

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 17 November 2010 in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Abingdon.**

**Present**

Cllr Duncan Brown	Mayor of Abingdon
Cllr Alastair Fear	Deputy Mayor
Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer	
Cllr Lesley Legge	
Cllr Alison Rooke	
Cllr Patrick Lonergan	
Cllr Peter Fulk	
Cllr Martin Smith	
Cllr Colin Walters	
Cllr Samantha Bowring	
Cllr Lorraine Smith	
Cllr Margaret Crick	
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

42 **Prayers**

Mr Tony Morris of the Oxfordshire Humanists explained the purpose and beliefs of their organisation.

43 **Public Participation**

Two members of the public addressed the Town Council Meeting:

- (1) Mrs Ann Dodd from the Abingdon Peace Group thanked the Council for considering the Motion in agenda item 13. She explained that whilst the group had their displays in the Community Shop there had been wide public support for the "Mayors for Peace" initiative.
- (2) Dr Les Clyne asked three questions which he had given prior notice of:
  - (i) *Will the Deputy Town Clerk circulate her consultation document on the review of Council services to me and other interested members of the Abingdon public, for comment, so to widen the spread of views received, in view of the extension of the review date to January 2011. The Deputy Town Clerk agreed to place the consultation on the front page of the Town Council's website.*
  - (ii) *To the Leader of the Council - what are the recommendations to Council following consideration by the Finance & General Purposes Committee (F&GP) on 9 November of the Report of the Guildhall Working Party? The Leader agreed to give a written response.*
  - (iii) *To the Leader of the Council - I understand from a previous response by the Leader that the budget for play areas for the current financial year is £69,000 including a contribution from a developer. My*

*understanding of the financial statement to the last F&GP is that the budget is £31,000 excluding the developer contribution, which seems low, and that to date very little has been spent. Please can you clarify the budget(s) available and the expected spend to the end of the financial year.*

The Leader thanked Dr Clyne for his question and outlined that the total budget showing in the Council's budget summary for 2010/11 amounts to £37,493. This is the amount in the revenue budget for the year funded from the precept, which includes a contribution towards new and replacement equipment of £25,000. The remaining sum relates to repair and maintenance of the play areas. The total budget for the year for new and replacement equipment is comprised as follows:

- £25,000 from the current year's budget, detailed above,
- £24,300 rolled over from last year
- and £20,000 developer contribution.

The total is therefore £69,300.

This year we have spent a total of £29,827 on new equipment and safety surfaces in Caldecott, River Close and Hillview play areas. This spend did not show on the last financial report, but will show on the next financial reports as the invoices have now been paid.

During the remainder of the year planned projects are

- for the £20K from Section 106 monies, the Chaunterall play/ Ladygrove Paddock areas. Work was also planned for the Elizabeth Avenue hard surface for the goal area - where more quotes are being sort as the initial response is higher than was expected.
- Monies left over will play for minor works, replacements or repairs that need to be undertaken.

And we expect to have spent the whole or greater part of the £69,300 available capital sum by the end of the financial year. The sum quoted in the question, £31,000, is the variance showing in the last financial report i.e. revenue budget for year minus spend to date.

#### 44 **Report from Oxfordshire County Council**

Cllr Peter Jones, County Councillor for Abingdon East, explained Oxfordshire County Council's budget process. He outlined the severity of the budget proposals highlighting that all areas would be cut due to the reduction in Government funding.

He informed the meeting of the County Council's proposal, from May 2013, to reduce the number of County Council Members from 74 to 63 and subsequently increase the size of electoral divisions which would result in a saving of £250,000. The proposal is part of a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The meeting raised their concerns over the impact upon services for the elderly, the uneven pavements in High Street and the withdrawal of funding for the area of highway by the War Memorial. Cllr Jones stated that he would report back on the uneven paving, but that it was unlikely that there would be any funding for the War Memorial highway work, at this stage although matters would be clearer after 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

45 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs James Halliday, Jeanette Halliday, Angela Lawrence, Janet Morter, Diana Nixon, Lorraine Oates and Timothy Oates.

46 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Alison Rooke, Patrick Lonergan, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Julia Bricknell and Samantha Bowring declared personal interests in any matters relating to the Vale of White Horse District Council as they are Members of that authority, and in particular the County Hall Museum as the District Council provide an annual grant towards the Museum. These Members also declared personal and prejudicial interests in the items in the confidential minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee in relation to the Abbey Meadows swimming pool and the Guildhall, as these are services operated and properties owned by the District Council.

