

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Cabinet

held on Friday 10 July 2015 at 10.00 am

in the Meeting Room 1, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, Abingdon,
OX14 4SB



Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Matthew Barber (Chairman), Roger Cox (Vice-Chairman), Eric Batts, Charlotte Dickson, Mohinder Kainth, Sandy Lovatt, Mike Murray and Elaine Ware

Officers: Steve Bishop, David Buckle, Steve Culliford, Adrian Duffield, Suzanne Malcolm, Margaret Reed, Anna Robinson, Philip Vincent and Bob Watson

Also present: Councillors Yvonne Constance, Debby Hallett and Robert Sharp

Number of members of the public: 2

Ca.1 Apologies for absence

None

Ca.2 Minutes

RESOLVED: to adopt as a correct record the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 6 February 2015 and agree that the chairman signs them.

Ca.3 Declarations of interest

None

Ca.4 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None

Ca.5 Statements, petitions, and questions relating to matters affecting the Cabinet

No members of the public had registered to speak at this meeting. However, Cabinet noted that at the Council meeting held on 20 May 2015, Ms Naomi Richardson had presented a petition to save the outdoor pool in Abingdon. In her address to the Council

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meeting she had referred to the outdoor pool as a vital outdoor amenity for Abingdon and the surrounding area, highlighted the health and safety benefits of providing an alternative swimming option to the River Thames, the health benefits for children, and the wider economic benefits to the town arising from increased visitor numbers attracted to Abingdon by the outdoor pool. At the council meeting the Leader of the council responded that: there was no intention to close the facility; that initial responses to the public consultation on the future of the Abbey Meadows indicated over 80 per cent of respondents were in favour of retaining the outdoor pool; and that £500,000 of funding had been identified to invest in the future of Abbey Meadows. Council referred the petition to Cabinet to consider as part of its deliberation on the future of Abbey Meadows. Cabinet noted this.

Ca.6 Abbey Meadows, Abingdon

Cabinet considered the report of the head of economy, leisure and property. This set out the outcome of the public consultation on the future of the Abbey Meadows in Abingdon, set out a response to the consultation, and suggested a way forward.

Cabinet was pleased with the consultation response and asked officers to prepare a project plan by October 2015 setting out timescales and costs of additional facilities and improvements identified in the report. Cabinet supported the top ten highest ranked schemes.

Some larger projects would need budget approval and were more likely to be carried out in the post 2016 summer season. However some improvements might be carried out in the current financial year over the autumn/winter 2015/16. Cabinet asked officers to start the preparatory work as soon as possible. The leisure team would lead on this project in the future. It was hoped that the project manager's post would be filled and work could commence on this shortly. Cabinet noted that the contractor managing the open air pool was currently carrying out improvements.

RESOLVED: to

- (a) approve the wording in the consultation summary as set out in appendix 1 to the head of economy, leisure and property's report, and publish this to the council's website;
- (b) proceed with the appointment of a project manager to investigate the cost implications of the improvement works to the outdoor pool and the other top ten priorities;
- (c) develop a programme of phased activity to implement these works, bringing forward growth bids as required, and submit this to Cabinet by October 2015.

The meeting closed at 10.12 am