

## Didcot Town Council

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# Annual Town Meeting

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 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:

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

Officers:

Mrs J Wheeler (Town Clerk)

Present:

Eight members of the public

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

The meeting resumed.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs P Siggers; M McNeill; D Macdonald (Leader); P Giesberg; M Mallows; A Sandiford.

### 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

The Mayor read through the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. It was proposed by Cllr M Khan and seconded by Cllr E Hards and RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true record. The vote was unanimous.

### **3. Council Annual Report – year to date 2021/22**

The Annual Report was presented by the Mayor in place of the Leader, Cllr D Macdonald, who was unable to attend this meeting. The Chairs of the standing Committees spoke to their reports and summarised the year's work which was dominated by the following issues:

- Civic Hall closed for much of the year but open to the NHS vaccination programme
- Impact of covid on the Town Council's income
- Willowbrook Leisure Centre being returned to the Council before the lease was due for renewal. Major refurbishment to get the building ready for a new tenant.
- Civil parking enforcement and the work with OCC to look at specific parking schemes for different roads and areas
- Plans for the Gateway site opposite Didcot Station
- Solar panels to go on the Civic Hall; outside services Depot at Edmonds Park and Willowbrook Leisure Centre
- Future management of Fleet Meadow Community Centre to be with DTC
- Focus on green projects such as the first green bus stop; wild flowers and fruit trees.
- Cemetery improvements
- Ongoing work at Ladygrove Lakes to encourage the fish to stay oxygenated.

### **4. Open Forum**

The meeting was then opened to the residents to ask their questions. Topics covered a wide of issues within Didcot and there was good discussion on the following in particular:

- Civil parking enforcement - sensitive topic for many residents. Hayden Road and Lydalls Road were concerned about the impact of the Gateway site opposite Didcot Station. A special scheme was being worked on.
- The plans for new buildings at the Gateway site – residents were concerned that some of the buildings were seven storeys high against the existing two storey homes.
- A recent planning appeal was lost due to the view held by the inspector that SODC did not demonstrate a five year land supply. This is a serious concern as it weakens the option to refuse development on unallocated sites within the Garden Town area.
- Traffic in Didcot
- Concerns about the new link road in Ladygrove East.
- Discussion on SODC and Vale of White Horse working on a joint local plan which could see Didcot spread over the boundary.
- Commonwealth War Graves in the Cemetery and how we can publicise them to ensure that residents are aware of our fallen heroes.
- Agreed that another Traffic Advisory meeting will be held to further work on the parking schemes.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed:

(Mayor)

Date:

