

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Abingdon Area Committee

held at 9.30 am on Tuesday, 22nd November, 2011
at the Council Chamber, Abbey House, Abingdon

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillor Julia Bricknell, Pat Lonergan, Angela Lawrence, Jim Halliday, Richard Webber, Gervase Duffield, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Jason Fiddaman, Peter Jones, Sandy Lovatt and Helen Pighills

Non-participating members: Councillors

Officers: Jayne Bolton, Shona Ware, Ed Nieburg, Steve Culliford and Susan Harbour

Number of members of the public:

Ab.1 Election of a Chair(man)

RESOLVED: To elect Councillor Julie Mayhew-Archer as chair of the Abingdon Area Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

Ab.2 Apologies for absence

Councillors Marilyn Badcock, Mike Badcock, Tony de Vere, and Aidan Melville had sent their apologies for absence.

Ab.3 Minutes

The committee asked for the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2011 to be circulated before the next meeting.

Ab.4 Declarations of interest

Councillors declared the following interests:

Item	Councillor(s)	Nature of interest	Reason
Ab.30 – Community grants	Jason Fiddaman, Peter Jones, Angela	Personal	They were members of Abingdon Town Council that had awarded grants to some of the applicants

Item	Councillor(s)	Nature of interest	Reason
	Lawrence, Pat Loneragan, and Sandy Lovatt		approaching this committee for grants. However, they had not taken part in the town council's decision-making.
Ab.30 – Community grants	Jim Halliday	Personal	He knew some of the members of Abbey Brass and Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire
Ab.30 – Community grants	Julie Mayhew-Archer	Personal	She knew some of the members of Abbey Brass
Ab.30 – Community grants	Peter Jones	Personal	He was a member of Oxfordshire County Council and was involved in its Big Society and Localities programmes.

Ab.5 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None

Ab.6 Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting the Abingdon Area Committee.

None

Ab.7 Community Grants

The committee considered report 43/11 of the head of community strategy. This set out details of three applications for community grants. The committee noted that it had £3,733 remaining in its community grants budget for 2011/12.

The committee carefully considered each application against the council's community grants criteria and noted the officer's assessment of each application.

The committee noted that the evaluation criteria had changed, with the officers using a new points scoring method to achieve better consistency in assessing grants applications. The committee questioned whether this change would have affected the applicants that had had their applications considered by the committee on 6 April 2011 and asked the officers to investigate.

In considering the applications set out in the report, the committee asked for further information but decided to award grants in each case to avoid delaying the community projects. However, the committee asked the officers in future to help applicants fill in the application form, investigate what the applicant intended to use their reserves for, and add to the grants criteria to encourage applicants to apply for a grant from their town or parish council. The committee also asked the officers to publicise these grant awards.

The committee also noted that the Constitution Advisory Group would be reviewing the council's constitution. One suggestion put forward was to increase the delegation to area committees. Councillors were advised to feed any suggestions to the Constitution Advisory Group.

RESOLVED: To approve the following community grant applications:

Applicant	Project	Grant
Abingdon Rowing Club	To purchase a junior rowing boat	£2,000
Abbey Brass	To provide additional instruments for the learner group	£400
Assisted Reading for Children in Oxfordshire	Book box sponsorship	£640

Exempt information under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None

The meeting closed at 10.05 am