

Didcot Town Council

Environment & Climate Committee Monday 5th June 2023 at 7.30pm All Saints Room, Civic Hall



Minutes

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

PRESENT

Councillors:

Cllr G Roberts (Acting Chair)
Cllr K Morrison (Acting Deputy Chair)
Cllr A Hudson
Cllr S Cole
Cllr A Jones
Cllr J Broadbent
Cllr D Macdonald

Non-voting Councillors:

Cllr C Jennings
Cllr H Macdonald

Officers:

Mrs L Blake (Planning and Environment Officer – PEO [minutes])
Mr M Blake (Interim Outdoor Services Manager - OSM)
Mr A Guzinski (Planning and Allotment Officer)

1. To elect the Chair of the Committee

The Acting Chair, Cllr G Roberts opened the meeting and called for nominations. It was proposed by Cllr A Jones, seconded by Cllr S Cole, and **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr G Roberts as the Chair of the Environment and Climate Committee.

The vote was unanimous.

2. To elect the Vice Chair of the Committee

Cllr S Cole proposed Cllr K Morrison as the Deputy Chair. This was seconded by Cllr G Roberts and **RESOLVED**. There were no other nominations, and the vote was unanimous.

3. To receive apologies

Cllr L Hislop tendered his apologies. Cllr D Macdonald substituted.

4. To receive declarations of interest

No declarations were made.

5. To review the Environment and Climate Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee reviewed the terms of reference, and no changes were made. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the terms of reference.

All members agreed.


6. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2023 as a true and correct record

It was proposed by Cllr A Hudson, seconded by Cllr A Jones, and **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting, and note them as such.

All members agreed.

7. Questions on the minutes and review the progress report

The Committee heard the updates for each item as listed on the following two pages.

Action	Responsible	Rating	Meeting 16.01.2023	Meeting 05.06.2023
Tidying up of the noticeboards	Officers	Amber	Work on this was on going.	Would be carried out throughout the summer, using casual staff.
Shared cycle path additions to visible desired line in Ladygrove	Officers & Councillors	Amber	Price per metre was to be found for various types of pathways.	Work on-going.
Ladygrove Zip wire	Officers	Green	All sites had had their cableway dismantling inspections, except Ladygrove.	The Zip wire had been fixed.
Ladygrove Lake Pump	Officers & Councillors	Amber	Work on this was on-going.	Work on this was on-going and meetings would be arranged with the Fishing Association and the newly formed Ladygrove Management Group.
Millennium Woods signs	Officers	Amber		An update on the noticeboards was covered in the OSM's report.
New bench location in Edmonds Park	Officers & Councillors	Amber	The OSM's recommended location was detailed in the OSM report and approved.	<p>The bench had been purchased and installed in Edmonds Park. Unfortunately it had already been damaged:</p>  <p>The outdoor team had said this is unfixable (the bottom has been badly damaged too, so they replaced it with an older recycled plastic one, for the time being.</p>
Vehicle stickers	Officers	Green		Town Council logo stickers for the outdoor vehicles were delivered 30/05/23.

Skate Park and other park signs	Officers	Green		The signs for the Skate Park, Smallbone Rec and St Annes Park were delivered 30/05/23 and would be attached to the posts/gates as soon as possible.
---------------------------------	----------	-------	--	---

Cllr K Morrison requested that the Environment and Climate Committee budgets be added to the Committee's agenda as a standard item. The PEO confirmed this would be done.

Cllr A Jones enquired about the Ladygrove Pump and how often it was used. The OSM confirmed that last year it ran for four weeks straight, (four hours a day) and that members of the Fishing Association aided the outdoor team with this work. The PEO confirmed that the Ladygrove Management Working Group would take on the issues with the lakes in their meetings, which would feed directly back to the Environment and Climate Committee.

Both Cllrs J Broadbent and C Jennings suggested meeting with the OSM on site to discuss what further actions could be taken. Any Councillor would be welcome to attend.

8. To consider the Outdoor Services Manager's report

The Committee noted the Outdoor Services Manager's report and considered the recommendations.

13. Cockcroft allotments

The OSM updated the Committee on the history of the trees. Members were informed that ownership of the land where the garage was located had changed, and the new owner had been written to, to request permission to work on their land. No response had been received at the time of the meeting.

It was recommended that the crown of the Oak tree be reduced, and the Pine tree removed, as it was struggling, at a cost of **£1,250**. This would be taken from cost centre 310/3158 'Trees'.

It was proposed by Cllr A Jones, seconded by S Cole, and **RESOLVED** to accept this quote for the work.

All members agreed.

18. Cemetery

The Committee considered the OSM's recommendation to amend the cemetery rules to include:

"All Christmas decorations must be removed from the cemetery by 1st February each year. Any ornaments and vases are to be kept well within the parameters of the grave space. Failure to abide by these rules will result in the immediate removal of the items by the Council."

It was proposed by Cllr A Jones and **RESOLVED** to accept the amendments to the cemetery rules and regulations.

All members agreed.

19. Edmonds and Great Western Drive Park – seesaws

The Committee considered the recommendations and the quotes from various companies to replace the two seesaws. These arrived after the agenda was sent out but was given to the members at the start of the meeting – attached as appendix 1.

It was proposed by Cllr G Roberts, seconded by Cllr K Morrison, and **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from company One, option one, at a cost of **£6,750.00** +VAT.

All members agreed.

30. Ladygrove Park

The Committee discussed the increasing costs involved with repairs needed to equipment which had been vandalised in the park. Cllr D Macdonald suggested that these figures be relayed to residents to show how much money the Town Council is spending on rectifying issues resulting from vandalism.

The PEO would draft a 'poster' to be displayed on the Town Council's website/social media accounts, which could also be displayed at the parks, and would send it to the Committee via email, for approval – attached as appendix 2.

Cllr C Jennings informed the Committee that he would be happy to talk with the local shop owners about displaying the posters in their windows. Local schools could be asked to add this to their correspondence to students.

It was proposed by Cllr K Morrison, seconded by Cllr S Cole, and **RESOLVED** to approve the quote of **£2,790.00** +VAT to repair the multi swing in Ladygrove Park, to be taken from cost centre 309/3153.

All members agreed.

9. To consider the Ladygrove Skate Park report and recommendations to the Committee

The Committee considered report.

Although the Committee were keen to support the proposed project, more details were needed before a decision could be made.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the project in principle, subject to further details, including costs of the project, being presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

All members agreed.

10. To consider the report on purchasing polytunnels for Town Council use and the recommendations to the Committee

The Committee considered the report and expressed their backing of this project. It would create good relationships with the community and enable the Town Council to 'grow their own' plants which would, in the long term, save the Council money.

Cllr C Jennings mentioned that wheelchair access would be a must and work would be needed to ensure the site was accessible.

Cllr D Macdonald suggested that the OSM look at spending slightly more money on a more durable and steadier polytunnel.

Cllr A Jones queried who would take responsibility of watering the polytunnels at weekends and suggested approaching volunteers.

The PEO explained that she would be attending a meeting with South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) the following day to discuss funding opportunities and stated that this project could be eligible for an Active Community Grant (up to £1,000).

It was proposed by Cllr S Cole, seconded by Cllr G Roberts, and **RESOLVED** to purchase the polytunnels and materials at an approximate cost of **£2,000** and to apply for an SODC grant to contribute to the cost, is eligible. The remaining cost would be taken from cost centre 101/1173 'Green Projects'.

The OSM would investigate sturdy polytunnels and access to the site, while the PEO would look into obtaining additional funds.

11. To consider areas in Didcot which the Committee believe would benefit from SODC's 'Deep Cleanse' service

The Committee discussed various areas in Didcot which would benefit from this service. Whilst the request did not include 'cutting back vegetation' the Committee noted numerous areas which would benefit from that. This included the 'yellow brick road' in Ladygrove and the Route 5 cycle and footpath between Ladygrove and Abingdon Road.

