

**Minutes of the Council of the Town of Abingdon held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011 in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Abingdon.**

**Present**

Cllr Michael Badcock	Mayor of Abingdon
Cllr Peter Jones	Deputy Mayor of Abingdon
Cllr Alice Badcock	
Cllr Marilyn Badcock	
Cllr Samantha Bowring	
Cllr Jason Fiddaman	
Cllr Jeanette Halliday	
Cllr Aidan Melville	
Cllr Angela Lawrence	
Cllr Lesley Legge	
Cllr Iain Littlejohn	
Cllr Patrick Lonergan	
Cllr Sandy Lovatt	
Cllr Monica Lovatt	
Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer	
Cllr Katie Nobes	
Cllr Helen Pighills	
Cllr Alison Rooke	
Cllr Andrew Todd	

**In Attendance**

Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk
Mr Malcolm Hill	Mace bearer

17 members of the public.

**SECTION I (Open to the Public Including the Press)**

**C31 Prayers**

Prayers were taken by the Rev.Dr. Charles Miller, Rector of Abingdon.

**C32 Public Participation**

Notice of the following question to the Mayor had been received from Mr Tim Oates:

“How are the refurbishment works and the renovation of the Guildhall proceeding?”

The Mayor of Abingdon, Cllr Michael Badcock, replied that progress and plans in relation to the Guildhall Improvement Project were included within published Town Council papers. However, if Mr Oates wished to write to the Council regarding this matter, a response would be forthcoming.

**C33 Presentation by Abingdon Hydro**

The Council received a presentation from Mr Richard Riggs of Abingdon Hydro. An information sheet was circulated at the meeting. Mr Riggs explained that Abingdon Hydro was a community interest company who were proposing to install a hydro-

electric power generator in Abingdon. The company had originally been an initiative of Abingdon Carbon Cutters Group. He stated that the proposal would make use of a renewable energy source, and yield an income. A consultation with the public showed that this project was supported. Abingdon Hydro were asking for the Council's support in terms of the planning permission. In due course they would also be asking the Town Council to assist with publicity when the share offer is made, and suggested that one way of helping would be to make the Town Council office a centre for the share offer.

The Mayor, Cllr Michael Badcock, thanked Mr Riggs for his presentation. The Council noted the content of the presentation. The Mayor stated that the planning application would come to the Council's Planning and Highways Committee in due course and therefore, due to issues of pre-determination, the Council was not in a position to express a view on this matter at this stage.

#### C34 **Report from Oxfordshire County Council**

Cllr Peter Jones, County Councillor for Abingdon East, reported that the County Council was commencing its work on the budget estimates for next year.

In relation to the issue of taxi ranks in the town centre, he reported that the relevant legal orders had been made by the Vale of White Horse District Council and the physical work to mark out new taxi spaces, including those in Queen Street, and also removing the taxi rank from East St Helen Street, was proceeding. A Traffic Regulation Order was in hand for East St Helen Street.

A member raised the issue of planned improvements for the route through the alleyway in the Market Place to Queen Street, known as Otwell Lane. Cllr Jones stated that despite exhaustive enquiries being made by the relevant officer, he had not been able to find any reference to this matter.

#### C35 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hermann Matheson and Penny McDougal.

#### C36 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Michael Badcock, Marilyn Badcock, Peter Jones and Sandy Lovatt declared a personal interest in any matters relating to Oxfordshire County Council and in particular the item at minute C40, Salt Bins and Snow Clearance, as the County Council is the highway authority and supplies salt bins. and the Vale of White Horse District Council as they are Members of those Authorities.

Cllrs Michael Badcock, Marilyn Badcock, Jason Fiddaman, Peter Jones, Angela Lawrence, Patrick Lonergan, Sandy Lovatt, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Aiden Melville and Helen Pighills, declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Vale of White Horse District Council as they are Members of that Authority.

