

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Abingdon Area Committee

held on Monday, 28 April 2014 at 6.00 pm
at the Guildhall, Abingdon OX14 3HL



Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Julie Mayhew-Archer (Chair), Aidan Melville (Vice-Chairman), Marilyn Badcock, Mike Badcock, Julia Bricknell, Gervase Duffield, Jeanette Halliday, Jim Halliday, Angela Lawrence, Pat Lonergan, Sandy Lovatt, Andrew Skinner and Richard Webber

Officers: Jayne Bolton, Susan Harbour and Shona Ware

Number of members of the public: 1

Ab.28 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from councillors: Tony de Vere, Jason Fiddaman and Helen Pighills.

Ab.29 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2014 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting and the chair signed them.

Ab.30 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations from councillors.

Ab.31 Urgent business and chair's announcements

None notified.

Ab.32 Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting the committee

Steve Oaks, from the Abingdon Camera Club, spoke when this item was considered.

Ab.33 Capital Community Grants

Capital Community Grants.

The committee considered the head of corporate strategy's report. This set out details of four applications the council had received for capital community grants: requesting a total of £13,673. The report also set out the financial position, there being £44,024 remaining in the current year's budget, which included £17,510 of unallocated funds and under spend carried forward from the previous financial year.

The committee considered each application, assessing it against the grants criteria and awarded grants as follows:

Applicant	Project	Grant	Comments
Abingdon Camera Club	Upgrading IT equipment	£1,847	Members mostly from Abingdon. Subscriptions £30 pa and £2 per meeting or £60 pa. membership has risen from 21 to 33 in 16 months. Award as per officer recommendation.
Abingdon Rugby Club	Replacement set of patio doors and shutters	£3,800	Despite capital reserves of £342,791, available monies for use at 31.08.13 were £8,831* Club should be encouraged to apply to Abingdon Town Council. Award as per officer recommendation.
Drayton Village Hall	Kitchen refurbishment, replacement windows and fire doors	£5,000	This is part of a larger project which has been split into discreet mini projects. Award as per officer recommendation.
St Nicholas Preschool and Playgroup	Replacement of the outdoor play surface	£3,026	Award as per officer recommendation.

*The Committee requested that, for future rounds, the evaluations should include an organisation's available funds in addition to the total assets.

Scheme's Policy: non-agenda item.

After considering the applications, the committee decided to discuss the scheme's policy and to make comments to the Cabinet member as follows:

- More flexibility in the allocation of funds, to award more than 50 percent of project costs/ £5000, if needed and the money was available.
- In the policy, under "Decision Making", to add an "s" to "committee" to change the wording to read: "grant applications will be determined by the relevant area committees".
- In the policy, under "Opening and closing dates" to read: references to an election should be changed to DISTRICT elections.
- The Abingdon Area Committee is granted less money *per capita* than other area committees, under the policy, and the committee would like the policy changed to redress the imbalance. They would like consideration to be taken of the fact that clubs and facilities in Abingdon attract users from out of the area, but the costs of maintenance etc are borne by Abingdon residents under the current policy.

- The policy should contain an **expectation** that applicants will apply to their town or parish councils, and that a section on the application form, and the report to committee should contain an "if not, why not" question.

Additionally, the area committee asked officers for clarification on the schemes which area committees could initiate, and officers undertook to get this information back to the committee, as soon as possible.

The committee requested that the first round of applications in 2015/16 could open as early as possible after the elections, so that applicants would not need to wait an entire year between rounds: officers agreed to take this question away for consideration, and to respond as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm