

Ordinary meeting of Council

Monday 2nd September 2019 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:

Mrs E Hards (Deputy Mayor)

Mr P Davies

Mr N Harris

Dr V Haval

Mr A Hudson

Mr M Khan

Mr A Macdonald

Mrs D Macdonald

Mr J Moody

Mr D Rouane

Dr A Sandiford

Ms M Walsh

Ms C Wilson

Officers: Mrs J Wheeler (Town Clerk)

Three members of public.

62. To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs P. Giesberg, S Hewardine, M Mallows, P Siggers. M McNeill, A Thompson and A Dearlove.

63. To receive declarations of interests

None declared.

Public Participation

A gentleman from Great Western Drive spoke of his concerns about several matters including the parking throughout the town; the visibility the PCSOs in Didcot; and his

disappointment that just three people had come to this meeting. He felt that the meeting had not been publicised sufficiently to get more attendance.

The Deputy Mayor noted his comments on behalf of the Town Council.

64. To receive petitions

None received.

65. Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Council meeting on 24 June 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr J Moody, seconded by Cllr A Sandiford:

RESOLVED to accept these Minutes as a true and accurate record with the following amendment.

On Page 4-9 Cllr A Macdonald did not participate in the vote.

66. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st July 2019

It was proposed by Cllr J Moody; seconded by Cllr D Macdonald:

RESOLVED to accept these Minutes as a true and accurate record.

Cllr N Harris wanted to know if the allotment representatives positions had been filled. He was informed that the nominees would be confirmed at the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

Cllr P Davies wanted an update on the Climate Emergency letter. He was informed that the letter was available at this meeting for Councillors who wished to sign it.

Cllr P Davies queried the legal advice on his deferred motion – he was informed that the advice to the Town Clerk was informal and verbal.

Cllr J Moody asked as to the progress of the extra seat on the Garden Town Board. Cllr M Khan has asked for an item to go on the next meeting of the Garden Town Board.

67. Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Council on 12 August 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr J Moody; seconded by Cllr M Khan:

RESOLVED to accept these Minutes as a true and accurate record.

It was noted that there was a gap in the agenda papers given to Cllr Harris.

68. Committee minutes and decisions taken under delegated authority, and recommendations of Committees to Council in accordance with Standing Orders 100 -107

(a) Planning and Development Committee – 26th June 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr D Macdonald; seconded by Cllr E Hards:
RESOLVED to receive these Minutes.

Planning and Development Committee – 17 July 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr D Macdonald; seconded by Cllr E Hards:
RESOLVED to receive these Minutes.

Cllr P Davies referred to his cycle to work motion and queried whether the words “and partake” had been dropped or was this an omission. Cllr D Macdonald confirmed that the Committee felt it better to promote the cycle to work rather than partake for this year.

Minute 26. Response to Petition: An amendment was agreed to the second paragraph to the response to the petition presented to Council on the parking problems in the town. The amended text is recorded as an addendum to the Minutes.

Cllr C Wilson reminded the Council that the next meeting of the Traffic Advisory Group was 10th October.

It was RESOLVED to accept the amended response to the petition.

Planning and Development Committee – 7th August 2019

It was proposed by Cllr D Macdonald; seconded by Cllr E Hards:
RESOLVED to receive these Minutes.

(b) Finance and General Purposes Committee 24th June 2019

It was proposed by Cllr J Moody; seconded by Cllr A Sandiford:
RESOLVED to accept these Minutes.

Cllr P Davies raised a point of order on the accuracy of the minutes and the fact that the issues he raised were not detailed. Cllr Hards stated that the Committee had every right to agree the content of the Minutes.

Finance and General Purposes Committee 29th July 2019

It was proposed by Cllr J Moody; seconded by Cllr A Sandiford:
RESOLVED to accept these Minutes.

Finance and General Purposes Committee 19th August 2019

It was proposed by Cllr J Moody; seconded by Cllr A Sandiford:

RESOLVED to accept these Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION to Council

Minute 59 Appointment of internal auditor

It was proposed by Cllr J Moody; seconded by Cllr M Walsh:

RESOLVED to appoint Company C (Auditing Solutions) as the internal auditor for the next three civic years. Cllr J Moody stated that this company had prior knowledge of the Civic Hall and was therefore the obvious choice.

