

Mayor-making

Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.30pm

Main Hall, Didcot Civic Hall



Minutes

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

PRESENT

Councillors:

J Broadbent	J Loder
S Cole	A Macdonald
D Guerra Aragao	D Macdonald
N Hards	H Macdonald
L Hislop	Z Mohammed
A Hudson	K Morrison
C Jennings	G Roberts
A Jones	D Rouane
M Khan	T Worgan
	Vacant seat

Officers:

Janet Wheeler - Town Clerk plus other staff members of Didcot Town Council.

Approximately thirty members of the public and invited guests.

The out-going Mayor, Pam Siggers, was unable to attend this meeting. Cllr M Khan opened the meeting.

1. Election of the Town Mayor for 2023/2024 and signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

In accordance with Standing Orders, Council had agreed on 06 March 2023 that Cllr A Macdonald should become Mayor Designate for 2023/2024.

It was proposed by Cllr M Khan and seconded by Cllr D Rouane to confirm the nomination of Cllr A Macdonald. Both spoke in favour. There were no further nominations.

It was RESOLVED to elect Cllr A Macdonald as Mayor of Didcot for 2023/2024. The vote was unanimous.

Cllr A Macdonald accepted the Mayoral Chain, signed the declaration of acceptance of office and assumed the role of Mayor. Pam Siggers would be sent the past Mayor's Badge.

Cllr A Macdonald gave a short acceptance speech and said that the two charities he would be fund-raising for were the Didcot Foodbank and the Felix Fund.

The Mayor gave a badge to the out-going Cadet – Corporal Charlie Shaw. The Mayor then welcomed the two new serving Cadets: Sergeant Lorcan Bennett and Corporal Alfie Hermitage.

2. Election of the Deputy Town Mayor for 2023/2024 and signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

There was one nomination for the position of Deputy Town Mayor. It was proposed by Cllr C Jennings and seconded by Cllr D Rouane and RESOLVED to appoint Cllr A Jones.

It was RESOLVED to elect Cllr A Jones as Deputy Mayor for 2023/2024. The vote was unanimous.

Cllr A Jones accepted the Deputy Mayoral Chain; read out and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and assumed the role of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr A Jones then temporarily left the meeting for a pre-arranged engagement.

3. Election of the Leader of the Council for 2023/2024

Nominations were called for. It was proposed by Cllr D Rouane and seconded by Cllr T Worgan to nominate Cllr C Jennings.

A second nomination was proposed by Cllr N Hards and seconded by Cllr A Hudson to elect Cllr M Khan as Leader.

The vote was:

Cllr M Khan – IN FAVOUR = 7 votes

Cllr C Jennings – IN FAVOUR = 10 votes

It was RESOLVED that Cllr C Jennings be elected as Leader of the Council for 2023/2024.

4. Election of Deputy Leader of the Council for 2023/2024

Nominations were called for. It was proposed by Cllr C Jennings and seconded by Cllr Rouane to nominate Cllr K Morrison.

A second nomination was proposed by Cllr M Khan and seconded by Cllr L Hislop to elect Cllr D Macdonald as Deputy Leader.

The vote was:

Cllr D Macdonald – IN FAVOUR = 7 votes

Cllr K Morrison – IN FAVOUR – 10 votes

It was RESOLVED that Cllr K Morrison be elected as Deputy Leader of the Council for 2023/2024.

5. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs G Ryall and O Glover.

6. To receive declarations of interests

There were no declarations.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow for:

- **Review of the mayoral year 2022-2023**

Cllr M Khan spoke on behalf of the out-going Mayor, Pam Siggers. He spoke of her eventful year celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a successful beach party at the Civic Hall; the Santa Fun run; Santa's Grotto and many other fundraising events on behalf of her charities; Wynter's Wish and Home Start. Cllr Khan spoke of the planting of the Queen's Canopy at Ladygrove Park and her work as a carer which meant she could not attend this evening.

Cllr M Khan finished by congratulating all elected members and to Cllr A Macdonald on becoming the next Mayor of Didcot.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

7. To review the Scheme of Delegation to Committees under Standing Orders 100-112 and to employees under Standing Orders Section 4 and 5

It was proposed by Cllr D Rouane and seconded by Cllr C Jennings and RESOLVED to approve the Scheme of Delegation to Committees. The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that the individual Terms of Reference would be reviewed by each standing Committee at their first meeting of the civic year.

8. To approve the meeting dates for 2023 – 2024 civic year

The list of meeting dates ratified at the full Council meeting of 9th January 2023 needed to be amended to allow for the resolution of the local election and the extra bank holiday for the King's Coronation.

It was proposed by Cllr T Worgan and seconded by Cllr A Hudson and RESOLVED to approve the amended dates.

9. To defer nominations to existing Committees to the Annual Meeting on 16th May 2023 but (in accordance with Standing Order 105) to receive nominations of Chair and Vice Chair subject to their election at the first meeting of the Committee

The following temporary appointments were proposed by Cllr D Rouane and seconded by Cllr C Jennings – for the first meeting of each Standing Committee only:

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Chair: Cllr T Worgan; Vice Chair: Cllr G Roberts

Environment and Climate Committee

Chair: Cllr G Roberts; Vice Chair: Cllr K Morrison

Planning and Development Committee

Chair: Cllr D Rouane ; Vice Chair: Cllr H Macdonald

Personnel and Administration Committee

Chair: Cllr C Jennings; Vice Chair: Cllr J Loder

Property & Facilities Committee

Chair: Cllr K Morrison; Vice Chair: Cllr H Macdonald

It was RESOLVED to appoint these positions on a temporary basis for the first meeting of each standing Committee.

10. To confirm the General Power of Competence for the duration of the electoral term

It was proposed by Cllr C Jennings and seconded by Cllr S Cole and RESOLVED to confirm that Didcot Town Council meets the criteria to use the General Power of Competence for the duration of this electoral term.

The meeting closed at 8.03pm.

Signed:

(Mayor)

Date: