

Minutes

of a meeting of the

Abingdon and North East

Area Committee

held on Monday, 6 January 2020 at 6.30 pm

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



**Vale
of White Horse**
District Council

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Members: Councillors Robert Maddison (Chair for this meeting), Helen Pighills, Samantha Bowring, Neil Fawcett, Alison Jenner, Bob Johnston, Diana Lugova, Robert Maddison, Judy Roberts, Val Shaw, Emily Smith, Max Thompson, Catherine Webber and Richard Webber

Officers: Steve Culliford, Michael Flowers, Kim Hall, Cheryl Reeves and Shona Ware

Number of members of the public: 8

Ab.13 Election of Chair for the meeting

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Robert Maddison was appointed Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

Ab.14 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Foulsham (Chair), Andy Cooke, Debby Hallett, Eric de la Harpe and Mike Pighills.

Ab.15 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2019 and agree that the chairmen signs them as such subject to the following amendment:

- Councillor Margaret Crick was not a trustee of the Oxford Play Association but rather a trustee of a different organisation that provided similar provisions.

Ab.16 Declarations of interest

Declarations of interest were received from the following:

Councillors Robert Maddison, Neil Fawcett and Emily Smith declared non-pecuniary interests as they had volunteered previously with Abingdon Carousel but agreed to come to the item with an open mind and would therefore take part in the discussion.

Samantha Bowring declared a non-pecuniary interest as she was a trustee for Abingdon Carousel and would withdraw from the meeting during the item.

Councillor Catherine Webber and Richard Webber declared non-pecuniary interests in the Marcham Community Group project and would withdraw from the item.

Ab.17 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

The Chairman welcomed all new members of staff to the meeting and introduced them to those present for the meeting.

Ab.18 Public participation

Speakers representing their application were present for three out of seven applications. They spoke in support of their applications and had the opportunity to respond to questions from the committee. The speakers were the following:

Adam Grady	Marcham Community Group
Mary Warrington & Rita Atkinson	Sutton Courtenay Village Hall
Janet Knowles	Damascus PCC

Ab.19 New Homes Bonus Grants 2019/20

The committee considered the head of corporate services' report, which set out details of seven applications for New Homes Bonus grants. The committee noted that it had a budget of £16,974. The officer's report had assessed each application against the grants criteria and had scored the applications against the policy matrix.

Marcham Community Group

Councillors Catherine Webber and Richard Webber declared non-pecuniary interests in this application and left the room for the duration of the item

The officer introduced the application by Marcham Community Group which sought £9,701 towards the scheme total of £53,057, representing a 18.28% contribution towards the total cost. This fund would contribute towards the provision of furnishings for the village hall. The officer explained the scoring recommendation and the subsequent suggested award.

There was one speaker present for the item. Adam Grady spoke in support of the application and answered questions from committee members regarding the application.

Councillors discussed the item and advised Mr Grady on additional sources of funding available from other organisations.

RESOLVED: To approve the officer's recommended scoring of 10 out of 12 points

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall

The officer introduced the application by Sutton Courtenay Village Hall which sought £3,810 towards the scheme total of £7,620, representing a 50% contribution towards the total cost. This fund would contribute to improvements of the village hall. The officer explained the scoring recommendation and the subsequent suggested award.

There were two speakers. Rita Atkinson and Mary Warrington were present for this application. The speakers spoke in support of the application.

RESOLVED: To approve the officer's recommended scoring of 9 out of 12 points.

Abingdon Carousel Family Centre

Councillor Samantha Bowring declared a non-pecuniary interest and left the room for the duration of this item.

The officer introduced the application by Abingdon Carousel Family Centre which sought £3,904 towards the scheme total of £7,808, representing a 50% contribution towards the total cost. This fund would contribute to the provision of the installation of a sensory room to help facilities for special needs children. The officer explained the scoring recommendation, the subsequent suggested award and clarified questions from members regarding new homes bonus scoring and how the receipt of other funding impacted on the officer recommendation.

There were no speakers present for the application. The committee debated the item.

RESOLVED: To approve the officer's recommended scoring of 8 out of 12 points.

Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Tennis Club

The officer introduced the application by Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Tennis Club which sought £11,500 towards the scheme total of £123,294, representing a total contribution of 9.32%. This fund would contribute to the extension and upgrade of club tennis facilities. The officer explained the scoring recommendation, the subsequent suggested award and answered questions from the committee. The officer clarified that applications for funding from other committees within the authority did not impact on this application and that each committee would need to treat each application as a separate project. Additionally, the officer clarified questions regarding the number of new homes built in the area and the constituents who used the facility.

There were no speakers present for the application. The committee debated this item.

RESOLVED: To approve the officer's recommended scoring of 7 out of 12 points.

Abingdon Rugby Club

The officer introduced the application by Abingdon Rugby Club which sought £10,000 towards the scheme total of £52,247, representing a 19.14% contribution towards the total cost. This fund would contribute to the provision of replacement showers and the refurbishment of changing rooms at the club. The officer explained the scoring recommendation, the subsequent suggested award and clarified a question from the committee explaining that the gender of users of the facility does not impact the scoring given in the report.

There were no speakers present for the application. The committee debated this item.

RESOLVED: To approve the officer's recommended score of 6 out of 12 points.

Damascus PCC

The officer introduced the application by Damascus PCC which sought £7,722 towards the scheme total of £15,444, representing a 50% contribution towards the total cost. This fund would contribute to the provision of new furniture and fittings for the community church room. The officer explained the scoring recommendation, the subsequent suggested award and answered questions from the committee about the score reduction for religious organisations which limited the score to two points as per the scoring criteria.

There was one speaker present for the application. Janet Knowles spoke in support of the application. The speaker answered questions from the committee.

Councillors debated this item.

RESOLVED: To approve the officer's recommended score of 6 out of 12 points.

Kennington Playgroup

The officer introduced the application by Kennington Playgroup which sought £7,457 towards the scheme total of £14,914, representing a 50% contribution towards the total cost. This fund would contribute to the provision of an outdoor play area upgrade. The officer explained the scoring recommendation and the subsequent suggested award. There were no speakers present for the application.

RESOLVED: To approve the officer's recommended score of 5 out of 12 points.

Having approved the scoring of each application against the grants criteria, the committee went on to consider the amounts that should be awarded to each applicant. Due to the restricted budget available, the committee was unable to award grants to each applicant. As a result, the committee awarded grants to the highest scoring applications.

RESOLVED:

a.) To award New Homes Bonus Grants as follows:

Applicant	Scheme	Grant
Marcham Community Group	Furnishing Marcham Village Hall	18.28% of the total cost capped to £9,701.
Sutton Courtenay Village Hall	Village Hall Improvements	50% of the total cost capped to £3,810.
Abingdon Carousel Family Centre	Installation of a sensory room to help families with a special needs child	37.5% of the total cost capped to £2,928.
Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Tennis Club	Extension and Upgrade of Club Tennis Facilities Project	0.43% of the total cost capped to £535.

b.) The following applicants receive no New Homes Bonus Grant on this occasion:

- Abingdon Rugby Club
- Damascus PCC
- Kennington Playgroup

The meeting closed at 7.53 pm