47 **Town Council Membership**

It was noted that following the by-election held on 16 September 2010 Cllr Helen Pighills was elected as Member of Northcourt Ward. The meeting welcomed Cllr Pighills to the Abingdon Town Council and conveyed their congratulations.

48 **Minutes**

**Resolved** to adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 15 September 2010, subject to the following amendment:

Cllrs Patrick Lonergan, Martin Smith and Lorraine Smith to be added to the list of those present at the meeting.

49 **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor outlined future events and announced that he is hosting a charity event at Kitson's Restaurant at 7pm on 28 November 201, details of which were circulated.

50 **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Lesley Legge, seconded by Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer and **resolved** to receive the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 28 September 2010, reconvened 29 September 2010, 12 October 2010, reconvened 20 October 2010, 9 November 2010 and 10 November 2010 and to approve any recommendations therein.

51 **County Hall Museum Management Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer, seconded by Cllr Martin Smith and **resolved** to receive the minutes of the meeting of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 2 November 2010 and to approve any recommendations therein.

52 **Amenities and Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Alastair Fear, seconded by Cllr Margaret Crick and **resolved** to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 3 November 2010, and to approve any recommendations therein.

53 **Planning and Highways Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Colin Walters, seconded by Cllr Peter Fulk and **Resolved** to receive the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meetings held on 20 September 2010, 11 October 2010 and 1 November 2010 and to approve any recommendations therein.

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

Motion proposed by Cllr Julia Bricknell and seconded by Cllr Martin Smith:

*This council congratulates Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima, on his tireless efforts to bring about world peace and nuclear disarmament. We thoroughly applauded his city's noble vision of hosting the 2020 Olympic Games in a nuclear weapon free world.*

*This council thanks the Abingdon peace group for their innovative use of the community shop, their marking of Hiroshima day and their endeavours to help the Mayor of Abingdon to become a part of the Mayors for Peace initiative.*

*This council pledges that the Mayor of Abingdon will become a Mayor for Peace. We hope that, together, we can achieve Hiroshima's aspiration of ridding the world of nuclear weapons by 2020.*

Cllr Bricknell commended this motion to the Council. In seconding the motion Cllr Martin Smith stated that whilst some may consider such an aspiration regarding nuclear weapons to be impractical, President Obama of the United States had stated on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009 that he aspired to a world free of such weapons within his term of office, which could be four or eight years.

Some Members expressed a concern that the motion should not commit future Mayors and therefore an amendment was proposed, seconded and carried to replace the sentence "*This council pledges that the Mayor of Abingdon will become a Mayor for Peace*" with the sentence "*This council supports the Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Duncan Brown, in his intention to join the Mayors for peace.*"

A Member stated that a number of towns had supported this initiative including Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham, Coventry and Seaford. The mayor expressed his support for the motion which he stated affected Abingdon.

On being put to the vote it was **resolved** by 10 vote in favour, with 1 against and 2 abstentions that:

*This council congratulates Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima, on his tireless efforts to bring about world peace and nuclear disarmament. We thoroughly applauded his city's noble vision of hosting the 2020 Olympic Games in a nuclear weapon free world.*

*This council thanks the Abingdon peace group for their innovative use of the community shop, their marking of Hiroshima day and their endeavours to help the Mayor of Abingdon to become a part of the Mayors for Peace initiative.*

*This council supports the Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Duncan Brown, in his intention to join the Mayors for Peace. We hope that, together, we can achieve Hiroshima's aspiration of ridding the world of nuclear weapons by 2020.*

55 **Local Transport Plan 3 Consultation**

Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer introduced a draft response to the above consultation which had been circulated with the agenda papers. She stated that Abingdon required investment in its infrastructure and was disappointed that the Plan did not include proposals for a diamond interchange on the A34 at Lodge Hill, as exclusion from that plan would mean that this would not happen. She reminded Members that whilst the Council would send in its response, Members could also respond individually.

A Member stated that the proposals for Abingdon as set out in the Plan were very disappointing.

**Resolved** that the Town Council's proposed response to the Local Transport Plan 3 Consultation, as circulated with the agenda, be agreed and forwarded to the County Council.

56 **Committee Membership**

**Resolved** that Cllr Helen Pighills serve on the Planning and Highways Committee, Abingdon in Bloom, Environmental Impacts Working Party and Allotments Working Party.

57 **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 15 September 2010;
- Confidential minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 28 September 2010, reconvened 29 September 2010, 12 October 2010, reconvened 20 October 2010, 9 November 2010 and 10 November 2010;
- Confidential minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 2 November 2010;
- Confidential minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 3 November 2010.