

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Council



Listening Learning Leading

HELD ON THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER 2018 AT 6.45 PM

THE FOUNTAIN CONFERENCE CENTRE, HOWBERY PARK, CROWMARSH
GIFFORD

Present:

Lorraine Hillier (Chairman)

Anna Badcock, Felix Bloomfield, Nigel Champken-Woods, Sue Cooper, Pat Dawe, Anthony Dearlove, David Dodds, Stefan Gawrysiak, Elizabeth Gillespie, Elaine Hornsby, Mocky Khan, Sue Lawson, Lynn Lloyd, Imran Lokhon, Jeannette Matelot, Jane Murphy, Toby Newman, Caroline Newton, David Nimmo-Smith, Bill Service, Ian Snowdon, Alan Thompson, David Turner, John Walsh and Ian White

Apologies:

Charles Bailey, Joan Bland, Kevin Bulmer, John Cotton, Tony Harbour, Paul Harrison and Robert Simister tendered apologies.

Officers: Steven Corrigan, William Jacobs, Margaret Reed and Mark Stone

25 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the special meetings of Council held on 15 May and 23 August 2018 and the Council meeting held on 19 July 2018 as correct records and agree that the chairman sign them as such.

26 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest

None.

Felix Bloomfield made a statement that, as a local ward councillor, he would not take part in or vote on the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Development Plan item (agenda item 9 – see minute 32).

27 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

On behalf of the Council the chairman welcomed back Stefan Gawrysiak following surgery and wished Kevin Bulmer and Paul Harrison well after recent operations.

28 Public participation

The chairman advised that two members of the public had registered to address Council. Mr Townsend on the Oxford Cambridge Expressway and Mrs Mantle on motion A of agenda item 13. Mrs Mantle would address Council at the relevant item.

Mr Townsend made a statement about the potential Oxford to Cambridge expressway and governance of the Oxfordshire Growth Board (the Board). In his view the Board lacked proper democratic accountability, had links with vested interest and emphasised growth without due attention to communities and the environment. He called for the withdrawal of the district council from the Board and the return of democratic decision making to local councillors who represent local people.

29 Petitions

None.

30 Treasury management outturn 2017/18

Council considered Cabinet's recommendations, made at its meeting on 4 October 2018, on the outturn performance of the treasury management function for the financial year 2017/18.

The Joint Audit and Governance Committee and Cabinet had considered the head of finance's report and were satisfied that the treasury activities had been carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy.

Councillor Murphy, Leader of the council, provided an assurance that next year's report will include the date of investment placements in the appendix accompanying the treasury report.

RESOLVED: to

1. approve the treasury management outturn report for 2017/18 attached to the report of the head of finance to the Cabinet meeting on 4 October 2018;
2. approve the actual 2017/18 prudential indicators within the head of finance's report.

31 The Baldons Neighbourhood Development Plan

Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet, made at its meeting on 9 October 2018, on making The Baldons Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the council's development plan.

Councillors congratulated local residents who had been involved in the development of the plan.

RESOLVED to:

1. make The Baldons Neighbourhood Development Plan so that it continues to be part of the council's development plan; and
2. authorise the head of planning, in agreement with the Qualifying Body, to correct any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors, together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

32 Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood development Plan

Councillor Bloomfield left the meeting during the consideration and voting on this item (minute 26 refers).

Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet, made at its meeting on 9 October 2018, on making the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the council's development plan.

Councillors congratulated local residents who had been involved in the development of the plan.

RESOLVED to:

1. make the Warborough and Shillingford Neighbourhood Development Plan so that it continues to be part of the council's development plan; and
2. authorise the head of planning, in agreement with the Qualifying Body, to correct any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors, together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

33 Election fees and charges 2019

Margaret Reed, the council's returning officer, left the room during the debate and vote on this item.

Council considered the report of the returning officer on the setting of fees and charges for the 2019 district and parish elections.

RESOLVED: to

1. agree the scales of fees for district and parish council elections, parish polls and neighbourhood planning referendums as set out in the Appendix to the report of the returning officer to the Council meeting on 11 October 2018;
2. agree to continue to charge parish and town councils for running elections on their behalf.

34 Report of the leader of the council

Councillor Jane Murphy, Leader of the council, provided an update on a number of matters. The text of her address is attached to these minutes.