Cllrs Samantha Bowring, Jeanette Halliday and Monica Lovatt declared personal interests in relation to the item at Minute C40, Finance and General Purposes Committee, and in particular Minute F24 of that Committee which related to Fair Trade, as they members of the Abingdon Fair Trade Group, which is convened by the Chamber of Commerce.

Cllr Jeanette Halliday declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the motion at Minute C47 (i) in relation to the Abbey Meadows, Abbey Gardens and Outdoor Pool as she is a resident of Abbey Close, and she left the meeting during the discussion of that item.

Cllr Alison Rooke declared a personal interest in relation to item at Minute C40, Finance and General Purposes Committee, and in particular Minute F24 of that Committee which related to Fair Trade, as she assisted on a stall during the Fair Trade Market in August 2011.

### C37 **Minutes**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

In relation to Minute C18, Mayor's Bowls Match, a member noted that a number of members had volunteered for the Bowls Match but their services had not been required. The Mayor responded that the Abingdon Team had been drawn together in the same way as the Oxford Team, i.e. from local bowls clubs, but that members had been welcome on the day to come and support.

**Resolved** to adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

### C38 **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor stated that there had been a misunderstanding in relation to the appointment of the Mayor's Cadets and an incorrect message had been sent out. He was pleased to welcome his cadets to the meeting and asked them forward to receive their badges of office.

The Mayor stated that at the next meeting he would be making a proposal to change the name of the town from Abingdon to Abingdon-on-Thames. He stated that there was public support for this move and he wished to progress this matter.

The Mayor reported that he had recently attended a reception at the House of Lords at which the Felix Fund had been launched. This charity supported bomb disposal experts and their families. He reported that he had met a number of very brave men and women.

The Mayor stated that the ceremony to confer the Freedom of the Town of Abingdon on Mrs Janet Morgan would take place at 11.30am on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011. In looking ahead, the Mayor highlighted the Remembrance Day commemorations which were due to take place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011. He was hosting a New Year's Eve Ball in aid of the Mayor's charities and that invitations for this event would be sent out shortly.

### C39 **To receive questions under Standing Order 10 as follows:**

Question to Cllr Sandy Lovatt, Leader of the Council, from Cllr Lesley Legge

*Work on the MG Garden has not progressed since April.*

*The previous Council had approached the MG Car Club to support them in creating a memorial garden close to the site of the MG Factory as a lasting memorial for the Town and for the many visitors who come to Abingdon as the home of the MG. The previous Council budgeted and planned for undertaking the layout of the grounds with the MG Logo, a picnic area and hard standing for MG car displays, pathways, fencing, seating and planting. The MG Car Club was helping with display boards on the history and site of the factory etc, and with the signs at the entrance to the Garden.*

*Work on this land had been held up for several years whilst AbITS was considering the offer to use some of the land for a slip road from Drayton Road to Marcham Road to aid traffic flow from South Abingdon. Work began as soon as the final decision not to use this land was made and the planting, fencing, MG Log paving and picnic area are completed, but the hard standing and pathways work has not taken place and the seating is outstanding.*

*I am concerned that with the MGB 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary approaching that the work needs to be completed without delay. Could the Leader assure me that this current Council will ensure that the Town Council work will be completed before the end of this calendar year and that this Council is intending to fully co-operate with the MG Car Club to complete this attractive and positive memorial to MG and seek sponsorship for other MG enhancements to the garden.*

Councillor Sandy Lovatt responded:

*I am glad that Councillor Legge has asked this question as it gives me the opportunity to explain some procedures to the Council and to update them on a project that has been in existence since I was last a member of this Council.*

*The first thing that I have to say is that neither I nor the Chairman of the Amenities & Recreation Committee has, in any way, countermanded the instructions of the previous administration or done anything to change the plans that they have put in place with regard to the MG Garden.*

*Cllr Legge is my predecessor as the Leader of this Council. She therefore must be aware that the work on the MG Garden is scheduled by the council officers as winter work, as has always been the case. Therefore the maintenance of this garden is about to begin.*

