

Ab.1

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE GUILDHALL, ABINGDON
ON THURSDAY, 6TH JULY, 2006 AT
7.00PM

Open to the Public, including the Press

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Councillors Julie Mayhew-Archer, Janet Morgan, Mike Badcock, Mary de Vere, Tony de Vere, Gervase Duffield, Peter Green, Peter Jones, Monica Lovatt, Alison Rooke, Roz Smith, Laurel Symons and Councillor Richard Webber.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lorna Edwards, Toby Warren and Jason Lindsey.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Inspector David Purnell and Liz Morgan (Extended School's Co-ordinator, Abingdon).

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Nil.

Ab.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor Julie Mayhew-Archer, seconded by Councillor Laurel Symons and

RESOLVED

that Councillor Jim Halliday be elected Chair of the Committee for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

Ab.2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor Mary de Vere, seconded by Councillor Peter Green and

RESOLVED

that Councillor Richard Webber be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

Ab.3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jim Halliday.

Ab.4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 March 2006 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

Ab.5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members declared interest in report 32/06 – Community Grants as follows: -

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Type of Interest</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Minute Ref</u>
Peter Green	Personal and	Abingdon and District Citizens Advice	Trustee of the CAB and Town Mayor of which the CAB is one	Ab.12(1)

	Prejudicial	Bureau	of the Town Mayor's chosen charities	
Laurel Symons	Personal	Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau	Council's representative on the Citizens Advice Bureau (Abingdon)	Ab.12(1)
Mary de Vere	Personal and Prejudicial	Preston Road Community Centre Association.	Council's representative on the Preston Road Community Centre Association and involved in preparing the grant application.	Ab.12(2)
Mike Badcock	Personal	Abingdon Museum	Member of Abingdon Town Council and Oxfordshire County Council	Ab.12(3)
Tony de Vere	Personal	Abingdon Museum	Council's representative on the Abingdon Museum Sub-Committee	Ab.12(3)
Peter Green	Personal and Prejudicial	Abingdon Museum	Town Mayor and Member of Abingdon Town Council	Ab.12(3)
Mary de Vere	Personal	Peachcroft Christian Centre	Member of the Methodist Church.	Ab.12(4)
Tony de Vere	Personal and Prejudicial	Peachcroft Christian Centre	Acquainted with the applicant	Ab.12(4)
Julie Mayhew-Archer	Personal and Prejudicial	Abingdon Museum	Member of Abingdon Town Council and the Abingdon Museum Sub-Committee	Ab.12(3)
Monica Lovatt	Personal and Prejudicial	Abingdon Museum	Member of Abingdon Town Council and the Abingdon Museum Sub-Committee	Ab.12(3)
Alison Rooke	Personal and Prejudicial	Abingdon Museum	Leader of Abingdon Town Council	Ab.12(3)
Alison Rooke	Personal and Prejudicial	Peachcroft Christian Centre	Contributor to fund raising	Ab.12(4)
Roz Smith	Personal and Prejudicial	Peachcroft Christian Centre	Previously a Member of the Christian Centre	Ab.12(4)

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Mary de Vere	Personal	Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society	Council's representative on the Society.	Ab.12(5)
Julie Mayhew Archer	Personal and Prejudicial	Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society	Member of Abingdon Town Council	Ab.12(5)

Ab.6 URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Ab.7 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32**Mr C Trinder – Peachcroft Christian Centre**

(Councillor Alison Rooke left the meeting during this item).

Mr Trinder made a statement in support of the application for grant aid in respect of the Peachcroft Christian Centre. He advised of progress with the building works and acknowledged the generous financial support previously given by the Council towards the project. In speaking to the application, Mr Trinder clarified the position in respect of the project costs and loans taken out to cover some of those costs. The total cost of the project was £625,000 and just under £600,000 had been raised or promised at the present time. The reason for the grant request was that all other external sources for funding had now been exhausted and the Area Committee, following a presentation by the Centre in 2005, had indicated that it was minded to support the project to the £50,000 originally requested. However, due to financial constraints the Council, through the Area Committee and Executive had provided £25,000 in 2005/06 towards the project. The current application sought a further £25,000 to complete the project.

