



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

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Environment and Amenities committee

Tuesday 16 July 2024, 7pm

Old Magistrates Court

Minutes

Present:

Cllr Tom Greenaway
Cllr Cheryl Briggs
Cllr Penny Clover
Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Rawda Jehanli
Cllr Leo Midwinter
Lucille Savin

Chair
Vice-Chair

In attendance:

Tim Badcock
Andy Crick

Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager
Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)

Two members of the public

E1/24 **To review and adopt the terms of reference for this committee**

The terms of reference for the committee were noted.

E2/24 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the Mayor, Cllr Gabby Barody and Cllr Jim Halliday.

E3/24 **Declarations of interest**

None.

E4/24 **Public participation**

None.

E5/24 **Co-option of non-councillor member**

In accordance with the decision of the town council (T29/23) to allow non-councillors to be co-opted on to standing committees, it was **proposed** by Cllr Greenaway, **seconded** by Cllr Briggs and **RESOLVED** to welcome Lucille Savin as a member of the Environment and Amenities committee.

The committee recorded its thanks to Anne Smart for her work on the committee over many years.

E6/24 **Minutes**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Greenaway, **seconded** by Cllr Briggs and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Amenities committee of 20 February 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting, to be signed by the Chair.

E7/24 **Finance Report**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Crick, **seconded** by Cllr Clover and **RESOLVED** that the management accounts to 31 May 2024 be approved.

The committee was asked to consider offering the group managing West End Allotments a six month rent-free period following a prolonged period of flooding at the site. The request was not supported but the committee did undertake to consider future funding to support allotments with flood alleviation.

Cllr Jehanli joined the meeting at 7.11pm

E8/24 **Green forum**

The committee received a verbal report from Lucille Savin on the work of the green forum, which has recently focused on food miles, teaching children about food, gardening and sustainability. The next green forum will focus on biodiversity.

Single use plastics

The green forum asked if there was any progress on single use plastics project. Cllr Gabby Barody was dealing with this and would be asked to update the next meeting. Officers were asked to approach new stallholders to advise them of the

council's policy to take a more proactive approach. A new town council officer is expected to address this and the town clerk would be asked to advise on this.

The committee noted a report submitted in May on the GYO (Grow Your Own) Forum.

E9/24 **Report from the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager**

The report on the work of the outdoor services team was noted. The Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager highlighted the reduced staffing numbers in rent months which had impacted the team's ability to complete as many tasks. However, much work had been done: the infant burial area is progressing well and is close to completion and the Ock Valley Walk refurbishment has been completed, included a tree planted for former Mayor Peter Green.

The committee thanked the team for their work.

The Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager advised the committee that a new programme of playground refurbishment is being prepared for presentation to the committee later in the year.

E10/24 **Publicity**

Items to be considered for publicity:

- Hillview footpath
- Caldecott Rec MUGA
- Cemetery improvements – infant burial area
- Playground improvements
- Table tennis tables being installed in outside areas

E11/24 **Forward Plan**

The committee considered the forward plan.

E12/24 **Actions Register**

The committee reviewed and updated the actions register.

E13/24 **Future Agenda items**

Items for future agendas:

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- Review of active travel map – September 2024
- Signage (see actions register, E63/23) – September 2024
- Tree planting: to consider working with Trees for Streets to increase the canopy in Abingdon
- Biodiversity plan
- Green energy: to consider options for adding green energy generation on town council buildings, such as the depot and cemetery office.
- Plastic-free initiative

E14/24 **Dates of future meetings**

- 17 September 2024
- 19 November 2024
- 18 February 2025
- 3 June 2025

The meeting closed at 8.32pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____