*Mr Mayor, I therefore have to confess that I am a bit perplexed by Cllr Legge's question and understanding her purpose in asking it in public. Especially as she could have obtained the information, without embarrassing herself, by asking the officers involved directly.*

*Up until the recent elections, this project was under the stewardship of her administration, so she will be aware of the reasons for the delays, if any, in the full implementation of the garden. I find the AbITS excuse somewhat untenable as it has been at least two years since that issue was resolved.*

*On their part, the Council's staff has fulfilled everything that has been required of them to date.*

*If there is a delay, it is because the MG Club has not as yet provided their contribution to the garden. Given Cllr Legge's interest in this project and her close association with the club, I wonder why she has, apparently, never done anything to expedite this issue. However, I understand that Mr Rich, the Council Officer who*

*manages our outside staff, is having a meeting with the MG Club in a couple of weeks, when the matter will be raised.*

*I have heard that the Town Band has been engaged to play for the MG Club next September, which I therefore surmise is the date of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so there is plenty of time to complete any outstanding work.*

*I am further advised that there is a shortfall in funding of about £3,000 for the remaining work. If Cllr Legge would care to discuss with the Chairman of the Grants Committee, it may be possible to resolve this problem as we have recently received the transfer of money from the former Joint Environmental Trust.*

*Finally, Mr Mayor, I have to report that the Council Officers are upset by the public nature of this enquiry. They have worked hard to fulfil the previous administration's instructions. The implication that they have been delaying this project is in their view unwarranted.*

#### **C40 Finance and General Purposes Committee**

The Council received and considered the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011, as circulated with the agenda.

In relation to Minute F24, the Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Sandy Lovatt, stated that he recalled that the Committee's recommendation was that Fair Trade products should be offered as a choice and therefore the recommendation should read:

*"that the Abingdon Town Council supports Fair Trade, and agrees to provide fair trade products in meetings, offices and other facilities operated by the Council, as a choice."*

The Council approved this recommendation, as amended.

In relation to Minute F24 (ii) (a) Salt Bins and Snow Clearance, a member queried whether the Town Clerk could advise in relation to the nature of any interests which were held by County Councillors in relation to this matter.

The Town Clerk reported that according to the guidance on interests for dual-hatted members who would not otherwise have a prejudicial interest for any other reason, a prejudicial interest will arise as a result of membership of the other authority if all of the following conditions are met:

- the matter affects the other authority's financial position or is about a licensing or regulatory matter applied for by the other authority;
- the matter does not fall within one of the exempt categories of decisions under paragraph 10(2)(c) of the Code of Conduct;
- a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would believe that the member's ability to judge the public interest would be impaired.

There were two parts to the recommendation, as follows:

1. Salt bins. Whilst supplied by Oxfordshire County Council, these have always been requested and paid for by parishes so he considered that the recommendation did not affect the financial position of the County Council;
2. Snow clearing. The Town Council was looking to purchase equipment, in the first instance for its own areas; this could then be used in other areas if necessary.

However the County Council would still be gritting roads and town centre pavements in accordance with its service standards.

The Town Clerk stated that, in his view, the Town Council was considering an activity which was separate and independent to activity resulting from the highway authority's winter service commitments, and therefore no financial benefit would accrue to the County Council. The County's duty is to ensure that, as far as reasonably practicable, the safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice. The Town Council was not looking to supplant the County's winter service plan but to supplement it.

The Town Clerk stated that it was for the individual Members to decide on their interests, but he considered the interest of the dual-hatted County Councillors in this matter to be personal but not prejudicial.

In relation to the snow bins, a member asked whether the Council would be undertaking a competitive process to procure these bins. The Chairman, Cllr Sandy Lovatt, replied that the salt bins would be procured through the County Council as they were the standard supplier of such bins and it was necessary for the bins to come via the County Council in order to obtain the permissions for them to be placed on the highway.

