

## Council Meeting

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm

Main Hall, Didcot Civic Hall



## Minutes

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a true and correct record by the next meeting of the Council.

### PRESENT

Councillors:

A Macdonald (Mayor)	J Loder
A Jones (Deputy Mayor)	G Roberts
J Broadbent	S Nohre
S Cole	D Rouane
D Guerra Aragao	G Ryall
N Hards	T Worgan
M Khan	O Glover
C Jennings (Leader)	H Macdonald
A Hudson	L Hislop
D Macdonald	Kelly Morrison (Deputy Leader)

Officers:

Janet Wheeler - Town Clerk  
Lucy Blake - Deputy Town Clerk

One member of the public was present.

### 74. To receive apologies

No apologies were received. Cllr Z Mohammed was absent.

### 75. To receive declarations of interests

Cllrs M Khan, D Macdonald and A Macdonald declared an interest in agenda item 4bii as they are all involved with the organisation of the Edfest event and would therefore not participate in the voting on this item.

No other declarations were received.

**76. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and the Extra-ordinary Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and to include questions on the minutes as to the progress of any item**

It was proposed by Cllr A Macdonald, seconded by Cllr A Hudson, and RESOLVED to APPROVE and adopt the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and the Extra-ordinary Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024. All members agreed.

**77. To receive the Committee minutes and decisions taken under delegated authority and to consider recommendations of Committees to Council in accordance with Standing Orders 98 to 112**

**(a) Planning and Development Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr D Rouane, seconded by Cllr A Hudson, and RESOLVED to receive the Minutes for the meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024, and 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (to be approved at Committee). The vote was unanimous. There were no recommendations.

Cllr N Hards explained that the Valley Park Reserved Matters application was due to be discussed at the SODC Planning Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 which conflicted with DTC's Planning and Development Committee meeting. As such, there would be no representative from DTC at the SODC meeting - DTC's comments on the application would have been submitted in the usual way.

**(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr T Worgan, seconded by Cllr G Roberts, and RESOLVED to receive the Minutes of the meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (to be approved at Committee). The vote was unanimous. There were nine recommendations:

**(i) Recommendations to Council:**

**Minute 139 – To approve three grant meetings a year instead of every F&GP meeting.**

It was proposed by Cllr T Worgan and seconded by Cllr G Roberts to approve three grant meetings a year, instead of every F&GP meeting, unless in exceptional circumstances. This would be widely advertised so applicants are aware of when to submit their applications and it is hoped this would enable the Committee to consider all applications fairly and equally. The vote was unanimous.

It was RESOLVED to APPROVE three grant meetings a year. This would be reviewed throughout the year.

**Minute 141 – To adopt the Real Living Wage policy.**

It was proposed by Cllr T Worgan, seconded by Cllr J Broadbent, and RESOLVED to approve this policy. The vote was unanimous.

**Minute 154** – *To reconsider the award of the grass cutting contract due to an error in the report to F&GP.*

It was proposed by Cllr T Worgan and seconded by Cllr D Rouane to award the grass cutting contract to Company B due to the lower financial cost of the service, following previous discussions at the F&GP meeting and realisation of the error on the F&GP report.

Vote: **IN FAVOUR:** 12, **AGAINST:** 0, **ABSTENTIONS:** 8.

It was RESOLVED to award the grass cutting contract to Company B – IMS Group - UK at a cost of £88,069.29 over a three year term.

**Minute 155** – *To approve the award of the installation of the splash park with Company B – The Splash – for the sum of £442,345.93 plus an additional £8,140 for the Gomy floor tiles.*

It was proposed by Cllr J Broadbent, seconded by Cllr T Worgan, and RESOLVED to award Company B – The Splash, the contract for the construction of the splash park. The vote was unanimous.

**Minute 156** – *To approve the proposed virements.*

It was proposed by Cllr T Worgan and seconded by Cllr G Roberts and RESOLVED to approve the proposed virements. The vote was unanimous.

**Minute 159** – *To approve an extension of the existing CCTV contract for an additional 2 years.*

It was proposed by Cllr T Worgan, seconded by Cllr J Loder, and RESOLVED to approve the extension of the CCTV contract. The vote was unanimous.

**Minute 160** – *To approve the Grass cutting Service Level Agreement with OCC for an income of £13,424 towards the grass cutting contract per annum.*

It was proposed by Cllr T Worgan and seconded by G Roberts to approve the Service Level Agreement with OCC.

Vote: **IN FAVOUR:** 12, **AGAINST:** 0, **ABSTENTIONS:** 8.

