

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on 19 January 2011 in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Abingdon.

Present

Cllr Duncan Brown	Mayor of Abingdon
Cllr Alastair Fear	Deputy Mayor of Abingdon
Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer	
Cllr Lesley Legge	
Cllr Alison Rooke	
Cllr Lorraine Oates	
Cllr Patrick Lonergan	
Cllr Martin Smith	
Cllr Colin Walters	
Cllr Jim Halliday	
Cllr Jeanette Halliday	
Cllr Samantha Bowring	
Cllr Angela Lawrence	
Cllr Tim Oates	
Cllr Lorraine Smith	
Cllr Julie Bricknell	
Cllr Helen Pighills	

In Attendance

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

Eight members of the public.

SECTION I (Open to the Public Including the Press)

58 Prayers

Prayers were taken by three members of the B'ah'a' 'i Faith – who also explained their history and development in Abingdon.

59 Public participation

Peter Harbour from the Friends of Abingdon Outdoor Pool addressed the meeting highlighting the need for more joint working and interaction between the Town Council, District Council and the Friends of Abingdon Outdoor Pool, including a meeting of all interested parties and the exploration of grant funds towards capital improvements.

Membership of the Friends has now increased and funding is being actively sought from local companies. One such company is happy to support the project. The Friends are currently awaiting a 'wish list' from the district council in order to access the WREN funding. They are currently exploring ways in which to market and promote the pool working with West Waddy and the Choose Abingdon Partnership.

Presentation by Judy McCullough – Communication and Engagement Team, Oxfordshire PCT.

Ms McCullough, Communication and Engagement Manager, spoke about the NHS pilot scheme which has been taking place in the Abingdon area since November 2010. The scheme aims to provide care closer to home for patients who might have

otherwise gone to hospital. Services provided are personalised care plans, patient education programmes, technology within homes that can be remotely monitored and integrated community teams which consist of health and social care staff. An Emergency Multidisciplinary Unit, based at Abingdon Hospital, gives patients access to a speedy service, clinical analysis and decisions as to whether they need to be hospitalised or whether they can be cared for at home. A Day Management Unit, also based at Abingdon Hospital, gives patients some medical treatment that they would have previously have needed to be given at an acute hospital.

There would be more capacity for outpatient rehabilitation services in Abingdon Hospital, with an enhanced rehabilitation and long term therapy provision at the Wellbeing Centre in Audlett Drive.

The Hospital at Home service would ensure that some of the services which were previously provided in hospital, would now be provided within the patient's own home.

The Care Homes Support service would review people in nursing and residential homes with the aim of preventing unnecessary admission to hospital.

60 Report from Oxfordshire County Council

Cllr Peter Jones, County Councillor for Abingdon East was unable to attend the meeting and conveyed his apologies.

61 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Morter, Nixon, Crick and Fulk.

62 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Rooke, Bricknell, Lawrence, Lonergan, Bowring, Mayhew-Archer and Jim Halliday all declared personal interests in any matters concerning the Vale of White Horse District Council as they are Members of that Council. Members also indicated that they would declare interests to be personal and prejudicial in any matters that arose during the course of the meeting.

Cllr Angela Lawrence declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Guildhall, should it be discussed, as she is an Executive Member of the Vale of White Horse District Council which owns and runs the Guildhall.

63 Minutes

Resolved to adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 17 November 2010.

64 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced that his Charity Fund balance is £4,500. The forthcoming Charity Ball would be taking place on 12 February 2011, and the Bun Throwing, to commemorate the Royal Wedding, taking place at 6pm on Friday 29 April 2011.

65 Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Cllr Lesley Legge, presented the proposed budget, highlighting that the Council's expenditure funded from the precept remained the same for 2011/2012 as for 2010/2011. Overall the

Council aimed to maintain a similar level of the good service as provided this year. She drew Members attention to some of the major items.

Negotiations with the District for the transfer of the Guildhall were ongoing with the final agreement dependent on the District Council's budget. It was anticipated that service will transfer on 1 April 2011, and a budget of £120,000 had been set for 2011/12. Cllr Legge stated that the Council was aware of the pressures on local services and community groups and a Community Fund was proposed to help support groups and services and also new projects for the Town. The Council was also aware that the Diamond Jubilee is due in 2012 and that there may be worthwhile projects coming forward to mark that event. A sum of £40,000 was allocated towards this Fund.

