

Didcot Town Council

Finance and General Purposes Committee

27th February 2023 at 7.30pm
All Saints Room, Didcot Civic Hall



Minutes

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

Present:

Councillor M Khan (Deputy Chair)
Councillor V Haval
Councillor A Thompson
Councillor A Dearlove
Councillor D Chandran
Councillor M Walsh
Cllr A Macdonald (subbing for Cllr J Moody)

Officer: Mrs J Wheeler – Town Clerk

Three members of the public.

147. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr J Moody. Cllr A Macdonald was substitute.

148. Declarations of interests

No declarations were made.

149. To approve the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 23rd January 2023

The Deputy Chair paged through the minutes. It was proposed by Cllr M Khan and seconded by Cllr A Dearlove and RESOLVED to approve the minutes as an accurate record. There were no amendments.

150. Questions on the minutes as to the progress of any item

There were no questions.

It was proposed by Cllr M Khan and seconded by Cllr A Macdonald and RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow public participation.

Public participation

Sabine Furlong from the Air Cadets spoke in support of their grant application for the sum of £1,400 to enable them to purchase some laptops for training and studies for the cadets.

Karina Jordan and another member of The Dukes ukelele group spoke in support of their application for the sum of £1,463.75 to enable them to purchase a new sound system. This was necessary to support their performances and also their classes.

The Councillors then took some time to ask questions on both grant applications.

Standing orders were reinstated.

Air Cadets

It was proposed by Cllr A Dearlove and seconded by Cllr A Macdonald and RESOLVED to award the full amount of £1,400 to the Air Cadets. The vote was unanimous.

The Dukes Ukelele Club

It was proposed by Cllr A Dearlove and seconded by Cllr A Macdonald and RESOLVED to award the full amount of £1,463.75 to The Dukes. The vote was unanimous.

151. To approve the monthly accounts for December 2022 and January 2023. Also to note the draft accounts for February 2023

After paging through the many pages of figures, it was proposed by Cllr M Khan and seconded by Cllr A Macdonald and RESOLVED to approve the accounts and payments for December 2022 and January 2023. The Committee took some time to review the draft accounts for February 2023.

152. To note the tracker costs on the build costs of the new Community and Sports Pavilion at Edmonds Park

The Town Clerk provided hard copies of a further set of tracker papers which had been received that day. It was explained that it is very difficult to put an absolute final cost on this project because costs of materials were changing every day along with interest rates and inflation.

The tracker showed that the cost of the build was reducing down and the loan application of £2.4m would cover the project. There was however additional risk which was being underwritten by the Town Council and was expected to fall as the building work progressed.

The Property & Facilities Manager had worked through another round of value engineering which could result in up to £75,000 of savings. However some of these suggestions were rejected as they could affect the outcome of the BREEAM status of "Very Good". Other suggestions were rejected because they could add to the efficiency of the building in future years. A paper was circulated as to value engineering options which was recommended by the Property & Facilities Manager.

It was proposed by Cllr M Khan and seconded by Cllr A Macdonald and RESOLVED to approve the recommendations on the value engineering list and to delegate the further communications between the building contractor and the DTC officers.

Transparency was noted and there were minutes available of all the meetings that had been held between DTC, our consultants and the builders.

There were a few questions on the figures which the Town Clerk would respond to by email. The vote was unanimous.

153. To note the latest CIL report

The CIL report and a spread sheet showing the current S106 funds was circulated with the agenda. The Town Clerk stated that the CIL monies needed to be restated in our accounts to match the sums received from SODC. This would be in place for the approval of the February accounts.

154. To note the latest investment reports

These reports from CCLA were noted along with the increased interest currently being received.

155. To review a statement on the grass cutting

This item was deferred from the January meeting. It was proposed by Cllr A Thompson and seconded by Cllr A Macdonald and RESOLVED to approve the statement. This would be displayed on the DTC website along with the maps of the relevant roads.

156. To consider the addition cost of replacing the pavilion roof at Loyd

The emergency repairs to the Loyd Pavilion were necessary to keep the building safe for the public to use. The initial budget agreed was in the region of £20,000 however the quote for the replacement roof was more than expected. It was proposed by Cllr M Khan and seconded by Cllr M Walsh and RESOLVED to approve the additional cost of £17,959. The vote was unanimous.

157. To review the progress report

The Committee noted the progress report and discussed various items.

Meeting closed at 20.44pm.

Signed _____ Chair Date _____