Alleyways, including Baden Powell Way and the alley next to Stubbings Land were also mentioned as areas in need of litter clearing.

The Committee asked the PEO to email members suggestions to be agreed before sending back to SODC – agreed locations attached as appendix 3.

All members agreed this action.

12. To consider a resident's request to install a bus shelter along Wantage Road and the recommendations to the Committee

Whilst the Committee noted the residents request for a bus shelter on Wantage Road, concerns were raised due to the costs. Quotes had been received after the agenda was sent out and were presented to members at the start of the meeting. They were as follows:

1. Option 1

To supply and install a Mono 2 bay shelter (footprint of 2.5 x 1.42m)

£5,153.83

Concrete base of 3m x 0.8m **£924.00**

Total **£6,077.83 (ex VAT)**

2. Option 2

To supply and install a Mono 3 bay shelter – seat will still be 2 bays, allowing room for standing passengers (3.673m x 1.42m) **£5,923.74**

Concrete base of 4m x 0.8m **£1,160.00**

Total **£7,083.74 (ex VAT)**

It was proposed by Cllr S Cole, seconded by Cllr K Morrison, and **RESOLVED** to not install a bus shelter at this location, but instead investigate installing a bench as an alternative.

All members agreed.

The PEO had emailed the Bus Infrastructure Officer at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) regarding this, but no response had been received prior to the meeting. Members would be kept informed of any information received via email.

13. To consider the report on whether Didcot Town Council should apply for a Smokefree Community Fund for playpark signage and the recommendations to the Committee

The Committee considered the report and recommendations. Whilst members agreed that 'no smoking signs' would be good for the parks, concerns were raised as to how they would be perceived by residents.

It was agreed that the PEO would contact local schools in the first instance to see if this project was something they would be willing to be a part of.

It was proposed by Cllr G Roberts and **RESOLVED** to approve applying for a Smokefree Community Fund for playpark signage, subject to school participation and support.

Six members agreed with one abstention.

The meeting closed at 20:50

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: _____

Environment & Climate Committee 5th June 2023



Report author: Lucy Blake and Mike Blake


See saw quotes for Edmonds and Great Western Drive Park

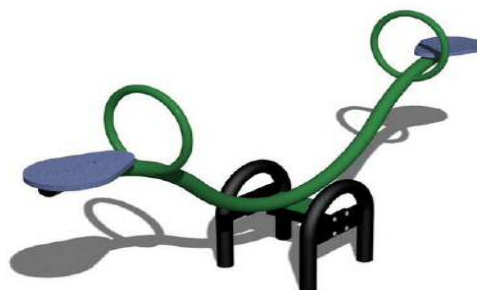
Three companies have supplied quotes for removing and replacing the spring seesaws at Edmonds and Great Western Drive Park.

Company 1:

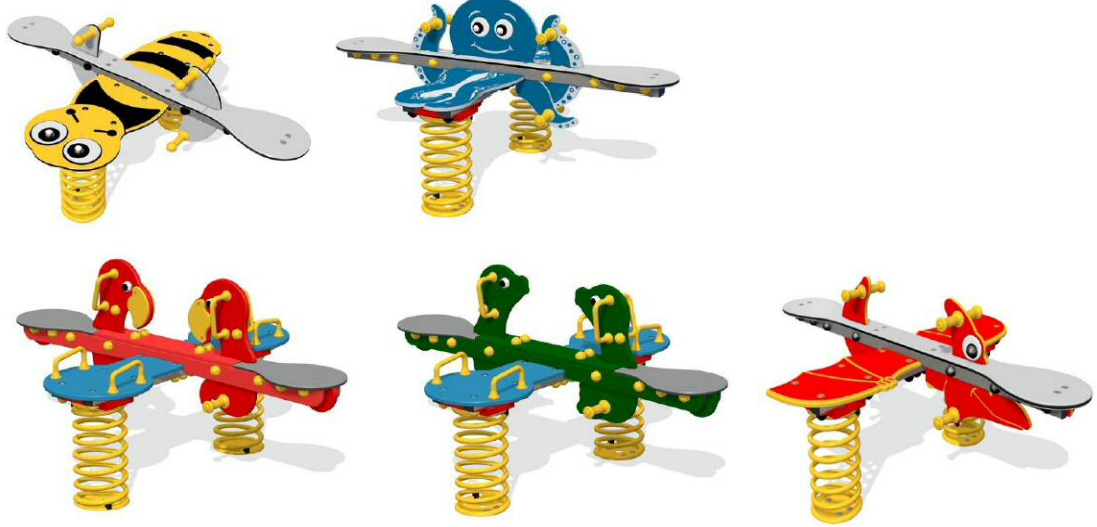
Two options were supplied by this company.

