

Didcot Town Council

Environment & Climate Committee Monday 11th March 2024 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 (Chair)
Cllr K Morrison (Deputy Chair)
Cllr A Hudson
Cllr A Jones
Cllr L Hislop
Cllr J Broadbent
Cllr S Cole

Officers:

Mrs J Wheeler (Town Clerk)
Mrs L Blake (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr M Blake (Outdoor Services Manager - OSM)

61. To receive apologies

There were no apologies. All members were present.

62. To receive declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

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

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

All members agreed.

64. Questions on the minutes and review the progress report

The Committee noted the progress report – shown on the next page.

Cllr A Hudson asked about the trees in Edmonds Park and the progress of the work there. The OSM explained that the work to reduce the crown of the trees next to the new Community and Sports Pavilion is due to commence in the next week following the completion of the pavilion.

There were no other questions.

Action	Responsible	Rating	Meeting 15.01.2024	Meeting 11.03.2024
Tidying up of the noticeboards	Officers	Amber	2 new staff members had joined the team so work to tidy the boards would start asap.	Boards have been measured and new backing boards have been ordered.
Smokefree play park signs	Officers	Amber	OCC had been contacted again at the beginning of January 2024. Schools would be contacted again to see if there was any more interest.	No more interest has been received.
'Sow & Grow' – Community Planting project at New Road allotments	Officers	Amber	The ground preparations had been delayed due to staffing issues. Two new members had since started working for DTC so the work was due to commence.	Construction of the polytunnel is well underway. The frame is up and the access road/path has been completed. A talk was held on 28 th February at the Civic Hall to encourage people to 'sign up'.
Zip wire inspections	Officers	Green	OSM was still awaiting quotes.	Completed.
Investigate costs to install chicanes/bollards at Stubbings Land	Officers	Amber	The Developer was contacted on 30 th November 2023 to ask if they could financially contribute. No response was received. Companies had been contacted to quote for this work.	On the agenda for discussion.

65. To note the External Income and Expenditure to date for external works, as updated on 5th March 2024 – emailed to members 8th March 2024

The Committee noted the updated figures, as of 5th March 2024.

66. To consider the Outdoor Services Manager's report

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

Ladygrove Park

20. The Committee was asked to consider approving an order for 20 tonne of play grade bark to ensure the levels in Ladygrove Park meet the requirements. This was quoted at £1,324.80 (inc VAT).

It was proposed by Cllr K Morrison, seconded by Cllr L Hislop, and **RESOLVED** to accept the quote to 'top up' the play bark in Ladygrove, at a cost of £1,324.80 to come from cost centre 309/3149 'Bark Top-Up'.

All members agreed.

Ladygrove Lakes

24. Canada Geese.

The Committee considered various options of deterring the geese in the future, but noted this would be a difficult task. Staff did not want to cull the birds so more humane deterrents were discussed.

It was proposed by Cllr L Hislop, seconded by Cllr J Broadbent, and **RESOLVED** to investigate hiring 'birds of prey' to deter the geese before they settle. Officers would look into this.

All members agreed.

Events

Edmonds Park

26. SODC Xplorer Orienteering Event – Wednesday 3rd April 2024, 9am – 1pm

- Free to attend family event for the community

27. SODC Xplorer Orienteering Event – Tuesday 20th August 2024, 9am – 1pm

- Free to attend family event for the community

Ladygrove Park

28. Didcot 5 mile run and 2-mile fun run – Sunday 7th July 2024, 7am – 12.00 midday

- Chargeable event for the community

29. SODC Xplorer Orienteering Event – Tuesday 6th August 2024, 9am – 1pm

- Free to attend family event for the community

Ladygrove Lakes

30. Wildlife Trusts – Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th April 2024, 10am – 4pm

- Educational and informative boards to be displayed at the lakes

It was proposed by Cllr A Hudson, seconded by Cllr K Morrison, and **RESOLVED** to approve the dates for these events. There would be no charge for the SODC events or the Wildlife Trusts event.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to charge Didcot Park Run £200 for the hire of the park for this event, on the same condition as last year – that Didcot Runners supply the Council with a statement confirming all proceeds from the event would go to registered charities – *Officers were to inform the organisers that this charge could potentially increase next year in line with the current charity hire charges.* Organisers of this event could apply for a grant to cover the cost of the hire. All members agreed.

67. To consider the report on a new three-year Tree Inspection Contract and the recommendations to the Committee

The Committee considered the report and whilst members agreed a new contract was needed for the inspections of the Town Council's trees, more details should be sought from ODS regarding the quotation.

It was proposed by Cllr J Broadbent, seconded by Cllr A Hudson, and **RESOLVED** to approve this in principle, subject to additional information being received. All information received would be distributed to members via email before a final decision on the contract is made.

68. To note the update on the 'bollards' at Stubbings Field

The Committee noted the update. Officers were waiting on more quotes for this work and were continuing to liaise with the developer.

69. To consider the request from Didcot Town Youth Football Club to install fencing at Edmonds Park

The Committee considered the request. Concerns were raised regarding missing details of the planned installation and members asked Officers to ensure all relevant

information, including RAMS and insurances were obtained prior to any work being approved.

It was proposed by Cllr G Roberts, seconded by Cllr K Morrison, and **RESOLVED** to approve the installation of the fencing in principle, provided that the Club provide all relevant risk assessments, method statements and insurance details of the contractor. All members agreed.

70. To consider Expressions of interest for SODC's Community Infrastructure Levy Pilot Grant Fund

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Committee that an application for improvements to the access of Didcot Town Council's open spaces in Ladygrove and at Millennium Woods, had been submitted earlier in the day.

The Committee decided no further applications needed to be submitted at this time and thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for the work on the application.

71. To note the update on the GWP allotment sites report and recommendations to the Committee

The Committee noted the report which detailed the size of both allotment plots 40 and 44, one of which is in the Didcot Parish boundary, and one is in East Hagbourne.

The need for space for future cemetery provisions was discussed - plot 44 was suggested as a possible suitable location. Members requested that Officers investigate this further by contacting Hagbourne Parish Council on their views on this and whether they would support Didcot Town Council discussing the possibility of a change of use of the land at this site, with the developer.

72. To note the agreed notes from the Ladygrove Management Working Group meeting held on 21st September 2023 and the draft meeting notes from the meeting held on 25th January 2024

The Committee noted the meeting notes from both meetings.

73. To note the draft meeting notes from the Allotment Liaison Group meeting held on 22nd February 2024 and recommendations to the Committee

The Committee noted the meeting notes from the Allotment Liaison Group and considered the recommendations.

Recommendation 1 – Consider a separate awards event for allotment holders

The Committee discussed this proposal and whilst they agreed in principle, members wanted more detail on what the event would like, from the Allotment Liaison Group. Cllr L Hislop suggested the event could be incorporated with the Edfest event.

It was proposed by Cllr L Hislop, seconded by Cllr J Broadbent, and **RESOLVED** to approve the separate awards in principle subject to receiving more information on how it would be run and funded. All members agreed.

Recommendation 2 – Consider extending the drainage ditch at New Road allotments

The Committee considered the recommendation. It was proposed by Cllr A Jones, seconded by Cllr J Broadbent, and **RESOLVED** to agree to the work in principle. The outdoor team would clear the brambles and any work on extending the ditch could be done with the support of some allotment tenants, on a date to be agreed. All members agreed.

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public from the meeting pursuant to Section 1 of the Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

74. To consider the report regarding a memorial in the Kynaston Road Cemetery

The Committee considered the report and the recommendations.

It was proposed by Cllr K Morrison, seconded by Cllr A Jones, and **RESOLVED** to re-set the memorial at the cemetery at a cost of £45. This would be subject to confirmation from the company that they will adhere to the National Association of Memorial Masons Code of Working Practice. All members agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: _____