It was RESOLVED to approve the grass cutting Service Level Agreement with OCC for an income of £13,424 towards the cutting of the grass verges.

**Minute 161** – *To approve the write off sums.*

It was proposed by Cllr T Worgan, seconded by Cllr J Loder, and RESOLVED to approve the write off sums. The vote was unanimous.

**Minute 162** – *To approve a request for a grant of £10,000 to be given to the care of the King Alfred Drive Community Centre organisation until Edfest can get their CIO bank account in place.*

- *Cllrs M Khan, D Macdonald and A Macdonald did not participate in the vote on this item.*

It was proposed by Cllr T Worgan, seconded by Cllr J Loder, and RESOLVED to approve the £10,000 grant for Edfest to be paid to the King Alfred Drive Community Centre organisation this year.

**(c) Environment & Climate Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (to be approved by Committee).**

It was proposed by Cllr K Morrison, seconded by Cllr G Roberts, and RESOLVED to receive the Minutes of the meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (to be approved at Committee). The vote was unanimous. There were no recommendations:

**(d) Personnel and Administration Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (to be approved by Committee).**

It was proposed by Cllr J Loder, seconded by Cllr H Macdonald, and RESOLVED to receive the Minutes for the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (to be approved at Committee). The vote was unanimous. There was one recommendation:

- (i) Recommendations to Council

**Minute 55 – To approve the revised Didcot Volunteer Policy.**

It was proposed by Cllr J Loder, seconded by Cllr H Macdonald, and RESOLVED to APPROVE the policy. The vote was unanimous.

**(e) Property & Facilities Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 (to be approved by Committee).**

It was proposed by Cllr K Morrison, seconded by Cllr S Cole, and RESOLVED to receive the Minutes for the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 (to be approved at Committee). The vote was unanimous. There were no recommendations.

**78. To receive the Mayor's report – 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

The Council noted the Mayor's report and Deputy Mayor's report.

**79. To elect the Mayor designate for the 2024-2025 civic year**

Cllr A Jones was proposed by Cllr T Worgan and seconded by Cllr C Jennings. The Mayor called for any other nominations and received none.

It was RESOLVED to elect Cllr A Jones as Mayor designate for the 2024-2025 civic year. The vote was unanimous.

**80. To approve the revised meeting dates for 2024 – 2025 civic year**

It was proposed by Cllr O Glover, seconded by Cllr K Morrison, and RESOLVED to APPROVE the revised meeting dates for 2024 – 2025 civic year. The vote was unanimous.

**81. To receive motions:**

**i) Motion one – proposed by Cllr L Hislop and seconded by Cllr S Nohre to consider providing free access to period products in all Town Council facilities and to explore whether any disposable products provided can be sustainably sourced.**

The motion was voted on and it was RESOLVED to provide free period products in all Town Council facilities. The vote was unanimous.

**82. To receive communications as the Leader of the Council may wish to bring before the Council and to consider the recommendation of the leader on how such communications should be dealt with.**

The Leader informed the Council that he had been unwell for the past 3-4 weeks and apologised for being unable to answer correspondence during this time. He confirmed that he was unable to attend the recent HIF meeting. He also extended his condolences to Cllr A Hudson on his recent bereavement.

**83. Didcot Garden Town Project and the report of the Council's Representative on the Didcot Garden Town Advisory Board**

Cllr C Jennings informed the Council that he had attended an online meeting with Didcot Garden Town where they discussed their various projects. He spoke on various initiatives including art installations in the town, wayfinding signage and health and well-being. He also spoke about the obesity problem in Didcot, specifically with children and how Didcot Garden Town are working with schools on this issue.

Cllr C Jennings confirmed that there are 135 children in Didcot, under the age of 12, who care for their parents. Some of the initiatives will support these children.

**84. Questions to the Leader concerning the business of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 58.**

***Q. Can the Leader comment on the state of the tennis courts at Park Road? (Cllr N Hards)***

The Leader confirmed that he will investigate and get back to Cllr N Hards.

- *It was clarified with Councillors after the meeting that a lot of work had been undertaken at the tennis courts in Edmonds Park, by the outdoor team which included power washing, moss treatment, installation of new nets and basketball hoops and planting. Repainting the courts would commence subject to the work being completed and drier weather.*

***Q. Can the Leader confirm what information was given to DTC and when, regarding the change in opening hours at Cornerstone, and how was it published? (Cllr N Hards)***

Cllr C Jennings explained that he would gather this information and report back to the Council.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Signed:

(Mayor)

Date:

DRAFT