35 Questions on notice

Councillor Sue Cooper to Councillor Caroline Newton, Cabinet member for housing and environment

Have there been, or are there any discussions with the other councils in Oxfordshire, or even better within the Local Government Association, on trying to unify the colour and type of containers to be used for collecting recyclables?

Answer

In response Councillor Newton confirmed that as part of the Oxfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy, councillors and officers are considering options for the alignment of waste and recycling services. This has to be a long term action because of existing contract timescales and the differing collection services provided by each of the councils.

Supplementary question

In response to a supplementary question regarding the extension of colour coding beyond South and Vale, Councillor Newton responded that there are also significant financial implications for any authority changing the colour of their bin provided to every resident.

36 Motions on notice

A. Motion proposed by Councillor Ian White, seconded by Councillor Alan Thompson:

“That Council agrees the principle that all new housing planning permissions of more than 75 Homes should be provided with an on-site publicly available defibrillator and asks officers to explore whether it is feasible to bring forward the necessary planning policies to achieve this”.

Mrs Mantle addressed Council in support of the motion. The provision of more accessible defibrillators in residential areas will increase the chances of survival.

Councillors expressed support for the motion. Housing and population growth necessitated an increase in the availability of defibrillators. This provision would make a positive impact on survival rates and assist the ambulance service and medical professionals.

RESOLVED:

That Council agrees the principle that all new housing planning permissions of more than 75 Homes should be provided with an on-site publicly available defibrillator and asks officers to explore whether it is feasible to bring forward the necessary planning policies to achieve this.

B. Motion proposed by Councillor Lynn Lloyd, seconded by Councillor Felix Bloomfield:

“That Council asks officers to investigate opportunities to better promote the River Thames for tourism and leisure activities for all residents especially young people in the district”.

Councillors highlighted the many activities and options available for tourism and leisure activities on the River Thames. A number raised concern regarding access from rural

areas, slipways access, overgrown vegetation on the banks of the river and the need for more and improved moorings.

RESOLVED:

That Council asks officers to investigate opportunities to better promote the River Thames for tourism and leisure activities for all residents especially young people in the district.

C. Motion proposed by Councillor Anna Badcock, seconded by Councillor Nigel Champken-Woods:

“That Council recognises the important contribution made by our local health services and requests that the leader writes to the Clinical Commissioning Group to re-state our support for continued joint working with the district council”.

With the consent of Council, the mover and seconder of the original motion accepted amended wording to include reference to joint working with the county council.

Councillors noted that an improved working relationship between the sectors could assist with a better understanding of the needs of residents.

RESOLVED:

That Council recognises the important contribution made by our local health services and requests that the leader writes to the Clinical Commissioning Group to re-state our support for continued joint working with the district council and county council.

D. Motion proposed by Councillor Ian Snowdon, with the agreement of Council in the absence of Councillor Paul Harrison, seconded by Councillor Toby Newman:

“That Council asks officers to investigate opportunities for adopting new digital communication channels to provide residents with regular updates as part of the council’s long term technology strategy. Officers are asked to consider the scope for joint working with a range of partners, such as parish councils and Oxfordshire County Council, to develop an integrated approach to provision of community information across the district”.

RESOLVED:

That Council asks officers to investigate opportunities for adopting new digital communication channels to provide residents with regular updates as part of the council’s long term technology strategy. Officers are asked to consider the scope for joint working with a range of partners, such as parish councils and Oxfordshire County Council, to develop an integrated approach to provision of community information across the district.

E. Motion proposed by Councillor Bill Service, seconded by Councillor Lynn Lloyd:

“That Council recognises the important contribution made by our local police force and requests that the leader writes to the police and crime commissioner to re-state our support for continued joint working with the district council on community safety issues for our residents”.

Councillors noted the important initiatives introduced as a result of joint working on the Community Safety Partnership including Pub Watch and Drink Watch.

RESOLVED:

That Council recognises the important contribution made by our local police force and requests that the leader writes to the police and crime commissioner to re-state our

support for continued joint working with the district council on community safety issues for our residents.

F. Motion proposed by Councillor Toby Newman, seconded by Councillor David Nimmo-Smith:

“That Council agrees the principle that all major planning applications should consider options to facilitate cycle hire schemes where appropriate and asks officers to consider whether it is feasible to bring forward the formal planning policies that would be necessary to achieve this”.

