

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Council

HELD ON THURSDAY 11 APRIL 2019 AT 6.00 PM

THE FOUNTAIN CONFERENCE CENTRE, HOWBERY PARK, CROWMARSH
GIFFORD

Present:

Lorraine Hillier (Chairman)

Anna Badcock, Joan Bland, Felix Bloomfield, Kevin Bulmer, Nigel Champken-Woods, Steve Connel, Sue Cooper, Pat Dawe, Anthony Dearlove, David Dodds, Stefan Gawrysiak, Will Hall, Paul Harrison, Elaine Hornsby, Mocky Khan, Lynn Lloyd, Jeannette Matelot, Jane Murphy, Caroline Newton, David Nimmo-Smith, Bill Service, Ian Snowdon, Alan Thompson, David Turner, John Walsh and Ian White

Apologies:

Charles Bailey, John Cotton, Elizabeth Gillespie, Tony Harbour and Toby Newman tendered apologies.

Officers: Steven Corrigan, Donna Pentelow, Margaret Reed and Mark Stone

68 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2019 as a correct record and agree that the Chairman sign them as such.

69 Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest

None.

Councillor Badcock made a statement that, as a local ward councillor, she would not take part in or vote on the Pyrton Neighbourhood Development Plan item (agenda item 8 – see minute 74).

Councillor Dawe made a statement that, as a local ward councillor, she would not take part in or vote on the Cholsey or East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan items (agenda items 6 and 7 – see minutes 72 and 73).

Councillor Murphy made a statement that, as a local ward councillor, she would not take part in or vote on the Cholsey or East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan items (agenda items 6 and 7 – see minutes 72 and 73).



Listening Learning Leading

70 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

The Chairman provided general housekeeping information.

71 Public participation

No members of the public had registered to address Council.

72 Cholsey Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors Dawe and Murphy left the meeting during the consideration and voting on this item (minute 69 refers).

Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet, made at its meeting on 9 April 2019, on making the Cholsey 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 Cholsey 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.

73 East Hagbourne Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors Dawe and Murphy left the meeting during the consideration and voting on this item (minute 69 refers).

Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet, made at its meeting on 9 April 2019, on making the East Hagbourne 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 East Hagbourne 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.

74 Pyrton Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Badcock left the meeting during the consideration and voting on this item (minute 69 refers).

Council considered the recommendations of Cabinet, made at its meeting on 9 April 2019, on making the Pyrton 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 Pyrton 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.

75 OVO Energy Women's Tour

On 19 March and 11 April Councillor Lloyd, Cabinet member for community services, took decisions to support Oxfordshire being a host venue for the OVO Energy Women's Tour 2019, 2020 and 2021 and to agree the funding arrangements for 2019. A copy of the 19 March Individual Cabinet Member Decision (ICMD) was attached to the Council agenda and a copy of the 11 April ICMD containing revised recommendations to Council was circulated via email and was before councillors.

In response to questions Councillor Lloyd stated that the company responsible for running the event was responsible for seeking local sponsorship. Whilst details of the economic benefits to the district were not known, experience from previous events around the country suggested there would be significant additional local expenditure as a result of the event. Details of the route were being finalised.

Councillors welcomed the opportunity to host such a prestigious event which would bring economic and health benefits to the district.

RESOLVED: to

1. agree to fund the council's share of the hosting fee a sum of £26,666 for years two and three (2020 and 2021).
2. vire up to £10,000 from contingency to fund the council's share of delivery costs for 2019.
3. agree to the agreed costs of the 2020 and 2021 events being shared equally between the county council, the four district councils and the city council, the detail of which will be subject to the relevant budget setting process.
4. agree that sponsorship secured, regardless of which partner attracts it, will be used to reduce the hosting costs of 2020 and 2021 equally between the county council, the four district councils and the city council.

76 Report of the leader of the council

Councillor Murphy, Leader of the council, addressed council as follows:

“As this is our last meeting of the Council’s municipal year I wanted to take the time to thank all members, and officers, for the commitment they have shown to our residents.

When I was elected as Leader of this council, I made a commitment to you all that we would seek to work in partnership with others for the benefit of our residents. The recent announcements regarding funding for Science Vale within the Spring statement, which I note are subject to a motion later in our meeting, demonstrate the success of this approach. It is my belief that whatever the outcome of the forthcoming local elections, South Oxfordshire District Council should continue to expand this partnership based model, not just with partners within Oxfordshire, but increasingly with those outside of Oxfordshire where such an approach will benefit our residents.

I am sure all members present will want to join me in expressing my thanks to the officers for their hard work and dedication over the past year. For some members present, tonight is their last meeting of full Council and on behalf of us all, I would like to extend my thanks to them for their service. I would like to conclude by extending my personal thanks to all members present for all you do in supporting your residents and seeking positive outcomes for South Oxfordshire. Public service is something to be proud of and I would like to wish each and every candidate, and all those here tonight who are seeking re-election in the forthcoming local elections the very best of luck!”

77 Motions on notice

1. Motion moved by Councillor White and seconded by Councillor Lloyd

“Council asks that the Leader of Council write to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, James Brokenshire MP, and the Minister for Housing, Kit Malthouse MP, confirming this council’s support for the Chancellor’s announcement in the Spring Statement that ‘ following consultation, the government will use the forthcoming Environment Bill to mandate biodiversity net gain for development in England ensuring that the delivery of much-needed infrastructure and housing is not at the expense of vital biodiversity”.

RESOLVED:

THAT Council asks that the Leader of Council write to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, James Brokenshire MP, and the Minister for Housing, Kit Malthouse MP, confirming this council’s support for the Chancellor’s announcement in the Spring Statement that ‘ following consultation, the government will use the forthcoming Environment Bill to mandate biodiversity net gain for development in England ensuring that the delivery of much-needed infrastructure and housing is not at the expense of vital biodiversity.

2. Motion moved by Councillor Service and seconded by Councillor Murphy

“Council notes and welcomes the significant funding announced for infrastructure and economic activity across Science Vale in the Chancellor’s recent Spring Statement.

The Housing and Infrastructure Fund funding for the Science Bridge in Didcot, the enhanced link between Didcot and the Milton interchange, a new Thames crossing to better link Didcot to Culham and beyond and the Clifton Hampden bypass will deliver once in a generation improvements to our transport infrastructure. The Housing Infrastructure Funding of £218million is not just about motorised transport though, it will also support enhanced cycle and foot travel as an integral part of these developments and this approach is fully supported by Council.

The combined funding announcements, totalling over £350million, are a strong and clear statement of support for the needs of South Oxfordshire residents by Government and the Leader is asked to write to Government confirming our support”.

Councillors welcomed the infrastructure funding and the joint working between partners which had supported the bid.

RESOLVED:

That Council notes and welcomes the significant funding announced for infrastructure and economic activity across Science Vale in the Chancellor’s recent Spring Statement.

The Housing and Infrastructure Fund funding for the Science Bridge in Didcot, the enhanced link between Didcot and the Milton interchange, a new Thames crossing to better link Didcot to Culham and beyond and the Clifton Hampden bypass will deliver once in a generation improvements to our transport infrastructure. The Housing Infrastructure Funding of £218million is not just about motorised transport though, it will also support enhanced cycle and foot travel as an integral part of these developments and this approach is fully supported by Council.

The combined funding announcements, totalling over £350million, are a strong and clear statement of support for the needs of South Oxfordshire residents by Government and the Leader is asked to write to Government confirming our support.

3. Motion moved by Councillor Bloomfield and seconded by Councillor White

“Council notes that:

a) the recent 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report states that we have just 12 years to act on climate change if global temperature rises are to be kept within the recommended 1.5 degrees Celsius;

b) all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts on climate breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. UK county, district and city councils need to commit to aggressive reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

c) districts are well placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, as their responsibility for planning policies opens up a range of sustainable transport, buildings and energy opportunities;

d) Council has already shown foresight when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Change, having signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2007. Between 2008 and 2013, this council collaborated with the Carbon Trust, to produce a Carbon Management Plan which set out how the council planned to reduce energy and fuel use in its own buildings and vehicles. All of this has led to a 28% drop in greenhouse gas emissions up to 2018;

e) notes that work has commenced on a review of the council's Carbon Management Plan in collaboration with the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy, with the aim of bringing a report to Cabinet as soon as possible, and no later than Autumn 2019, the review to come forward to include the feasibility of adopting an early carbon neutral target for South Oxfordshire.

In light of the above, the Council therefore agrees to:

1. Join other councils in declaring a Climate Emergency.
2. Ask the leader to write to the Secretary of State to seek confirmation of the Government's intention to work with local government on climate change strategies.
3. Ask that as officers, as per the council's policies, are currently reviewing policy and strategies, that specific consideration be given to how policies, and our related decisions and actions, affect our contribution to climate change, and where necessary, update these policies to reduce our impact wherever possible. As far as possible, the reporting templates for Council, Cabinet and committees to be amended to include an 'Environmental Impact' section.
4. Ask officers to provide the cost and availability of the most appropriate training options for members and officers about how to promote carbon neutral policies for future consideration by Cabinet.
5. Request the Cabinet member for environment to bring to council a report on the activities of the Oxfordshire Environmental Partnership, of which South Oxfordshire is a member.
6. Continues the positive collaborative work with partners across the district, county and wider region to deliver widespread carbon reductions".

An amendment, set out below, moved by Councillor Cooper and seconded by Councillor Turner, on being put was declared lost.

To set up a working group of members, supported by officers, to consider ways of raising awareness and engaging residents in combating climate change and to modify our activities to reduce the negative effects of our behaviour.

RESOLVED: That

Council notes that:

- a) the recent 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report states that we have just 12 years to act on climate change if global temperature rises are to be kept within the recommended 1.5 degrees Celsius;
- b) all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts on climate breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. UK county, district and city councils need to commit to aggressive reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

c) districts are well placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, as their responsibility for planning policies opens up a range of sustainable transport, buildings and energy opportunities;

d) Council has already shown foresight when it comes to addressing the issue of Climate Change, having signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change in 2007. Between 2008 and 2013, this council collaborated with the Carbon Trust, to produce a Carbon Management Plan which set out how the council planned to reduce energy and fuel use in its own buildings and vehicles. All of this has led to a 28% drop in greenhouse gas emissions up to 2018;

e) notes that work has commenced on a review of the council's Carbon Management Plan in collaboration with the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy, with the aim of bringing a report to Cabinet as soon as possible, and no later than Autumn 2019, the review to come forward to include the feasibility of adopting an early carbon neutral target for South Oxfordshire.

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4. Ask officers to provide the cost and availability of the most appropriate training options for members and officers about how to promote carbon neutral policies for future consideration by Cabinet.
5. Request the Cabinet member for environment to bring to council a report on the activities of the Oxfordshire Environmental Partnership, of which South Oxfordshire is a member.
6. Continue the positive collaborative work with partners across the district, county and wider region to deliver widespread carbon reductions.

The Chairman thanked all councillors for their service and wished those standing down the best for the future.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm

Chairman

Date