Recorded Vote

	For	Against	Abstention
Cllr P Davies			x
Cllr A Dearlove	-	-	
Cllr P Giesberg	-	-	-
Cllr E Hards	x		
Cllr N Harris		x	
Cllr V Haval	x		
Cllr S Hewerdine	-	-	-
Cllr A Hudson	x		
Cllr M Khan	x		
Cllr A Macdonald	x		
Cllr D Macdonald	x		
Cllr M Mallows	-	-	-
Cllr M McNeill	-	-	-
Cllr J Moody	x		
Cllr D Rouane	x		
Cllr A Sandiford	x		
Cllr P Siggers	-	-	-
Cllr A Thompson	-	-	-
Cllr M Walsh	x		

Cllr C Wilson	x		
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(c) Environment Committee 15 July 2019 (not yet agreed by Committee)

It was proposed by Cllr D Macdonald; seconded by Cllr A Macdonald:

RESOLVED to receive these Minutes.

Recommendations to Council

Minute 19 Appointment of Cllr A Hudson to the Environment Committee

It was proposed by Cllr M Walsh; seconded by Cllr D Rouane:

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr A Hudson as a voting member on the Environment Committee.

Minute 26 – Variation on contract with Clear Channel Bus Shelter

It was proposed by Cllr D Macdonald; seconded by Cllr A Macdonald

RESOLVED to execute a variation on the contract subject to the end panel fitted free of charge.

Concerns over the location of the cycle rack were raised. The Town Clerk would clarify whether it was possible to move the racks to give more space.

Minute 29 – To consider the adoption of a Flag Flying Policy

It was proposed by Cllr D Macdonald; seconded by Cllr A Macdonald

RESOLVED to adopt the Flag Flying policy with the following amendments:

Point 5: *“Urgent situations, such as a national or local tragedy, for which waiting for a Committee decision will have a significantly deleterious effect on flying the flag, the matter will be dealt with under Standing Orders for the delegation of urgent matters.”*

It was also AGREED to remove the reference to Poland on the proposed Flag Flying schedule.

The amended policy is recorded as an addendum to the Minutes.

(d) Personnel and Administration Committee – 8th July 2019

It was proposed by Cllr M Khan; seconded by Cllr A Macdonald;

RESOLVED to receive the Minutes.

Cllr Harris had questions on the confidential part of the agenda – he was told that these would have to be taken in the confidential session at the end of the meeting.

Cllr M Khan announced that the Clerk's three month review was set up for 10th September 2019. The Mayor and the Leader would attend.

(e) Civic Hall Management Committee – 8th July 2019

It was proposed by Cllr E Hards; seconded by Cllr D Macdonald

RESOLVED to receive the Minutes.

69. Mayor's report

The report detailing the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's appointments was **NOTED**. There were some corrections from the Deputy Mayor – the event listed as Saturday 26 July should be a Friday and the Summer Fayre should be deleted as Cllr Hards was not attending in an official capacity.

70. Schedules of financial payments made between 1st June and 31st July 2019

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and agree the schedule of financial payments made between 1st June to 31st July 2019.

- (a) The list of supplier direct debits payments made between 1st June 2019 amounting to £48,168.15 and 31st July 2019 amounting to £50,375.62.
- (b) The list of supplier BACS payments made between 1st June amounting to £26,343.95 and 31st July 2019 amounting to £35,632.54
- (c) The list of supplier cheque payments made between 1st June amounting to £482.40 and 31st July 2019 amounting to £118,600.80

It was clarified to Cllr A Macdonald that the sum paid to a local opticians covered both the eye test and glasses for a member of staff. The payments are listed in the addendum to the Minutes.

71. To fill the vacant seat on the Planning Committee

The Deputy Mayor called for nominations. Cllr P Davies proposed that the Council bring forward his motion relating to breaches of Standing Orders and incorrect allocation of committee seats. This proposal was seconded by Cllr N Harris. Cllr P Davies stated that if his motion was passed the allocation of Committee seats would be null and void. The proposal to change the order of the agenda and discuss motion one was voted on.

