

# Ab.1

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ABINGDON AREA COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE GUILDHALL,  
ABINGDON ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH  
JULY, 2007 AT 7.00PM

### Open to the Public, including the Press

PRESENT:

MEMBERS: Councillors Paul Burton, Mary de Vere, Tony de Vere, Gervase Duffield, Richard Gibson, Jim Halliday, Angela Lawrence, Pat Lonergan, Janet Morgan, Alison Rooke, Laurel Symons and Richard Webber.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Carole Nicholl and Toby Warren.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 3

### Ab.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor Alison Rooke, seconded by Councillor Angela Lawrence and

*RESOLVED (nem con)*

*that Councillor Richard Webber be elected Chair of the Abingdon Area Committee for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.*

Councillor Richard Webber – in the Chair

### Ab.2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed by Councillor Angela Lawrence, seconded by Councillor Laurel Symons and

*RESOLVED (nem con)*

*that Councillor Alison Rooke be elected Vice-Chair of the Abingdon Area Committee for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.*

### Ab.3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were recorded from Councillors Samantha Bowring; Beth Fleming; Julie Mayhew-Archer and Timothy Smith.

### Ab.4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Abingdon Area Committee held on 22 March 2007 were adopted and signed as a correct record.

Ab.5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made in respect of report 46/07 – Community Grants (Minute Ab.10 refers) as follows: -

| Councillor  | Type of Interest         | Item  | Reason  |
|---|--------------------------|---|---|
| Jim Halliday<br>Angela Lawrence<br>Pat Lonergan<br>Alison Rooke | Personal and Prejudicial | Twinning Partnership Grant - Abingdon Town Council                      | They were Members of Abingdon Town Council the applicant.   |
| Richard Webber  | Personal and Prejudicial | Twinning Partnership Grant – Drayton Parish Council                     | He was a Member of Drayton Parish Council the applicant.  |
| Jim Halliday<br>Angela Lawrence<br>Pat Lonergan<br>Alison Rooke | Personal                 | Grant application – Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society | They were Members of Abingdon Town Council and the applicant was proposing to use premises owned by the Town Council.       |
| Gervase Duffield  | Personal                 | Grant application – Appleford Parish Council and Village Hall Committee | He was a resident of Appleford and a Member of the Parish Council, but he was not a Member of the Village Hall Committee.   |
| Toby Warren – Head of Community Strategy                        | Personal                 | Grant application – Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project                   | He was acquainted with Liz Sale a supporter of the application in so far as she was the Vice-Chair of the Vale Partnership. |
| Pat Lonergan  | Personal                 | Grant application – Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project                   | He had attended a quarterly Farmoor Reservoir Leisure Liaison meeting.  |

Ab.6 URGENT BUSINESS AND CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Ab.7 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

Liz Sale and Bill Proctor had each given notice that they wished to make a statement at the meeting in support of the grant application in respect of the Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project.

Bill Proctor made a statement seeking support for the application commenting on how disabled people had to be carried into the boats. He reported that the proposal would enable better access for sailors, their carers and families. He explained that the water level could drop significantly and therefore the proposal incorporated an electric lift for use when the ramps could not be used safely. There would be an increased harbour area which would enable increased use. He reported that the scheme was divided into phases and he explained the shortfall in the funding required.

The Chair thanked Bill Proctor for his statement advising that it would be taken into account by members when they considered the application later in the meeting.

Ab.8 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 32

None.

Ab.9 GRANTS CRITERIA

The Community Strategy Officer outlined details of the Grants Criteria, explaining that folders containing the Community Grants Scheme were available at each meeting. In response to a question raised it was explained that Members were welcome to peruse the folders but were asked to return them to the Head of Community Strategy to ensure that they were updated and available for Members at other Area Committee Meetings.

*RESOLVED*

*that the report be received.*

Ab.10 COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Committee received and considered report 46/07 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer which set out the budget position at the beginning of 2007/08 for this Committee in respect of Community Grants and invited Members to consider and determine the grant applications received.

The Committee discussed the report as follows: -

(1) Twining Partnership Grant – Abingdon Town Council

(Councillors Jim Halliday, Angela Lawrence, Pat Lonergan and Alison Rooke had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 they withdrew from the meeting during its consideration).

In response to a question raised the Officers advised that the required monitoring information was awaited. One Member requested sight of this information commenting that it was essential to know how funding had been spent last year. She further questioned the award of grants in view of the different twinning arrangements. The Head of Community Strategy commented that the agreement would need to be reviewed, with a report thereon to the

Executive and that grant awards could only be made subject to the fund available.

It was further commented that the Council should be consistent in terms of grant awards to the Town Council and the Twin Towns Society.

Members had some reservations in awarding a grant without the benefit of viewing the required monitoring information. It was therefore considered that the Chair of the Committee and the Council's representative on the Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society should view this information prior to the grant being awarded.

(2) Twining Partnership Grant – Drayton Parish Council

(Councillor Richard Webber 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).

Councillor Alison Rooke the Vice-Chair took the Chair for this item.

Members supported the application.

(3) Grant Application - Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society

(Councillors Jim Halliday, Angela Lawrence, Pat Lonergan and Alison Rooke had declared a personal interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 34 they remained in the meeting during its consideration).

The Committee was advised that the Abingdon Joint Environmental Trust had offered a grant of £250 towards the exhibition.

In response to a question raised, the Committee was advised that the application was for cases to enable artefacts to be displayed.

Reference was made to the detail in the application and it was commented that applicants should be encouraged to include sufficient information in their applications for grant assistance.

(4) Grant Application - Appleford Parish Council & Village Hall Committee

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

The Committee was advised that further works had been identified in the sum of £4,000 and that the project had now been split into two phases.

Members supported the application noting that there would be facilities which would be available to the wider community, including sports facilities. The

Committee commended the applicant in the level of funds raised to date and agreed that a grant award should be made.

(5) Grant Application - The Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project

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

(Toby Warren had declared a personal interest in this item and in accordance with Standing Order 35 he remained in the meeting during its consideration).

Further to the report, Members were advised that the West Area Committee at its meeting held on 17 July 2007 had awarded £1,000 towards the Project.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) *that the budget position for the Abingdon Area Committee at the beginning of the financial year be noted;*
- (b) *that the payment of the SLA grant to Abingdon Town Council and the Drayton Twinning Society subject be agreed in principle as follows: -*

| <u>Applicant</u>                | <u>Grant Amount</u>  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>Abingdon Town Council</i>    | <i>£2,500 subject to the required monitoring information having been received and viewed by the Chair of the Committee and the Council's representative on the Abingdon and District Twin Towns Society.</i> |
| <i>Drayton Twinning Society</i> | <i>£500 subject to the required monitoring information having been received and viewed by the Vice-Chair of the Committee.</i>   |

- (c) *that the grant applications received be determined as follows:-*

| <u>Applicant</u>   | <u>Reason for Grant</u>                                       | <u>Agenda and Council Priority</u>                       | <u>Grant Awarded</u>   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society</i> | <i>Towards an exhibition about the history of Ock Street.</i> | <i>Social Agenda, Town and Village Vitality priority</i> | <i>£250 (proposed by Councillor Alison Rooke, seconded by Councillor Pat Lonergan and agreed by 12 votes to nil)</i> |
| <i>Appleford Parish Council &amp; Village Hall</i>         | <i>Towards the refurbishment and</i>                          | <i>Social Agenda, Town and</i>                           | <i>£6,000 (proposed by Councillor Angela Lawrence, seconded</i>  |

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <i>Committee</i>                             | <i>extension of the village hall.</i>                                       | <i>Village Vitality priority;</i>         | <i>by Councillor Richard Gibson and agreed by 11 votes to nil with 1 abstention).</i>  |
| <i>The Farmoor Reservoir Pontoon Project</i> | <i>Towards the construction of a pontoon for sailors with disabilities.</i> | <i>Social Agenda, and Access priority</i> | <i>£6,000 (Councillor Angela Lawrence proposed and Councillor Pat Lonergan seconded £7,000. By way of an amendment £6,000 was proposed by Councillor Alison Rooke, seconded by Councillor Janet Morgan and agreed by 7 votes to 5. On being put, the Substantive Motion was carried by 12 votes to nil).</i> |

Ab.11 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE VALE PARTNERSHIP AND THE OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Committee received and considered report 37/07 of the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer which advised that following the publication of the White Paper on the Future of Local Government ('Strong & Prosperous Communities') in the autumn of 2006, the Vale Partnership Board (comprising the District Council and key agencies to influence quality of life in the Vale) had commenced a review of the Vale Community Strategy 2004-2008. The Oxfordshire Partnership had also commenced a review of the Oxfordshire Community Strategy, in preparation for negotiations with central government on the priorities and targets in the next Oxfordshire Local Area Agreement.

The report provided further information on the reviews of the Vale Community Strategy and the Oxfordshire Community Strategy and also gave an opportunity for Members to provide information in respect of the social issues and priorities for the Abingdon area.

One Member made reference to climate change. He noted that whilst climate change was mentioned in the matrix, he considered that it should be given more emphasis and should be specific to areas. He considered that climate change should be incorporated into the Core Strategy.

Another Member welcomed the report noting that there were some minor typographic errors. The Officers responded that the document was a working document and would be redrafted for public consultation.

One Member emphasised the need for measurability and reporting back. She referred to the example of teaching English as a foreign language and questioned who would provide the teaching, who would monitor it, who was it aimed at, what were the benefits and how would these be measured. She stated that there needed to be achievable, realistic and measurable targets with reporting back being included.

Some Members commented that they required further time to read the report and submit their comments on the Strategic Matrix to the Head of Community Strategy outside of the meeting.

*RESOLVED*

- (a) that the information contained in report 37/07 be noted;*
- (b) that the comments made on the strategic matrix (a background paper to report 37/07) in respect of the social issues and priorities as set out above be noted;  
and*
- (c) that it be agreed that additional comments be made by Members to the Head of Community Strategy by no later than 13 August 2007 on the strategic matrix in respect of the social issues and priorities.*

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

None.

The meeting rose at 8.20 pm