

Minutes of the Council of the Town of Abingdon held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Abingdon on Wednesday 23 June 2010.

Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer  
Cllr Lesley Legge  
Cllr Alison Rooke  
Cllr Lorraine Oates  
Cllr Patrick Lonergan  
Cll Duncan Brown      Mayor of Abingdon  
Cllr Alastair Fear      Deputy Mayor  
Cllr Peter Fulk  
Cllr Colin Walters  
Cllr Janet Morter  
Cllr Jeanette Halliday  
Cllr Angela Lawrence  
Cllr Tim Oates  
Cllr Margaret Crick

In Attendance  
Mr Nigel Warner      Town Clerk  
Mrs Sandra Hill      Deputy Town Clerk  
Mr Steve Rich      Projects & Technical Manager

15      **Prayers**

Prayers were taken by the Mayor's Chaplain, Dr Gyan Gopal.

16      **Public participation**

Two members of the public, and an Oxfordshire County Council Councillor representative for Abingdon addressed the Town Council Meeting

(1)      Mr William Mellor ex Head Brewer at Morlands Brewery explained that a gift of land was given to the people of Abingdon by Morlands Brewery. He further explained that the brewery had ties with MG and had created Old Speckled Hen to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Abingdon MG car factory. The brewery had greatly contributed towards Abingdon's economy and in recognition of this, and the gift of land, it would be fitting for the Town Council to recognise this by having a commemoration plaque placed in the Ock Mini-Park.

(2)      Dr Les Clyne addressed the meeting and asked the Leader of the Council, Cllr Lesley Legge, the following question:

*What is the budget for children's play areas which are the responsibility of the Town Council for the current financial year, and what is the likely expenditure by the end of the financial year?*

In response to Dr Clyne's question, Cllr Lesley Legge explained that Abingdon Town Council has been committed to a rolling programme of playground improvements for a number of years. The budget for children's play areas which are the responsibility of the Town Council for the current financial year is £25,000.

The likely expenditure this year is £69,300. This includes the current year budget of £25,000, plus £24,300 rolled over from last year. Then there is a likely developer contribution from the Drayton Road housing of £20,000 which is earmarked for the Chaunterill Way play area. By undertaking this work as one project the Council will obtain better value for money from contractors.

The Council is currently undertaking an assessment of surfacing requirements by a qualified RoSPA inspector before proceeding with new safety surfaces and equipment. Local members are also consulting with residents near the new Drayton Road housing about the money earmarked for Chaunterill Way and what is needed in that area.

(3) Oxfordshire County Councillor, Cllr Peter Jones, addressed the meeting by relaying a report from the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, Cllr Keith Mitchell. The report outlined that the County Council would have to cut around £200m from their budgets due to the national financial situation. Central Government is making cuts to council spending in this financial year by reducing the government grants to Oxfordshire County Council by £11m. The County Council is looking to reduce 500 posts over the next five years. The public capital spending programme will also be reduced between 30% and 50%. A Parish Council consultation on the Government Comprehensive Spending Review would be taking place shortly.

He further reported that a public consultation meeting regarding the incinerator would be taking place on 6 July 2010.

17 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jim Halliday, Bowring, Bricknell, Hobby, Lorraine Smith, Martin Smith and Diane Nixon.

18 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Lonergan, Mayhew-Archer, Lawrence and Rooke all declared personal interest in any matters concerning the Vale of White Horse District Council as they are Members of that Council, and in particular the County Hall Museum as the District Council provide an annual grant towards the Museum.

Cllr Angela Lawrence also declared a personal and prejudicial interest regarding the Guildhall as she is a member of the Vale of White Horse District Council's Executive Committee. The District Council fund and operate the Guildhall.

19 **Minutes**

**Resolved** to adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 23 March 2010, and the Annual Meeting of the Council on 12 May 2010 subject to the following amendment:

23 March 2010 Minutes – that the heading and minute number 73 should read 23 March 2010 and not 24 March 2010.

20 **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor reported that, to date, he has raised over £980. He is currently looking for sponsorship for the Mayor's Over 70s Christmas Party.

21 **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

**Resolved** to receive the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 20 April and 8 June 2010, and approve any recommendations therein.

Thanks were relayed to everyone who helped and supported the Environmental Awareness Day; a total of seven organisations took part.

22 **County Hall Museum Management Committee**

**Resolved** to receive the minutes of the meeting of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 18 May 2010, and approve any recommendations therein.

The Chair of the County Hall Museum Management Committee reported that preparations to interview four posts were currently underway. Thanks were thanks relayed to the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and the Museum Curator.

23 **Amenities and Recreation Committee**

**Resolved** to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 26 May 2010, and approve any recommendations therein.

Thanks were relayed to Cllr Peter Fulk for his work as Chair of the Amenities and Recreation Committee.

24 **Planning and Highways Committee**

**Resolved** to receive the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meetings held on 7 April, 26 April, 17 May and 7 June 2010, and approve any recommendations therein.

Thanks were relayed to Cllr Martin Smith for his work as Chair of the Planning & Highways Committee.

25 **To receive Notices of Motion under Standing Order No. 8 as follows:**

*In June 2006 the Freedom of the Town of Abingdon was conferred upon the Royal Logistics Corp, Dalton Barracks, and not specifically to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Regiments of the Royal Logistics Corp at Dalton Barracks. Therefore all Regiments' within the Royal Logistics Corp, Dalton Barracks, should have the honour of the Freedom of the Town of Abingdon.*

*The 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Royal Logistics Corp, Dalton Barracks, went away on duty to Afghanistan earlier this year, and it is their greatest wish that they too, be honoured with a Freedom Parade on their return.*

*Abingdon Town Council asks the Town Clerk write to the Dalton Barracks Station Commander Colonel E Newman in order to convey the Council's best wishes to the 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment's Commanding Officer, Lt Colonel C Rose, and that the Council are looking forward to the 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment exercising their Freedom of the Town of Abingdon on their safe return.*

**Resolved** that the Motion be accepted.

26 **Exclusion of the Public, Including the Press**

The Mayor will move:

*“That in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted as summarised below.”*

**SECTION II (Excluding the public and the press)**

**Items for Discussion:**

- Confidential minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24 March 2010;
- Confidential minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 20 April and 8 June 2010;
- Confidential minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 18 May 2010;
- Confidential minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 26 May 2010.