Recorded Vote

	For	Against	Abstention
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Cllr P Davies	x		
Cllr A Dearlove	-	-	
Cllr P Giesberg	-	-	-
Cllr E Hards		x	
Cllr N Harris	x		
Cllr V Haval	x		
Cllr S Hewerdine	-	-	-
Cllr A Hudson	x		
Cllr M Khan		x	
Cllr A Macdonald		x	
Cllr D Macdonald		x	
Cllr M Mallows	-	-	-
Cllr M McNeill	-	-	-
Cllr J Moody		x	
Cllr D Rouane	x		
Cllr A Sandiford		x	
Cllr P Siggers	-	-	-
Cllr A Thompson	-	-	-
Cllr M Walsh		x	
Cllr C Wilson			x

The motion falls. Cllr E Hards called for nominations to fill the vacant seat on the Planning Committee – there were no nominations.

72. To consider having a Ceremonial Mayor-Making and separate Annual Meeting

The Deputy Mayor abstained from voting or making comment on this item. It was proposed by Cllr J Moody; seconded by Cllr M. Khan to approve two separate events.

Cllr M Khan spoke in favour of making the ceremonial Mayor Making a celebration. We should invite other Mayors and key stakeholders from around the town. The event should be well publicised and the press should also be invited.

Cllr P Davies felt that it would be beneficial to have a ceremonial Mayor Making. Cllr C Wilson was against and felt that there should be one meeting but more discipline on when it ends. Cllr D Rouane was in favour of the Mayor Making as an opportunity to promote the town.

Cllr N Harris proposed an amendment to the proposal – he proposed having two parts of one meeting – one part ceremonial and the other the business part. This amendment was not accepted by Cllr J Moody.

It was RESOLVED to accept two meetings – one a ceremonial Mayor-Making along with such legal items as may be necessary. The second meeting would be the Annual Meeting where the business of the Council at the start of the new Civic year would be resolved.

73. To receive such communications as the Leader of the Council may wish to bring before the Council, and to consider the recommendation of the Leader on how such communications should be dealt with.

Cllr M Khan received a letter from RWE explaining the procedures that were carried out before the cooling towers were demolished. There is an investigation into the power cut between RWE and SSE and the Council will be up-dated once the investigation is completed.

74. To consider motions in the order in which they have been notified

1) Motion one: proposed by Cllr P Davies, seconded by Cllr N Harris:

Some Councillors felt that the Committee places should be allocated in proportion to the number of elected Councillors for each group. Although this is not a legal requirement it was felt that honesty and integrity demands that this should have happened. The Standing Order Working Group was now working on a new set of standing orders and this felt to be a new start for this documentation.

Cllr P Davies summed up by pointing out that his motion had been deferred and was originally meant for discussion several months ago. He stated that he wanted the places on the Committee to be re-run so that there was a fair proportion of membership across all groups.

Recorded vote

	For	Against	Abstention
Cllr P Davies	x		
Cllr A Dearlove	-	-	
Cllr P Giesberg	-	-	-
Cllr E Hards		x	
Cllr N Harris	x		
Cllr V Haval	x		
Cllr S Hewerdine	-	-	-
Cllr A Hudson	x		
Cllr M Khan		x	
Cllr A Macdonald		x	
Cllr D Macdonald		x	
Cllr M Mallows	-	-	-
Cllr M McNeill	-	-	-
Cllr J Moody		x	
Cllr D Rouane	x		
Cllr A Sandiford		x	
Cllr P Siggers	-	-	-
Cllr A Thompson	-	-	-
Cllr M Walsh			x
Cllr C Wilson		x	

Motion lost.

2) Motion two: proposed by Cllr P Davies, seconded by Cllr N Harris:

The majority of Councillors were in favour of this motion but costs (if any) would need to be established. It was agreed that SODC be contacted about any costs.

This motion was up-held.