In relation to Minute F27, Grants Sub-Committee, Cllr Monica Lovatt, Chairman of the Sub-Committee stated that some members had expressed concern that the grants budgets were being merged into one, with no separate cost centre for the vulnerable, elderly and young people's grants. She stated that combining the funds made matters more efficient from an administrative viewpoint, and would enable the Council to ensure that funds are allocated where the greatest need had been demonstrated. However she was pleased to report that of the £10,500 originally set against that budget, 80% had already been granted to groups falling in this category, including a grant of £500 during this cycle to the South and Vale Carers' Centre, leaving £2,025 of the £10,500 former budget notionally remaining .

Cllr Lesley Legge thanked the Chairman for her reassurance that grants would continue to be given to groups supporting vulnerable, elderly and young people.

It was noted at Minute F27 (iii), which consisted of the list of grants awarded by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, that a grant of £234 to Abingdon Rowing Club had not been listed. The Town Clerk agreed that this would be corrected when the minutes came to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for their approval.

In relation to Minute F24 (b), HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Cllr Lesley Legge felt that towns people had not been adequately consulted on this matter. She noted that the allocation of £25,000 towards the celebrations was for events, but that the previous Council also had in mind that there should be a lasting legacy of the Jubilee, for example a bandstand. She noted that whilst the events were being funded from the Community Fund, this had been established by the previous Council to cover not only the Jubilee events, but also the potential of grants to support local services and community groups who could be under pressure at this time. Finally, she was concerned that the proposed programme would place to great a burden on the Council staff and resources.

In response, Cllr Alice Badcock, as Chairman of the Diamond Jubilee Working Group, stated that there had been a good deal of consultation with groups and individuals regarding the Jubilee Programme. The Working Group had been working

very hard on the preparations and full details would be distributed in the next edition of the Town Crier.

In relation to the Community Fund, the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Cllr Sandy Lovatt, stated that the £40,000 within the Community Fund had not been allocated by the previous Council. The Council would be keen on a high level of community participation in all the celebrations which were being organised.

In relation to Minute F30, Cllr Lesley Legge asked that all work previously undertaken in relation to the Guildhall should be scoped into the further studies.

It was **resolved** to receive the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and to approve the recommendations contained therein.

*Councillors Marilyn Badcock, Michael Badcock, Peter Jones and Sandy Lovatt declared personal interests in relation to the item at Minute F24 (ii) (a) Salt Bins and Snow Clearance, as County Councillors, as the County Council is the highway authority and supplies salt bins.*

#### C41 **County Hall Museum Management Committee**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011 as circulated with the agenda.

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

#### C42 **Amenities and Recreation Committee**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011, as circulated with the agenda.

In relation to Minute A21, it was reported that Cllr Angela Lawrence, as one of the local members, had met with the Cemetery and Works Supervisor in relation to the siting of the youth shelter in Chiltern Close Play Area. It was being sited in a location where it was visible and it had been agreed that if there were problems in the future, this matter could be reviewed.

In relation to Minute A24, Jubilee Parks, the Committee received and considered the further report of the Town Clerk which had been circulated to all members on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011. Nominations in relation to Jubilee Parks were put forward for Boxhill Wood and Recreation Ground, and Caldecott Recreation Ground. Members noted that the Council could nominate more than one Jubilee Park and therefore it was **resolved** that the Council make application to Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge that both of these sites be designated as Jubilee Parks.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee of 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011, together with the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

C43 **Planning and Highways Committee**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011 as circulated with the agenda.

Resolved that the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meetings on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2011 and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011, together with any recommendations contained therein, be approved.

C44 **Guildhall Committee**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Guildhall Committee meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 25<sup>th</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011, as circulated with agenda. The Committee also received and considered the minutes of the Guildhall Committee of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011, which had taken place the previous evening and were tabled at the meeting.

At the Committee meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011 it was recommended that:

1. That the recommendation of the County Hall Museum Management Committee, at its meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011, be approved and that the items detailed in the report of the Interpretation, Media and Display Officer, as attached to these minutes be approved for display in the County Hall Museum, subject to the conditions detailed below, with the exception of:

- (i) The three silver maces and
- (ii) The Monks Map and the painting of Blewitt's coach.

2. That copies of the Monks Map and the painting of Blewitt's coach are made, and that the location of the original items is deferred to a later date.

3. That permission is granted for the use of the digital images of the paintings listed in the report of the Interpretation, Media and Display Officer.

4. That it be noted that both the collections known as the Abingdon civic treasures and the Museum collection are the property of the Town Council and the Council may at any time decide to change the location of specific items, subject to approval and documentation by the appropriate Committee/ the Council.

5. That the items be moved from their current location subject to approval by the Council's insurers.

6. That any silver located in the County Hall Museum be available for use at civic functions in the same way that the silver located in the Guildhall.

7. That Nigel Trippett be consulted on the move of the Abingdon Bunk to the County Hall Museum and that this is relocated subject to his agreement.

8. That the Interpretation, Media and Display Officer be requested to bring forward proposals any alternative display items which would replace the maces in the proposed display.

Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer, as Chairman of the County Hall Museum Management Committee, stated that whilst she was pleased there was a recommendation to allow some of the treasures to be displayed at the County Hall, she was disappointed that this matter had taken so long to resolve, as it was important in planning for the new Museum that decisions were made. She emphasised that although on occasion the word "loan" had been used, both the Museum and the Guildhall were services operated by the Town Council and therefore these items will remain fully in the control of the Town Council.

Cllr Mayhew-Archer emphasised that the Museum was attempting to have an item representing each of the different ages of Abingdon and in relation to the period of the Civil War, she noted that whilst there was an item relating to the Parliamentarians, in the absence of the Charles I mace, there was no original exhibit in relation to the Royalists. Therefore she proposed an amendment to the recommendation that the Charles I mace be approved for display in the County Hall Museum.

In debating this amendment, the Chairman of the Guildhall Committee, Cllr Sandy Lovatt, stated that this matter had been fully discussed by the Committee the previous day and he could see no reason for its recommendation to be altered. On being put to the vote, seven members voted in favour of the amendment, with nine against and three abstentions.

The Council then considered the recommendation of the Guildhall Committee as detailed above and this was approved by nine votes in favour with zero against and ten abstentions.

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the Guildhall Committee meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 30<sup>th</sup> August and 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011, together with any recommendations contained therein, be approved.

C45 **Choose Abingdon Partnership**

The Council noted the minutes of the Choose Abingdon Partnership Board meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> June and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

C46 **Reports from other bodies**

The Council received and considered the report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above, as circulated with the agenda.

**Resolved:** that as part of the review of the work of outside bodies, the matter of reports of representatives to outside bodies should be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and for that Committee to make a recommendation to a future meeting of the Town Council.

C47 **To receive Notice of Motion under Standing Order 8 as follows**

- (i) Motion proposed by Cllr Samantha Bowring and seconded by Cllr Lesley Legge.

*Abingdon Town Council resolves to work with the community and the District Council to develop a vision for Abbey Meadows, Abbey Gardens and outdoor pool and to ensure the Town Council's grant is well spent by putting together a plan to secure the future of and enhance this area for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.*

*The Council requests that the Town Clerk writes to the District Council to ask that a meeting be set up between the Town and District Councils and other stakeholders.*

In proposing this motion, Cllr Bowring stated that this area represents one of the greatest assets of Abingdon. It is very popular. However, the Council needed to take both a holistic and a strategic view to the future of these facilities. In seconding the motion, Cllr Lesley Legge stated that the Town Council supports the open air pool through a grant and needed to be part of planning the future of this area.

Cllr Marilyn Badcock moved an amendment to the motion, seconded by Cllr Sandy Lovatt, to add the word “continue “ before “to work” in the first line; to replace the words “a vision” with “a cohesive vision and plan to enhance;” to delete the words “and to ensure the Town Council’s grant is well spent by putting together a plan to secure the future of and enhance”; to replace the words “The Council requests that the Town Clerk writes to the District Council to ask that a meeting be set up between the Town and District Councils and other stakeholders” with “This Council supports the continued dialogue between the representatives of the Town and District Councils and community groups to formulate a plan for the future of this area.”

