	

The meeting closed at: 20:43

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