Option 1:


Remove and dispose of 2no seesaws across 2 sites
Supply and install 2no Delta Seesaw, made in UK with easy maintenance and parts
Repair black EPDM damaged by installs
Provisions including HERAS security fencing

Total £6,750.00 + VAT



Option 2:


Remove and dispose of 2no seesaws across 2 sites
Supply and install 2no Spring seesaws from the selection below
Repair black EPDM damaged by installs
Provisions including HERAS security fencing

Total £, 4,650.00 + VAT

Company 2:

Description	Total
Careful removal the existing seesaws	£1,833.00
4Saw Seesaw	£2,820.00
Minimum installation charge	£1,250.00
Wetpour repair kit – base layer	£106.48
Wetpour repair kit – top layer (black 0.6sqm)	£145.20
Subtotal	£6,154.68
Carriage	£184.30
Preliminaries	
Heras fencing hire, secure storage on/off site, waste management, welfare facilities	£1,685.60
	Total £8,024.58 + VAT for one £16,049.16 + VAT for two

Company 3:


This company supplied 4 different options.
Option 1:

Description	Total
Removal of 2 existing spring rockers, supply and install 2 new single spring rocker seesaws and patch around new foundation with blue wet pour in a splash detail. Includes orange mesh fencing	£4,491.43 ex VAT
	


Option 2:

Description	Total
Removal of 2 existing spring rockers, supply and install 2 new double spring seesaws and patch around new foundation with blue wet pour in a splash detail. Includes orange mesh fencing	£5,041.41 ex VAT
	

Option 3:

Description	Total
Removal of 2 existing spring rockers, supply and install 2 new traditional seesaws and patch around new foundation with blue wet pour in a splash detail. Includes orange mesh fencing	£8,201.43 ex VAT
	

Option 4:

Description	Total
<p>Removal of 2 existing spring rockers, supply and install 2 new Vinci steel seesaws including wet pour repairs to foundation holes in black. Includes orange mesh fencing</p> 	<p>£5,935.51 ex VAT</p>

Company 3 require 50% deposit paid within 7 days of order.

WE ALL PAY FOR VANDALISM!

DO YOU

WASTE MONEY

DIDCOT TOWN

PLAYGROUND

MAINTENANCE

YEARS?

2020-2021 =

the Coronavirus

2021-2022 = £4

Coronavirus pandemic

Since the start of
£18,175.60 on playground

Council has spent
to wear and tear

- These figures do not include dog waste collection, dog waste collection, grass cutting, litter picking, inspections, staffing hours or staff training



South Oxfordshire District Council – Deep Cleanse Service

<u>PRIORITY</u> High/Medium/Low	<u>AREA</u>	<u>LITTER</u> <u>PICK</u>	<u>SWEEP</u>	<u>WEEDS</u>	<u>MOSS</u>
H	Baden Powell Way	X	X	X	
H	Alleyway by Stubbings Land	X	X	X	
H	A4130	X	X	X	
H	Broadway	X	X	X	
M	Wantage Road	X	X	X	
H	Yellow brick road in Ladygrove	X	X	X	
H	Route 5 cycle path and footway between Ladygrove and Abingdon Road	X	X	X	X