This amendment was accepted by the Council.

It was **resolved** that “Abingdon Town Council continues to work with the community and the Vale of White Horse District Council to develop a cohesive vision and plan to enhance the Abbey Meadows, Abbey Gardens and the Outdoor Pool area for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. This Council supports the continued dialogue between representatives of the Town and District Councils and community groups to formulate a plan for this area.”

*Cllr Jeanette Halliday declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to the motion as she is a resident of Abbey Close and she left the meeting during the discussion of that item.*

(ii) Motion proposed by Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer and seconded by Cllr Lesley Legge

*The Council asks the Town Clerk to write to Oxfordshire County Council to ask for the expected completion date of the new Queen Street taxi rank and details of the planned improvements for the route through the alleyway from the Market Place (Otwell Lane).*

In proposing this motion, Cllr Mayhew-Archer stated that she wished to remove the words “to ask for the expected completion date of the new Queen Street taxi rank” following the information given by Cllr Peter Jones at Minute C34. She stated that this was a straightforward motion. Otwell Lane linked the Market Place with Queen Street and this would be used more frequently when the taxi rank moved. The area was in need of improvement, as the paving was poor and it required lighting, and the matter had been raised under the Abingdon Integrated Transport Strategy. Cllr Lesley Legge seconded the motion and stated that it was important that this area be improved.

Cllr Peter Jones stated that despite a search of the records by County officers, they could find no record of this matter. However, the Mayor, Cllr Michael Badcock, recalled that it had been discussed under AbITS.

An amendment was proposed to add the words “as referenced by minutes of the AbITS meetings and any other sources” at the end of the motion and this was accepted by the proposer and seconder.

The Council **resolved** that “the Council asks the Town Clerk to write to Oxfordshire County Council to ask for details of the planned improvements for the route through the alleyway from the Market Place (Otwell Lane) as referenced by minutes of the AbITS meetings and any other sources.”

- (iii) Motion proposed by Cllr Samantha Bowring and seconded by Cllr Helen Pighills

*Abingdon Town Council welcomes the consolidation of services relating to flooding and resolves to support Oxfordshire County Council in their role of planning for and situation management in the event of a flood in Abingdon.*

*Council requests that the Town Clerk writes to Oxfordshire County Council to request that they enforce riparian responsibilities to keep watercourse drainage channels clear throughout the town.*

This motion was withdrawn by the proposer as it was suggested that there could be a possible conflict of interest.

- (iv) Motion proposed by Cllr Jeanette Halliday and seconded by Cllr Patrick Lonergan

*Abingdon Town Council resolves that following the last full council meeting when a relevant paper was circulated after the vote was taken that normally all reports should be sent to councillors at least five days before the relevant council committee, sub-committee or working party meeting. On the rare occasions that this is not possible the reports will be distributed at the start of the meeting. These actions will not only allow councillors to study the contents more fully, it will also make them aware of any declarations of interest they may need to take.*

In proposing the motion, Cllr Jeanette Halliday stated that on occasions when it was necessary to table papers, this should be done at the start of the meeting. At the previous meeting she was in the position where, on reading the papers, she considered that she may have an interest; however, because these papers had been tabled following discussion of the item and the subject of the potential interest had not arisen during the discussion, she had not been in a position to declare her interest.

Cllr Alison Rooke stated that the motion in no way wished to cast aspersions on a very busy office staff. The Leader of the Council, Cllr Sandy Lovatt, stated that these were matters within the judgement of the Town Clerk. In being put to the vote, it was **resolved**, by nine votes in favour and ten abstentions, that:

*Abingdon Town Council resolves that following the last full council meeting when a relevant paper was circulated after the vote was taken that normally all reports should be sent to councillors at least five days before the relevant council committee, sub-committee or working party meeting. On the rare occasions that this is not possible the reports will be distributed at the start of the meeting. These actions will not only allow councillors to study the contents more fully, it will also make them aware of any declarations of interest they may need to take.*

- (v) Motion proposed by Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer and seconded by Cllr Helen Pighills

*Given national plans for the Queen's 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Wood, the Town Council asks residents to suggest where new trees could be planted across Abingdon, so that up to 60 trees could commemorate the event.*

In proposing the motion, Cllr Mayhew-Archer stated that the proposal would result in a lasting legacy of the Jubilee. In seconding the motion, Cllr Pighills stated that nationally there was proposal to plant six million trees to celebrate the Jubilee. Cllr Monica Lovatt suggested that there were environmental grants available through the Grants Sub-Committee which could be used to progress this matter.

The Council agreed with the principles of the motion but considered that the costings and implementation of the proposal required further consideration and it was **resolved** that the motion be referred to the Jubilee Working Group for further consideration, with a view to its implementation.

- (vi) Motion proposed by Cllr Sandy Lovatt and seconded by Cllr Andy Todd

*The residents of North Abingdon have been asking for to the A34 junction at Lodge Hill to be expanded into a diamond interchange for nearly 50 years. The traffic data shows that this would deliver to them significant benefits and it would also provide some relief to the present peak time traffic congestion across the Town. This Council requests that the Vale of White Horse District Council initiates work to have this project included in the Local Development Framework so that it can be properly considered for inclusion in the Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan and Local Capital Investment Plan.*

In proposing the motion, Cllr Sandy Lovatt stated that the issues in relation to Lodge Hill pre-dated everyone on the Council. However, the building of the diamond interchange would require a very strong business case to be made and this would need inclusion of the project in the Local Development Framework of the District Council. He stated that residents wanted action on this matter. In seconding the motion, Cllr Andy Todd stated that the A34 was the main arterial route between north and south and Abingdon needed two proper diamond interchanges.

Cllr Alison Rooke thanked the members for bringing this motion forward but stated that a full Lodge Hill interchange was included in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy. Amendments were therefore proposed as follows:

*Replace the words "asking for to the A34 junction" in one line with the words "asking for the A34 junction" and*

*Replace the words "requests that the Vale of White Horse District Council initiates work to have this project included in the Local Development Framework so that it can be properly considered for inclusion in the Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan and Local Capital Investment Plan" with the words:*

*"This Council notes that the Vale of White Horse District Council included support for a full Lodge Hill interchange in its Local Development Framework Core Strategy (dated January 2009) and request that the Vale of White Horse District Council undertakes further work on the project so that it can be properly considered for inclusion in the Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan and Local Capital Investment Plan".*

The amendment was agreed by the Council and it was subsequently **resolved**:

*“The residents of North Abingdon have been asking for the A34 junction at Lodge Hill to be expanded into a diamond interchange for nearly 50 years. The traffic data shows that this would deliver to them significant benefits and it would also provide some relief to the present peak time traffic congestion across the Town. This council notes that the Vale of White Horse District Council included support for a full Lodge Hill interchange in its Local Development Framework Core Strategy (dated January 2009) and request that the Vale of White Horse District Council undertakes further work on the project so that it can be properly considered for inclusion in the Oxfordshire County Council’s Local Transport Plan and Local Capital Investment Plan”.*

- (vii) Motion proposed by Cllr Monica Lovatt and seconded by Cllr Iain Littlejohn

*This Council objects to the recent proposals by the Boundary Commission for England for the new Parliamentary Constituency of Abingdon & Oxford North. In particular, the transfer of the Radley Ward from the constituency of Oxford West & Abingdon to the new constituency of Henley is a singularly disruptive measure as the ward is part of the hinterland of Abingdon’s local economy and shares a common interest in the Town. This Council instructs the Town Clerk to register this objection with the Boundary Commission.*

In proposing the motion, Cllr Monica Lovatt stated that whilst the name of the Parliamentary Constituency was an improvement, because it put Abingdon first, Radley was left isolated from the main Henley constituency on the other side of the river, and without a bridge crossing to link Radley with the rest of the proposed new Henley constituency. In seconding the proposal, Cllr Littlejohn stated that he had little to add to the motion itself, it was important that Radley stayed in the same constituency as Abingdon. It was **resolved** that the motion be agreed by the Council.

- (viii) Motion proposed by Cllr Marilyn Badcock and seconded by Cllr Alice Badcock

*Town and Parish Councils across the country are the authorities which are to bearing the cost of the celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. These Councils receive no revenue support from the Government and we believe that the Government should acknowledge the loyal commitment of the people by helping these councils to fund local arrangements for the Jubilee Celebrations. This Council instructs the Town Clerk to write to the representative of the Vale of White Horse District on the Executive Committee of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils to take this matter to the Association so that it is conveyed to the National Association of Local Councils with the instruction that they take up this issue with the Government .*

In proposing the motion, Cllr Marilyn Badcock felt that there should be an acknowledgement by Government of the commitment of the people of Abingdon in celebrating the Diamond Jubilee.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Alice Badcock who highlighted that the Council was organising a number of events and support towards the cost of the celebrations would be appreciated.

Cllr Alison Rooke pointed out that there are four representatives of the Vale of White Horse District on the Executive Committee of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils and she also stated that as representatives it would not be possible to instruct them; however a strong request could be made. Therefore, Cllr Alison Rooke proposed the following amendments, seconded by Cllr Patrick Lonergan.

*In line one – replace the words “which are to bearing” with the words “which are bearing”, and at the end of line six replace the word “representative” with the word “representatives” and in the final sentence replace the word “instructs” with the words “strong request”.*

The amendments were accepted by the Council and it was **resolved**:

*“Town and Parish Councils across the country are the authorities which are bearing the cost of the celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. These Councils receive no revenue support from the Government and we believe that the Government should acknowledge the loyal commitment of the people by helping these councils to fund local arrangements for the Jubilee Celebrations. This Council instructs the Town Clerk to write to the representatives of the Vale of White Horse District on the Executive Committee of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils to take this matter to the Association so that it is conveyed to the National Association of Local Councils with the strong request that they take up this issue with the Government.”*

C48 **Council Committees**

**Resolved:**

1. That the membership of the Guildhall Committee be increased from three to five Councillors.
2. That Councillors Lesley Legge and Iain Littejohn be appointed to serve on the Guildhall Committee for the remainder of the Council year.

C49 **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)**

C50 **Town Council**

The Council received and considered the confidential minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

**Resolved:** that the minutes be signed by the Mayor as a correct record. See also the confidential appendix to these minutes.

C51 **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

The Council received and considered the confidential minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

**Resolved:** that these minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011, subject to the amendment of the recommendation at Minute 18, as detailed in the confidential appendix, be approved.

C52 **County Hall Museum Management Committee**

The Council received and considered the confidential minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

**Resolved:** that these confidential minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be approved.

C53 **Amenities and Recreation Committee**

The Council received and considered the confidential minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011. In relation to Minute 1, Cllr Samantha Bowring disputed that this was unanimous, as no vote had been taken. The Chairman, Cllr Marilyn Badcock, recalled that a vote had been taken; however, there was no doubt that the resolution had been approved.

**Resolved:** that these confidential minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be approved.

C54 **Guildhall Committee**

The Council received and considered the confidential minutes of the Guildhall Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 15<sup>th</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011 as circulated with the agenda. The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Sandy Lovatt, stated that these minutes had been kept in the confidential section because of matters of commercial sensitivity. However, he proposed that where appropriate, the confidential minutes be re-issued as open minutes with any remaining confidential details removed.

**Resolved:** that these confidential minutes of the Guildhall Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 15<sup>th</sup> August and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011 be approved.

The meeting rose at 9.57pm