The Chair thanked Mr Trinder for his statement, the contents of which would be taken into account later in the meeting when the application was considered (Minute Ab.12 refers).

Ab.8 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

None.

Ab.9 PRESENTATION - NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUPS

The Committee received a presentation from Chief Inspector David Purnell on Neighbourhood Policing, a national initiative with the ethos of working with local communities and communicating to all residents. In the Vale area seven Neighbourhood Action Groups had been established, covering the whole of the Vale District of which two were currently live (Drayton/Steventon and South Abingdon and Milton Park and surrounding villages). This initiative would be publicised through public meetings and surveys. The Vale currently had nine Community Support Police Officers (CSPO), financed through Partnership funding and four fully funded by the Thames Valley Police Authority. These Officers would provide a visible presence in the community. It was hoped that by 2008, 600 CSPO's would be on duty throughout the Thames Valley, funded directly by Central Government and through local authorities.

At the present time South Oxfordshire and West Oxfordshire District Councils and Oxford City Council provided funding towards CSPO's and the Chief Inspector undertook to provide details of the level of financial support from each authority. Chief Inspector Purnell stressed the important role that local Councillors could play in supporting the Police and their local Neighbourhood Action Group.

The Chair thanked Chief Inspector Purnell for his presentation.

Ab.10 PRESENTATION - EXTENDED SCHOOLS

The Committee received a presentation from Liz Morgan, Extended School's Co-ordinator, Abingdon on the Extended Schools initiative. Extended schools would provide a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day to help meet the needs of children, their families and the wider community. The core services were as follows:-

- High quality childcare available from 8.00am – 6.00pm all year round
- A varied menu of activities, such as homework clubs
- Parenting support, including family learning sessions
- Swift and easy referral to a wide range of specialist services
- Wider community access to ICT, sports and arts facilities, including Adult Learning.

The Abingdon Partnership comprised 27 schools (3 secondary, 1 special school and 23 primary). An audit of all school activity had been undertaken, an audit of what was in the community had been started, a development plan for the partnership had been developed and a multi agency group had been set up to support the Partnership. Plans for the future included:-

- More collaborative work eg breakfast clubs
- Building up a multi agency group to progress the plans
- Work with the Governors of the schools
- Holiday schemes.

In respect of the cost of participation in holiday schemes, it was noted that Headteachers had discretion to offer free places to those families who could not otherwise afford to participate. Consideration was also being given to providing grant assistance towards the cost. At present after school clubs were free and the Partnership was keen that this continued. Furthermore the Partnership would be producing a marketing brochure which would list the facilities and schemes available as part of the programme. In respect of adult learning, it was noted that Abingdon and Witney College was reducing the number of adult learning schemes it provided and increasing the fees for those schemes still in place. The Partnership was working with the College, Oxfordshire Adult Learning Scheme and other providers to try and expand adult learning provision.

The Chair thanked Liz Morgan for her presentation.

RESOLVED

that the presentation be received.

Ab.11 COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The Committee received and considered report 33/06 of the Strategic Director, which provided information on community leadership, which had been requested by the Committee at its last meeting.

RESOLVED

that report 33/06 be received.

Ab.12 COMMUNITY GRANTS / BUDGET POSITION

The Committee received and considered report 32/06 of the Strategic Director which set out the current budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee for Community Grants in

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2006/07 and invited Members to consider and determine those grant applications received since the last meeting.

The report was considered as follows:-

(1) Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau

(Councillor Laurel Symons had declared a personal interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 she remained in the meeting during its consideration).

(Councillor Peter Green had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 he withdrew from the meeting during its consideration).

It was reported that parish support had increased to £10,355 against a projected income figure of £10,665. Some Members expressed concern that the Committee was being asked to provide financial support towards core funding and that the community grants budget should be used to support new projects. It was noted that Members of the Executive had visited the CAB to gain a better understanding of the issues facing the Bureau and the work undertaken.

(2) Preston Road Community Centre Association

(Councillors Mary de Vere and Tony de Vere had each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 they left the meeting during its consideration).

It was reported that the Association's balances as at 30 April 2006 were £3,205.77. Awards for All had awarded a grant of £4,225 and Abingdon Town Council had awarded up to £800 towards a fridge freezer. The Committee noted that the Centre was located in an area with high levels of deprivation and social exclusion.

(3) Abingdon Museum

(Councillors Mike Badcock and Tony de Vere had each declared a personal interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 they remained in the meeting during its consideration).

(Councillors Peter Green, Monica Lovatt, Julie Mayhew-Archer and Alison Rooke had each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 they withdrew from the meeting during its consideration)

Some Members expressed surprise at the cost of the proposed research and consultancy fees, although it was recognised that the Museum building was unique in terms of design and any works to improve the access would need to be approved by English Heritage. The Committee expressed disappointment at the level of financial contribution from Oxfordshire County Council. The Council's Community Strategy Officer confirmed the level of grant sought by the applicant.

(4) Peachcroft Christian Centre

(Councillor Mary de Vere had declared a personal interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 she remained in the meeting for consideration).

(Councillors Alison Rooke and Roz Smith had each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 they withdrew from the meeting during its consideration).

It was noted that the applicant had not applied to Awards for All for financial support. It was suggested that due to the size of the grant requested consideration of the application be deferred to later in the calendar year. However, it was noted that the building works were due to be completed in October 2006.

(5) Twinning

(Councillor Mary de Vere had declared a personal interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 she remained in the meeting during its consideration).

(Councillor Julie Mayhew-Archer had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 she withdrew from the meeting during its consideration).

The Committee was advised that the sum of £3,000 needed to be set aside for the two twinning Service Level Agreement grants for Abingdon Town Council (£2,500) and The Drayton Twinning Society (£500) for 2006/07.

RESOLVED

- (a) *that the Committee's budget for 2006/07 of £35,975.48 be noted and apportioned as follows:-*

<i>Environmental Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£9,877</i>
<i>Social Agenda (35%)</i>	<i>£9,877</i>
<i>Economic Agenda (10%)</i>	<i>£2,822</i>
<i>Discretionary (20%)</i>	<i>£5,644 + £7,755.48,</i>

- (b) *that it be noted that grants totalling £915 have already been allocated and grants of £3,000 are earmarked for twinning, leaving a budget of £32,060.48 for the rest of 2006/07;*

- (c) *that the following grants be awarded:-*

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Grant</u>
<i>Abingdon and District Citizens Advice Bureau</i>	<i>Shortfall in core funding.</i>	<i>£2,565 (Social Agenda and Access Priority).</i>
<i>Preston Road Community Centre Association</i>	<i>Third party funding for WREN application and to cover shortfall in funding from other sources.</i>	<i>£6,385 (Social Agenda and Access and Town and Village Vitality priorities).</i>
<i>Abingdon Museum</i>	<i>Development Plan for Museum</i>	<i>£3,850 (Social Agenda and Access and Town and Village Vitality priorities) (by 9 votes to nil).</i>

<i>Peachcroft Christian Centre</i>	<i>Extension to Centre</i>	<i>£2,000 (Social Agenda and Access and Town and Village Vitality priorities) (by 6 votes to 4).</i>
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Ab.13 PROSPECTUS TO TARGET GRANTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ABINGDON AND AREA

The Committee received and considered report 34/06 of the Strategic Director detailing a draft prospectus which would be used to target grant awards.

The Head of Innovation and Enterprise reported that two of the Area Committee's, which had already met during the current committee cycle, had agreed that grants towards historic buildings would only be made in respect of those buildings that provided a community use.

The Committee generally supported this stance and considered that the Council should be consistent in its consideration of historic building grants. However, some Members stressed the importance of preserving the heritage of the District and that each application should be considered on its merits. It was noted that the Executive would be considering all Area Committee prospectuses to ensure that there was a degree of consistency in the awarding of grants across the priority areas.

One Member referred to the Town and Village Vitality strand of the Vale Community Strategy and the priority regarding support for improvements to community centre and village halls. In this regard, he suggested that such financial support should be subject to the applicant being able to demonstrate that the project was sustainable.

Finally, the Committee welcomed the publication of the prospectus and emphasised the need for it to be made public as soon as possible and not subject to public consultation on its content with the Area Forum. The Committee's attention was drawn to the request by the Chair of the Executive that all Area Committee prospectuses be submitted to the Executive. It was reiterated that the Chair of the Executive wished to ensure that whilst prospectuses reflected local priorities they retained a degree of consistency. It was suggested that a meeting of the Area Forum should be held in March 2007 to receive feedback on the effectiveness of the prospectus.

By 12 vote to 1 it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Abingdon Area Committee's prospectus for community grants in 2006/07 be approved, as appended to these Minutes; and*
- (b) that a meeting of Abingdon Area Forum be held in March 2007 to receive feedback on the effectiveness of the prospectus.*

Exempt Information Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None.

The meeting rose at 9.10 pm

The Abingdon Area Prospectus 2006/07

The Council's Abingdon Area Committee supports residents to develop projects which improve their community. The area covered is Abingdon, Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford.

The elected district councillors, who make up the membership of the Abingdon Area Committee, have a limited budget which can be used to give small grants towards the cost of starting community projects. In the financial year 2005/06 the Abingdon Area Committee gave grants to twenty five different projects. The grants helped with arts, sports and young peoples' activities. Grants also helped to improve community buildings, conserve historic buildings and maintain important trees.

The Committee's budget for the financial year 2006/07 is nearly £36,000. The table on the following page provides information about the kind of local community led projects that the Committee would like to support in 2006/07. The table is organised to fit with the strands (or themes) of the Vale Community Strategy. The Vale Community Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will work together to improve the quality of life of everyone who lives in, works in or visits the Vale. The table shows how the Abingdon Area Committee plans to contribute to the Vale Community Strategy. Councillors consider that quality of life in the Abingdon area will improve if there are more of the kinds of community projects that are listed in the table.

The Abingdon Area Committee recognises that there are other kinds of community projects which may not be mentioned in the table. The Committee is more than willing to consider these projects, as all projects are determined according to their individual merits. However given the Committee's limited budget, it would like to focus its grant giving on projects that it feels will make an important contribution to community life.

If you are a member of a community group in the Abingdon area who is interested in applying for a grant towards the cost of starting a priority project visit the Council's website: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/CommunityDevelopment/GrantsAndFunding or telephone the Community Strategy Officer (Direct Dial 01235 547626).

<p>VALE COMMUNITY STRATEGY STRANDS OR THEMES</p>	<p>PRIORITIES IN ABINGDON & AREA IN 2006/07</p>
<p>Recreation, Culture and Leisure</p>	<p>The Abingdon Area Committee aims particularly to support suitable groups who are able to take these projects forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts festivals, sports activities and other events which are affordable. These can be for all ages but projects that provide young people with something to do in the evenings, weekends and holidays are of particular interest.
<p>Safe and Supportive Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that develop peoples' energy and creativity to reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour. • Projects that help to reassure people that the Vale is a relatively safe place so that they do not live in fear of crime.
<p>Town and Village Vitality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that encourage more people to visit, and shop in, Abingdon town centre. • Projects that encourage economic and social activity in Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. • Projects to improve community centres and village halls, subject to demonstrable sustainability.
<p>Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that discourage the dropping of litter. • Additional street cleansing by the parish councils of Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. • Projects that encourage more re-cycling. • Projects that help to improve the appearance of Abingdon (These should also be supported by the Abingdon Joint Environmental Trust.). • Projects that help to improve the appearance of Drayton, Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. • The Committee will normally only consider support for the preservation of listed historic buildings that have a community use (outside the area covered by the Abingdon Joint Environmental Trust.). • The Committee will consider support for the maintenance of trees that are privately owned, if the trees are the subject of a tree preservation order.
<p>Education and Lifelong Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that promote learning opportunities (particularly ICT) for people of all ages. • Projects that use local school, community & church facilities to provide wider community learning benefits. • Projects that support young parents and help to give children a good start in life.
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that encourage people of all ages to exercise more. • Projects that support the wellbeing of elderly people