An allocation of £10,000 was proposed towards street furniture, to provide for new seats, notice boards, bus shelters and cycle racks etc.

Cllr Legge stated that the Council has some significant property responsibilities and it was proposed that £53,000 should be retained in the budget towards general repair and maintenance, with an additional £25,000 specifically towards work needed on the two cemetery chapels.

It was stated that the Council would continue to make firm and prudent plans towards the provision of future services. Within the next ten years a new cemetery would be required and the anticipated costs were between half a million and one million pounds. The variance was dependent on the type, location and availability of land. By the end of this financial year it was anticipated that the Council would have saved £151,000 towards this facility, and Cllr Legge stated that the Council should continue to make sufficient provision towards future costs. It was therefore proposed that a sum of £75K should be added towards the saving towards this essential project.

In summing up, Cllr Legge stated that the budget would allow the Council to maintain and develop its services and move forward to meet the challenges ahead. The Vice-Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Cllr Jim Halliday, drew particular attention to how the Council was carefully planning ahead for future needs by providing funding towards a new cemetery, as well as looking after its property assets through the property fund and additional funding towards repairs to the cemetery chapels

The Council **resolved** that

1. the draft budget estimates for 2011/12 (as circulated in the report of the Town Clerk to the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee dated 11 January 2011, detailed in appendices A and B and incorporating both revenue and capital schemes), be approved in the sum of £1,319,124 (net expenditure).
2. the total net spending provided in the estimates amounting to £1,319,124 in 2011/12 be funded by way of the precept; that a sum of £16,755 be transferred to the general reserve and that the Council request the District Council to levy a precept, for Town Council purposes, amounting to £1,335,879 for the financial year 2011/12.
3. reserve movements at 31st March 2011 be approved as detailed in appendix C of the Town Clerk's report to the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 11 January 2011.
4. the Council, in accordance with its powers under Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants, or of part of it

or of some of them, and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

Grants to organisations (general)	£11,550*
Other grants – age and youth	£10,500*
Town Twinning	£7,531
Town Centre Partnership	£20,000
Joint Environmental Trust	£5,000
Christmas lights (including maintenance, installation and new lights)	£32,589
Total	<u>£87,170</u>

*Note: That in relation to items with *, some of these budgets may be allocated against other powers, depending on the organisations receiving the grants. Similarly, sections 137 and 139 may be relied upon to fund some of the items against the Community Fund (total fund £40,000), and these would be detailed on allocation.*

5. fees and charges in relation to cemeteries be increased by 4.7% with effect from 1 April 2011, in line with inflation; that market tolls remain the same as for 2010/11.

The meeting conveyed their thanks to the Chair and Vice Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee, Town Clerk and staff in preparing the budget.

It was **resolved** to receive the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 11 January 2011, and to approve any recommendations therein.

66 County Hall Museum Management Committee

The Chair of the County Hall Museum Management Committee informed the meeting about the County Hall Museum Public Meeting due to take place on 27 January 2011, and that this was the opportunity for them to see and discuss the proposed Gallery Designs.

She reported that the Museum Redevelopment Project and subsequent fundraising were progressing well, and that the Town Council were hopeful in gaining further funding from English Heritage.

Resolved to receive the minutes of the meeting of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 10 January 2011, and to approve any recommendations therein.

67 Amenities and Recreation Committee

The meeting were informed that the **recommendation** on page 20 (62) regarding Cemetery Charges was **resolved** at the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 11 January 2011.

Trees under 68, page 21, were questioned as to whether they should be Beech and not Birch as stated in the Minutes.

The Chair of Amenities and Recreation read an update, from the Chair of the Depot Working Party, on the latest developments regarding the new depot.

Resolved to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 5 January 2011, and to approve any recommendations therein.

68 Planning and Highways Committee

Minutes for 22 November 2010, p28 – first record – the location was not recorded.

Resolved to receive the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meetings held on 22 November 2010, 13 December 2010 and 4 January 2011 and approve any recommendations therein.

69 Committee Membership

Resolved that Cllr Helen Pighills be appointed to the County Hall Museum Management Committee.

70 Exclusion of the Public, Including the Press

The Mayor moved and it was **resolved**

“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 17 November 2010;
- Confidential minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11 January 2011;
- Confidential minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 10 January 2011;
- Confidential minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 5 January 2011.
- Civic Matters