



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 22 June 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, C D'Arcy, A Dunford, J Hannaby, E Johnson, P Kirby-Harris, A Menzies, K Morris, P O'Leary, S Third, C Walters

Also Present: L Brown (Communications & Events Officer), A Yates (Town Centre Manager), 2 members of the public

In attendance:

Executive Officer: Julia Evans

		ACTION
26	Apologies for Absence Cllrs Gilhome, Todd and Wright	
27	Declarations of Interest None	
28	Statements and questions from the public Ms Geoghegan informed the meeting that pupils from the American Dance School were to represent England in the World Cup in Dublin. She sought funding to support attendance at the event. She was asked to submit a grant application.	
29	To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2026 and consider matters arising The minutes were approved and signed. There were no matters arising. Proposed Cllr Kirby-Harris Seconded Cllr Hannaby RESOLVED	
30	To receive and note the minutes of the following committees: a) Planning – 18 May and 1 June b) Finance and Grants – 1 June c) Promotions, Communications & Events – 8 June d) Climate Emergency – 15 June All the above were received and noted.	
31	To consider any proposals from the above committees None.	
32	To receive a report from the Wantage and Grove Flood Group.	

		ACTION
	<p>Mr Cleaver gave a presentation on the activities of the group. The objective of the group was to build local flood resilience and they have established a connection with the FFRG who are installing river monitoring. They were recruiting and training flood wardens. A bank account and website were to be set up. They asked for somewhere to store their equipment, but were not yet sure how much space they would require. They also requested support for communications to raise awareness. The Communications Officer was to liaise with the group on this. It was suggested that they also make contact with Oxfordshire Lowland Rescue.</p> <p>Mr Cleaver was thanked for attending.</p>	Comms Officer
33	<p>To review and approve proposed changes to the Council's website</p> <p>A video link showing the new site layout had been circulated. It was noted that there would be no change to the supplier and the changes could be made within the existing package. The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) an email address was to be included on the home page b) an issue had been spotted with the virtual tour of the Market Place c) the current site picks up Seesen and the German Flag. These issues were to be resolved. It was noted that further information could easily be added to the Community section, subject to vetting of the links included. The Council was pleased to see more Community Information on the site and thanked the Communication & Events Officer for her work on this. <p>The changes were approved. The Communications Officer to implement the changes.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Dunford Seconded: Cllr Walters RESOLVED</p>	Comms Officer
34	<p>District and County Council Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) District report HOSC were looking into Dental Services in Wantage. The tender for the leisure centre changing rooms and gym extension had been issued. A 50th anniversary event for the leisure centre had been held. An announcement on LGR was expected in mid-July. Work to repair the splash pad in Manor Road park was due to complete before the start of the school holidays. b) County report Tim Bearder had been appointed as the new leader of the Council. There had been changes to the Cabinet. Cllr Hannaby was now on the Planning & Regulation and People Overview & Scrutiny committees as well as her other appointments. 	
35	<p>Town Mayor's Communications</p> <p>A new report was due. EO to check with the Mayor's PA and request that it be circulated.</p>	EO

		ACTION
	It was resolved to enter into confidential session.	
	Proposed Cllr Dunford Seconded Cllr Cameron	
36	To receive a report from the Town Centre Manager. Two written reports were circulated. The Town Centre Manager was to work with the Communications Officer to improve the perception of the town. It was suggested that the Town Council encourage events run by external organisations as long as there was no cost to the Council. The Love Wantage brand to be included on a future Town Council agenda. The Town Centre Manager then reported on the Market Place Improvement project. It was agreed that a letter be written to the Chamber of Commerce.	TCM/EO
37	To approve the installation of a pedestrian gate at Kingsgrove Allotments. The lease had been completed. A copy to be sent to Mark Hewer. Three quotes for the gate were circulated. It was agreed to appoint Shrivenham Fencing contingent upon the installation being done in a reasonable timescale. Proposed: Cllr Crawford Seconded: Cllr Dunford RESOLVED The Allotments Officer was thanked for her work on this.	Allotments Officer
38	To receive an update on Kingsgrove Open Space. An email on this matter was circulated and discussed. It was noted that it contained a number of inaccuracies. EO to write to the author requesting more information.	EO
39	To agree a response of Oxfordshire County Council's Market Place Improvement consultation. The proposed response was presented and agreed. Proposed: Cllr Crawford Seconded: Cllr Hannaby RESOLVED There was 1 abstention. The text of the response was: "Wantage Town Council welcomes the work Oxfordshire County Council has undertaken to examine the potential public realm improvements in the Market Place. We remain committed to promoting enhancements which will make this vital commercial area even more attractive and accessible for residents and visitors, and where businesses can thrive. The final consultation version of Oxfordshire County Council's plans are a radical approach to delivering this but we have reservations relating to a number of significant issues. In particular the impact of the proposed bus gate, the effect on bus routes, the loss of disabled and very short term parking and the impact on	

		ACTION
	<p>businesses for delivery and collection of goods. Once the survey results are processed we would ask that OCC meet with a Working Party of the Town Council in order that these concerns can be addressed with the aim of identifying a scheme that is acceptable to all"</p> <p>The text of the response was to be widely published and a press release issued.</p> <p>End of confidential session.</p>	EO/Comms Officer
40	<p>Date of next meeting Monday 27 July 2026.</p>	

The meeting closed at: 21.22

Signed: _____ Date: _____