Councillors highlighted the need to encourage more cycling as part of a sustainable transport policy with associated health benefits.

RESOLVED:

That Council agrees the principle that all major planning applications should consider options to facilitate cycle hire schemes where appropriate and asks officers to consider whether it is feasible to bring forward the formal planning policies that would be necessary to achieve this.

G. Motion proposed by Councillor Caroline Newton, seconded by Councillor David Dodds:

“That Council asks the leader to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to urge the Government to intensify pressure on manufacturers to reduce the production of non-recyclable plastic”.

Whilst supporting the motion a number of councillors raised the following points:

- problems arose with discarded plastics which impact on the environment and wildlife;
- non-recyclable plastics are incinerated to provide energy;
- there remains public confusion regarding which plastics are recyclable

RESOLVED: That Council asks the leader to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to urge the Government to intensify pressure on manufacturers to reduce the production of non-recyclable plastic.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman

Date

1. Growth Board.

I am Chairman of the Growth Board and Councillor Roger Cox is Vice-Chairman. Relationships between all partners remain positive and there is a high level of consensus on the major strategic issues such as: JSSP, the developing terms of reference; Scrutiny of the Board; commitment to the Growth Deal housing numbers and affordable housing opportunities.

As Chair, and on behalf our all partners, I have written to Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport, on 1 October 18 seeking greater certainty around the Expressway Route. This is essential if we are to secure Oxfordshire's spatial planning commitments and the associated infrastructure and investment in our area that is long overdue.

2. OxLEP.

I am stepping down as a Director of OxLep and will be replaced by Councillor Bill Service, as this important responsibility is a better fit with his portfolio.

3. Unitary Proposal.

Councillor Cox and I wrote jointly to James Brokenshire, Secretary of State for MHCLG, asking about our proposal, made jointly with the Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of White Horse, for a single county unitary for Oxfordshire. Minister Rishi Sunak replied that as we are all working well together in Oxfordshire, at present, he sees no need to proceed with a unitary decision. [His response](#) is on our website.

4. Five Councils.

We continue to work to deliver maximum benefit from the councils' contract with Capita. Capita's new CEO John Lewis is modernising the business quickly and his local government board director, Jonathan Prew, is now working closely with us as part of this. Our CEO Mark Stone is leading on behalf of the wider group of Five Council CEOs in this engagement and ongoing contractual redesign. We have made significant steps forward, which are acknowledged across the partnership. I welcome and endorse the positive response from the scrutiny committee to recent updates on our approach and progress and I am grateful for the feedback provided by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet on this and other important matters.

5. Accounts.

Audit and Governance Committee met at the end of September to consider feedback from our External Auditor. I am pleased to report to Council that the audit concluded with a clean audit opinion on both the financial statements and the Value For Money statement. This improvement from the prior year reflects a significant level of engagement and support from officers and I would like to thank them for their professionalism, perseverance and diligence in achieving this.

6. Staff Structure.

As previously approved by full Council, I confirm that following liaison with myself and the Cabinet Member for finance, the CEO is now working with the Heads of Service to complete the process of implementing and recruiting to the operational layers of the structure. Please therefore be aware that over the next 12 weeks or so, many of our staff will be having a change of line manager and some will be applying for alternative roles as we complete the operational layers of the officer structure and reduce the number of agency staff within the organisation.

7. Crowmarsh.

The old council buildings have been demolished. We will therefore shortly enter the design and build phase of the programme and an update will be provided at a future meeting of full council.

8. Affordable Housing.

I wrote to the Secretary of State in line with the motion previously passed by full Council. Whilst I have received a reply, which is on our website, it is my intention to write again and provide a further explanation that emphasises that South Oxfordshire has delivered large numbers of affordable homes, nearly 1000 homes in the past five years, but even with this, local house prices do not reflect local incomes.

9. Local Plan.

Officers advise that we remain on target to meet the deadlines within the Growth Deal around submission of the local plan, which I recognise remain challenging. There will be a further round table session for all councillors on progress with the local plan in November, prior to the publication version going to Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council in December of this year. Public consultation on the publication version will be undertaken early next year, before we submit our local plan by the end of March 2019.