



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

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Town Infrastructure Committee **Thursday 22 February 2024, 7pm** **Draft minutes**

These are draft minutes, subject to the approval of the committee and they may therefore change

Present:

Cllr Elio Astone
Cllr Tom Greenaway
Cllr Andrew Skinner
Cllr Jim Halliday

Vice Chair
Chair of the Finance, Governance & Asset Management
Committee - ex officio

In attendance:

Cllr Penny Clover
Andy Crick
Cllr Mark Giddins
Ron Spurs

Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Locum Governance and Projects Officer

SECTION I - Open to the Public Including the Press

IF73/23 Apologies

Cllr Neil Fawcett; Cllr Murali Gunarajah; The Mayor, Cllr Gwyneth Lewis; Cllr Colin Sanderson (Chair)

IF74/23 Declarations of interest

None.

IF75/23 **Public participation**

Cllr Penny Clover reported that the public toilet scheme has now been launched. Several companies expressed an interest and a poster would be distributed to those that signed up to enable them to advertise the service. A press release was being prepared and would be issued shortly. The committee welcomed the introduction of the new scheme and commended Cllr Clover for her work.

IF76/23 **Minutes**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Astone, **seconded** by Cllr Halliday and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Infrastructure Committee of 7 December 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting, to be signed by the Chair.

Matters arising

IF64/23, roundabout maintenance – the Locum Governance and Projects Officer has sought quotes from other companies but without success. It was therefore recommended that the town council proceed with the quote received from ODS.

IF68/23, town centre public toilets – the minute records a payment of £1,000 offered to participating businesses but this is the total budget for the project. The meeting chair updated the printed minutes.

IF77/23 **Finance Report**

The management accounts to 31 January 2024 were **proposed** by Cllr Greenaway, **seconded** by Cllr Skinner and **APPROVED**.

The committee was advised that the funding for street furniture provided by the Vale of White Horse District Council had been received and there was no deadline for this funding to be used. The Locum Governance and Projects Officer would follow up on the project.

IF78/23 **Neighbourhood Plan**

The committee reviewed progress on the Neighbourhood Plan. The chair of the steering group, Simon Hills, provided a written update to the meeting. The Vale of White Horse District Council neighbourhood plan support group has submitted suggestions for policies and the steering group are now working on these.

The committee asked for it to be minuted that the planning panel was responding to the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2041 consultation.

IF79/23 **Bus usage**

The committee noted the bus usage figures for the number 41 service, which is funded by the town council.

Information was also provided on the usage of individual bus stops, as requested by the committee (minute IF63/23). The information received was welcomed and committee members asked if this information could be requested annually.

IF80/23 **Speed indicator signs**

Cllr Astone provided an update to the committee. Speed indicators have been approved and sites identified. The working group has consulted with county council officers, who have audited the sites and 17 of the 19 proposed locations were accepted. The sites which were not accepted had other signage which may have caused a hazard: the county council plans to update signs at the other two locations.

Fourteen poles will be installed and seven units purchased. At Audlett Drive and Copenhagen Drive a two-way pole will be installed and signs can simply be rotated. The poles will be installed from April 2024 and it is hoped that the new speed indicator signs will be in operation from May 2024. The signs are solar-powered with batteries installed. Data on speeds will be collected by the signs and will be provided to the town council for review at a later date.

The project cost is expected to be below the agreed budget, which for 2024 is £20,000.

A working party was established to report in November 2024 on the impact of the revised speed limits, the speed indicator signs, and the data collected on speeding and accidents. The members agreed were Cllrs Astone, Giddins and Skinner.

IF81/23 **Community centres**

The committee considered the support which may be offered to community centres in Abingdon. Cllr Skinner would invite representatives to a meeting of community centre trustees in Abingdon to introduce them and to consider if there is any value in such meetings to share experience and ideas. The trustees would be invited to meet with One Planet Abingdon to discuss sustainability. The town council could provide a meeting space.

IF82/23 **Public art working group**

The Community committee resolved (minute C39/23) to set up a working group to manage public art projects and report to that committee. The members were Cllr

Halliday, Cllr Lonergan and Cllr Sanderson. The Town Infrastructure committee was invited to nominate a fourth member but there were no nominations.

IF83/23 **Public toilets**

The Properties and Events Officer was asked to update councillors on the work on the 'space for change' toilet in the Guildhall Historic Rooms.

Cllr Clover provided an update on the provision of access to toilets in businesses on the Market Place. Several cafes had expressed an interest and contracts were being signed. Signs would be given to the participating cafes to advertise the service.

IF84/23 **Forward Plan**

The forward plan was reviewed.

IF85/23 **Actions register**

The actions register was reviewed.

Roundabouts

Officers were asked to prepare a report on options for restoring the wooden monk statue on the Marcham Road roundabout. It was noted that the Monk is not the responsibility of the town council but an approach could be made to the county council to suggest that it is refurbished and, if the town council undertakes the work, to request permission to seek a repair of the Monk. Oxford Wood Recycling have offered to refurbish the Monk in the past and could be approached again.

The Locum Governance and Projects Officer was asked to contact possible sponsors to seek funding for refurbishment work and to report to the next meeting of the Finance, Governance and Asset Management committee to identify responsibility, cost and options for work to be undertaken.

IF86/23 **Future Agenda items**

At the last meeting of the committee the following items were noted as future agenda items:

- Neighbourhood Plan
- Review of condition and provision of bus shelters – May 2024
- Cycle racks in the Market Place
- Speed indicator signs – review of speed indicator data, set up working party to review effect of speed indicator signs. 14 November 2024 (proposed date)

IF87/23 **Dates of future meetings**

The dates of future meetings were noted.

The meeting closed at 8.43pm

Signed.....

Date.....