

## Didcot Town Council

---

### Ordinary Council Meeting

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7.30pm

Online at zoom.us (or via your device app)

(Advisory meeting to make recommendations)



### Minutes

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

#### PRESENT

Councillors:

D Chandran	M Mallows
P Davies	M McNeill
A Dearlove	J Moody
J Durman	D Rouane
P Giesberg	A Sandiford
E Hards	P Siggers (Deputy Mayor)
V Haval	B Service
A Hudson	A Thompson
M Khan (Mayor)	M Walsh
A Macdonald	C Wilson
D Macdonald	

Officers:

Janet Wheeler - Town Clerk

One member of the public was also present.

The Mayor opened the meeting with several announcements. Standing Order 71 was suspended due to this being a meeting held remotely. The revised order of agenda items was confirmed to accommodate recommendations to Council. Cllr D Rouane proposed putting item 16 into the public part of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr A Dearlove.

Vote: 7 IN FAVOUR; 12 AGAINST; 1 – ABSTENTION.

The Mayor confirmed that this item concerned a tender document which should be discussed in the confidential part of the meeting.

The Mayor also congratulated Cllr A Dearlove on his recent marriage.

**31. To receive apologies**

There were no apologies.

**32. To receive declarations of interests**

Cllr V Haval and Cllr M Mallows declared a personal interest in item 16 on the agenda.

**33. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and to include questions on the minutes as to the progress of any item.**

It was proposed by Cllr E Hards and seconded by Cllr D Macdonald and RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

**34. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and to include questions on the minutes as to the progress of any item.**

It was proposed by Cllr D Macdonald and seconded by Cllr M Walsh and RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

**35. 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 - 105**

**a) Planning and Development Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr E Hards and seconded by Cllr M Mallows and RESOLVED to receive the Minutes for the meeting held on **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**.

**b) Finance and General Purposes Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr J Moody and seconded by Cllr P Siggers and RESOLVED to receive the Minutes for the meeting held on **21<sup>st</sup> June 2021**.

- (i) **Recommendation Minute 25** – It was proposed by Cllr J Moody and seconded by Cllr P Siggers and RESOLVED to approve the accounting statements for 2020/21 with the addition of Box 11 which should be ticked as the Council managed Manor Trust Land.
- (ii) **Recommendation Minute 26** – To approve the credit notes raised. It was proposed by Cllr J Moody and seconded by Cllr P Siggers and RESOLVED to approve the credit notes for the Civic Hall amended bookings as laid out in the report.
- (iii) **Recommendation Minute 31** – It was proposed by Cllr J Moody and seconded by Cllr P Siggers and RESOLVED to approve the appointment

of company D – Sloane Curtis – to provide telephones to Didcot Town Council on an initial twelve month contract

- (iv) **Recommendation Minute 32** – It was proposed by Cllr J Moody and seconded by Cllr P Siggers and RESOLVED to approve the decoration of Willowbrook building with LA Paint Decorating Contractors.

**c) Environment & Climate Committee**

No new meetings

- (i) **Recommendation Minute 7** – It was proposed by Cllr D Macdonald and seconded by Cllr A Hudson and RESOLVED to approve the membership of the Pavilion & Splash Park working group. It was also AGREED to add Cllr A Dearlove to the group for cross party membership.
- (ii) **Recommendation Minute 8** – It was proposed by Cllr A Macdonald and seconded by Cllr C Wilson not to progress negotiations over the ownership of land at Tyne Avenue. Cllr D Rouane proposed an amendment to enter into negotiations with the Football Club. This was seconded by Cllr P Davies. Cllr M Walsh raised a point of order that an amendment to a proposal should not materially change the original proposal but the Mayor allowed the amendment to stand for debate. Several Councillors spoke to support the negotiations with an aim that DTC would take over ownership and maintenance of the land. Other Councillors felt that the responsibility lay with the Football Club who currently retain ownership. It was argued that the cost of maintenance was no more than around £2,000 per year.

The first vote was on the amendment – to continue discussions with the football club. A recorded votes was requested:

**Recorded Vote:**

	For	Against	Abstention
Cllr J Durman	X		
Cllr P Davies	X		
Cllr A Dearlove		X	
Cllr P Giesberg	X		
Cllr E Hards		X	
Cllr B Service	X		
Cllr V Haval	X		
Cllr D Chandran	X		
Cllr A Hudson	X		
Cllr M Khan		X	

Cllr A Macdonald		X	
Cllr D Macdonald		X	
Cllr M Mallows	X		
Cllr M McNeill	X		
Cllr J Moody		X	
Cllr D Rouane	X		
Cllr A Sandiford		X	
Cllr P Siggers		X	
Cllr A Thompson		X	
Cllr M Walsh		X	
Cllr C Wilson		X	

The amendment fell: 10 votes in favour; 11 votes against.

The second vote was on the original proposal not to progress negotiations –another recorded vote was requested:

**Recorded Vote:**

	For	Against	Abstention
Cllr J Durman		X	
Cllr P Davies		X	
Cllr A Dearlove	X		
Cllr P Giesberg		X	
Cllr E Hards	X		
Cllr B Service		X	
Cllr V Haval		X	
Cllr D Chandran		X	
Cllr A Hudson		X	
Cllr M Khan	X		
Cllr A Macdonald	X		
Cllr D Macdonald	X		
Cllr M Mallows		X	
Cllr M McNeill		X	
Cllr J Moody	X		
Cllr D Rouane		X	

Cllr A Sandiford	X		
Cllr P Siggers	X		
Cllr A Thompson		X	
Cllr M Walsh	X		
Cllr C Wilson	X		

The proposal fell: 10 votes in favour; 11 votes against.

As neither proposal had a majority, it was AGREED to bring this item back to full Council when there was further information on the costs. If there was substantial new information it could be brought back before the six months allowed for agenda items.

**d) Personnel and Administration Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr D Macdonald and seconded by Cllr E Hards and RESOLVED to receive the minutes for the meeting held on **7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**.

Recommendations - agenda items in confidential

**e) Property & Facilities Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr P Siggers and seconded by Cllr B Service and RESOLVED to receive the minutes of the meeting held on **26<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.

**36. To receive the Mayor’s Report**

The report was noted by the Council.

**37. To review, approve and sign the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR)** The Council discussed the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 in Section 1 of the AGAR and the accounting statements recommended for approval by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. It was proposed by Cllr J Moody and seconded by Cllr P Siggers and RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020/21 and the statements therein. The vote was unanimous. The AGAR would be ratified and physically signed at the Extra Ordinary Council meeting to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

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

There were no communications for this meeting.

**39. To consider motions in the order in which they have been notified:**

There were no motions received.

#### **40. To nominate a representative on the Didcot Garden Town Management Board**

It was proposed by Cllr M Khan and seconded by Cllr B Service and RESOLVED to nominate the Leader, Cllr D Macdonald to serve as the representative on the Didcot Garden Town Management Board. Cllr E Hards was appointed to deputise for the Leader.

#### **41. Didcot Garden Town Project and the report of the Council's representative on the Didcot Garden Town Management Board**

The next meeting was 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

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

*Q: Can the Leader give an up-date on the aerators at Ladygrove Lakes?*

A: The new aerators were installed last week. It is hoped that the recent rainy weather and the aerators make a difference to the health of the fish.

*Q: Can the Leader allay concerns that the Council has not handled the future opening of Willowbrook well?*

A: We are continually discussing this building and we hope to soon be able to discuss the next steps with the residents. Every Councillor wants to open the building as soon as possible.

#### **43. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Pursuant to Section 1 of the Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960 the committee will be asked to exclude the press and public from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted**

#### **44. To approve the next vehicles for the Outside Services Team**

The Outside Services Manager had viewed several vehicles with a view to moving to a greener and more environmentally efficient vehicle. Councillors had been invited to several demonstrations.

It was proposed by Cllr J Moody and seconded by Cllr B Service and RESOLVED to purchase the Alke ATX crewcab at a cost of £37,226 Plus VAT. The vehicle will be fitted with a cage on the rear and a set of off road tyres.

**45. To approve the permanent appointment of the Outside Services Manager and a recommendation from the Personnel & Administration Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr D Macdonald and seconded by Cllr B Service and RESOLVED TO appoint Mr Robert Harris as a permanent employee. It was also RESOLVED to award Mr Harris an increment on the salary scale.

**46. To approve the tender document for assistance with the future procurement of Willowbrook including short term options to open the building**

Following two sessions with potential suppliers, this tender was reviewed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee at their meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. An addition was added to include the option of running Willowbrook in-house.

Following much detailed debate, it was proposed by Cllr J Moody and seconded by Cllr B Service and RESOLVED to approve the tender document for circulation to the suppliers. The tender would also be advertised on the contracts finder portal and the Find a Tender portal. The tender must by law be advertised for thirty days.

Some Councillors were not convinced that this was the right course of action but would support the proposal in order to avoid hindering the re-opening.

Cllr J Moody felt that the contractors would help us with the best course of action along with the paperwork that may need to be put in place. The vote to approve the tender document was: IN FAVOUR = 17; ABSTENTION = 2.

**47. To consider the first aid payments to staff**

It was proposed by Cllr D Macdonald and seconded by Cllr E Hards and RESOLVED to offer the sum of £150 to all staff who achieve their first aid certificate in recognition of their achievement. This payment would be made for every year that the certificate is valid.

The meeting closed at 9.43pm. An Extra Ordinary Council meeting will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to ratify these decisions.

Signed:

(Mayor)

Date: