

Minutes of the Council of the Town of Abingdon held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Abingdon on Wednesday 15 September 2010

Present

Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer
Cllr Alison Rooke
Cllr Lorraine Oates
Cll Duncan Brown Mayor of Abingdon
Cllr Alastair Fear Deputy Mayor
Cllr Colin Walters
Cllr Jeanette Halliday
Cllr Tim Oates
Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Julia Bricknell

In Attendance

Mr Nigel Warner Town Clerk
Mrs Sandra Hill Deputy Town Clerk

27 Prayers

Prayers were taken by Rev Adrian Rance.

28 Public participation

Two members of the public addressed the Town Council Meeting

- (1) Mr Philip Waddy of West Waddy ADP Architects explained his company's links with Abingdon through design and architecture since 1885, and of the company's 125th anniversary celebrations, which are taking place this year. He stated that, as part of the celebrations, a time capsule has been buried with the intention that it should be opened in 2135.

A number of projects have also been planned with the aim of enhancing the town:

- Pupils from seven Abingdon schools have been invited to create innovative shop signage;
- Brookes University's Architecture and Town Planning students will be undertaking a six week project looking at the historic links between the town and the river;
- Masters students from Brookes University's Urban Design will be focussing on the links between the river and the open air swimming pool.

A major exhibition has been planned next year to display the results of all the projects.

- (2) Mr Peter Harbour from the Friends of Abingdon Outdoor Swimming Pool spoke to his distributed report. He highlighted that the Friends were keen to form a partnership with the Town and District Councils and the newly appointed contractor with the aim of assisting with the improvement, development and popularisation of the pool.

He explained that the Friends were exploring the possibility of a WREN grant of up to £50,000 although match funding of between 20 to 25% needs to be established - in

the meanwhile, potential sponsors are being investigated. He further recommended that a meeting of all interested parties should be convened.

29 Report from Oxfordshire County Council

There was nothing to report from Cllr Peter Jones, County Councillor for Abingdon East.

30 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Morter, Fulk, Lawrence, Legge, Lonergan and Nixon

31 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Mayhew-Archer, Jim Halliday, Bowring, Bricknell and Rooke all declared personal interests 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; the administration of the Joint Environmental Trust, which is a joint committee of the Town and District Councils; and the Abbey Meadows swimming pool and Guildhall, which are both owned and operated by the District Council. Members also indicated that they would declare interests to be personal and prejudicial, as appropriate, in relation to the administration of the JET, the Guildhall and the swimming pool, should these matters be discussed.

32 Town Council Membership

The Mayor reported the sad death on 5th July 2010 of past Mayor Cllr Patricia Hobby. A thanksgiving service is due to take place at 2.30 pm on Friday 1 October 2010 at St Helen's Church,

He further reported following the vacancy caused by the sad death of Cllr Audrey Tamplin that a by-election was held on 24 June 2010. The result of the election was:

Bricknell, Julia Monquet	–	Liberal Democrat Party	764
Clyne, Les	-	Abingdon Resident	105
Lovatt, Sandy	-	Conservative Party	505

Therefore Cllr Julia Bricknell was elected as Member of Dunmore Ward. The meeting welcomed Cllr Bricknell to Abingdon Town Council and conveyed their congratulations.

33 Minutes

Resolved to adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2010, subject to the following amendments:

15 – Prayers – should read: Prayers were taken by the Mayor's Chaplain Mr Relff Aman.

17 – Apologies: Cllr Bricknell should be deleted.

34 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced the sad news on the death of Mrs Jean Jones. Councillors would be informed of the funeral arrangements.

The Sea Cadets have presented the Town's Mayor the honorary role of President, and stated that he would accept the honorary position on behalf of the Town.

The Mayor further reported that to date he has raised £2,750 in aid of his charities.

35 Finance and General Purposes Committee

A Member requested detail on the overall costs for Market Place Events for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, and what events have been planned for 2011-2012.

Minute 48: It was noted that the accounts for 2009/10 had been approved by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Members were aware that there was a very tight timescale for both the Council and the auditors to approve the accounts and complete the audit. This was the first year under which the Council has prepared the accounts in accordance with the FRSSE (Financial Reporting Standard for Small Entities) and there were a number of changes which the auditor had requested and it was likely that following discussions, some further alterations would be requested. These would need to be carried out before audit had to be completed by the end of the month, and there was effectively a longstop date before that, by which time any changes had to be carried out to be taken into account by audit. It was therefore **resolved** that authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, to make such changes to the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2010 as are suggested as a result of the issues report from the Audit Commission and further delegated authority to the Mayor and the Town Clerk to sign any revised statements of accounts. The changes would then be presented to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for endorsement.

Resolved that this would be reported to the November 2010 meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Members were notified about the launch of the Choose Abingdon Loyalty Card and that volunteers were needed to promote and sign-up customers.

Resolved to receive and consider the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 29 June 2010 and 7 September 2010, and approve any recommendations contained therein.

36 County Hall Museum Management Committee

The Chair of the County Hall Museum Management Committee paid tribute to the Museum staff for their hard work and loyalty. A reception would be arranged for all the museum staff to express the Council's gratitude.

Resolved to receive the minutes of the meeting of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 10 June and 24 August 2010, and approve any recommendations therein subject to the following:

Minutes 24 August 2010 – the head should read 24 August 2010.

37 Amenities and Recreation Committee

Resolved to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 25 August 2010, and approve any recommendations therein.

38 Planning and Highways Committee

Resolved to receive the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meetings held on 28 June, 19 July, 9 August and 31 August 2010 and approve any recommendations therein.

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

(a) Motion proposed by Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer and seconded by Cllr Alison Rooke

Abingdon Town Council is very concerned at Oxfordshire County Council's sudden withdrawal of £120,000 funding for their High Street pavement works. This jeopardises planned improvements to the areas around both the War Memorial and the County Hall.

While appreciating the in-year government cuts to the County Council's budget, the Town Council asks the County Council to fulfil its planned footway improvements to support trade and enable these bigger projects to proceed.

In view of the urgency, the Town Clerk is asked to write to the relevant Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet and local Members to invite them to view the plans and help find funding from existing County budgets for this very necessary work.

Resolved that the Motion be approved.

(b) Motion proposed by Cllr Jim Halliday and Cllr Martin Smith

In speaking to the Motion Cllr Jim Halliday stated that he has previously mentioned this matter to Oxfordshire County Council. Members suggested that it should be raised at the Local Transport Plan public meeting on 13 October 2010.

Abingdon Town Council requests that Oxfordshire County Council paint white lines and appropriate arrows at the town end of Stert Street, to indicate a left lane for proceeding to Bridge Street or East St Helen Street, and a right turn lane for the High Street.

This would aid pedestrians and facilitate the smooth flow of traffic.

Resolved that the Motion be approved.

40 Committee Membership

Resolved that Cllr Julia Bricknell should serve on the Amenities and Recreation Committee, Fisheries Sub-Committee and Jubilee Working Party.

Resolved that Cllr Angela Lawrence should serve on the Abingdon and District Twin Towns' Society.

41 Exclusion of the Public, Including the Press

Resolved that 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 23 June 2010;
- Confidential minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 7 September 2010;
- Confidential minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 24 August 2010;
- Confidential minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 25 August 2010.

Signed Date