3) Motion three: proposed by Cllr P Davies, seconded by Cllr N Harris:

An amendment was proposed by Cllr M Walsh that this will be referred to the Environment Committee; seconded by Cllr C Wilson. Vote was upheld.

4) Motion four: proposed by Cllr N Harris, seconded by Cllr A Hudson:

An amendment was proposed by Cllr M Walsh; seconded by Cllr C Wilson:

Amendment proposed: In paragraph 4, after the words “the Council agrees to” delete the rest of the sentence/paragraph (ie up to and including “or its environs”) and replace with:

- 1.) Write to Didcot Garden Town Board (or whatever the relevant grouping becomes known as) to express our strong opposition to any proposal to close Cow Lane underpass to vehicular traffic or to relocate or extend the railway station onto Ladygrove Park and/or its environs, giving our reasons in both cases.
- 2.) Ask our representative on the Didcot Garden Town Board to give all due consideration to the above express view of the Council, and to the widespread strength of feeling behind this view, when voting on these matters.

The amendment was voted on and up-held.

An amendment to the amendment was proposed by Cllr P Davies: seconded by Cllr N Harris. The amendment was:

- 3.) In light of point two, if the representative was minded to support the closure of Cow Lane or moving the train station based on the information available in the meeting; the representative would come back to the Town Council and explain the reasons behind the vote.

Vote: Second amendment upheld.

5) Motion five: proposed by Cllr P Davies, seconded by Cllr N Harris:

An amendment was agreed to delete points c,d,e and f – the voting was on point a and b only. The vote was upheld.

75. Didcot Garden Town Project and the report of the Council's Representative on the Didcot Garden Town Management Board

Cllr M Khan said that the meeting on 16 September has been postponed until 25th November at Milton Park. There will be a public event to engage with the community to be held at the Civic Hall on 9th November. Cllr Khan has requested an extra place on the Garden Town Management Board. Cllr Khan also read out a letter to Cllr Sue Cooper, Leader of SODC, from the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding the status of the promised infrastructure funding.

76. Questions to the Leader concerning the business of the Council in accordance with Standing Order 45.

Question by Councillor Mr N Harris

Can we have a written report and could the report be published?

Response: I will create a report when the Board has met.

Question by Councillor C. Wilson

What support does DTC require from SODC to climate emergency?

Response: The audit will be a good start to see what simple things we can do immediately.

Question by Councillor A Sandiford

What publicity did Didcot get from the demolition of the cooling towers?

Response: It was a party atmosphere and because the Mayor was not available I was happy to step in. I was invited to several press interviews on the radio, local TV and national TV.

Cllr D Rouane leaves the meeting.

Question from Councillor P Davies

How do we progress the item 4 on the climate motion?

Response: Look at everything we do as part of the audit and speak to SODC for advice.

Question from Councillor P Davies

Is it possible to make it a standing agenda item on all Committees?

Response: We need to look at the financial implications.

Question from Councillor M Walsh

Could we add an extra item on to the Environment Committee regarding climate motion work?

Response: Let's see what the audit brings up and what we can do.

77. Exclusion of the press and public

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

Cllr Harris called for a recorded vote on the exclusion of the press and public for the rest of the meeting.

	For	Against	Abstention
Cllr P Davies		x	
Cllr A Dearlove	-	-	
Cllr P Giesberg	-	-	-
Cllr E Hards	x		
Cllr N Harris		x	
Cllr V Haval	x		
Cllr S Hewerdine	-	-	-
Cllr A Hudson	x		
Cllr M Khan	x		
Cllr A Macdonald	x		
Cllr D Macdonald	x		
Cllr M Mallows	-	-	-
Cllr M McNeill	-	-	-
Cllr J Moody	x		
Cllr D Rouane	-	-	-
Cllr A Sandiford	x		
Cllr P Siggers	-	-	-
Cllr A Thompson	-	-	-
Cllr M Walsh	x		
Cllr C Wilson	x		

The exclusion was carried and Cllr N Harris withdrew his motion.

The meeting closed at 10:50 pm.

Signed:

(Mayor)

Date: