

## Didcot Town Council

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# Annual Town Meeting

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm  
Didcot Civic Hall



## Minutes

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a true and correct record at the next Annual Town Meeting.

### PRESENT

Councillors:

A Macdonald (Mayor)	C Jennings (Leader)
D Macdonald	G Roberts
K Morrison	D Aragao
D Rouane	A Jones
A Hudson	S Nohre
H Macdonald	O Glover
J Loder	M Khan
T Worgan	N Hards
J Broadbent	

Officers:

Mrs J Wheeler (Town Clerk)

Present:

Six members of the public, two Police Officers, and two Officers from OCC.

The Mayor of the Council, Cllr A Macdonald, opened the evening by welcoming electors and residents to join the meeting.

The meeting resumed.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr L Hislop.

## **2. Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The Mayor paged through the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023. It was proposed by Cllr A Hudson, seconded by Cllr A Macdonald, and RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true record. The vote was unanimous.

## **3. Council Annual Report – year to date 2023/24**

The Annual Report – a summary of the civic year - was presented by the Leader, Cllr C Jennings. He asked those in attendance if there were any questions on any information supplied in the report - there were none.

## **4. Update on the School Street trial for Manor School, Lydalls Close**

Mark Gregory and Caroline Coyne from Oxfordshire County Council gave an update on the School Street trial for Manor School in Didcot. This initiative would effectively mean certain roads surrounding the primary school would be time restricted to vehicles during school pick up and drop off times, promoting active travel and improving pedestrian safety. Residents, school staff, and students with additional needs would be exempt from the initiative.

Volunteers would 'man the roads' during the closure times, for the duration of the 6-week trial – due to start in April, subject to approval. A decision on this trial is due to be made by OCC's Cabinet Member for Transport on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Questions were asked regarding delivery drivers. Branded vehicles would be exempt, however non-branded vehicles would be subject to the restrictions.

Schools would inform parents of this trial.

The Mayor thanked the Officers for the update.

## **5. PC Kaur and PCSO Harris**

Both Officers asked the people in attendance for feedback on what should be the priorities in Didcot. Topics covered a range of subjects within Didcot and there was good discussion on the following in particular:

- Anti-social behaviour in the Orchard Centre – PC Kaur explained that due to the increase in anti-social behaviour in the Orchard Centre, she has been working hard with the local take away shops in the Centre to fight this issue. This includes monthly meetings, talks with schools, identifying those responsible.
- Youth Council – getting young people involved in decision making, expanding investment for local youths.
- PCSO provisions in Didcot.
- School talks.
- Neighbourhood Watch.
- CCTV.

## 6. Open Forum

The meeting was then opened to the residents to ask their questions. One resident asked about drainage in Millennium Woods. This would be investigated by the Council.

Residents asked about Neighbourhood Watch and were informed that it is separate to Thames Valley Police, but regular reports of anti-social behaviour reported would show on Officer's 'hot spots' reports. Thames Valley alert is something that residents can join so that they can receive notification on issues in their area.

PC Kaur asked about funding for a new vehicle.

The Leader thanked the Mayor for his help and understanding throughout the year.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.41pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Mayor) Date: \_\_\_\_\_