

Minutes of the Town Council of Abingdon at 7.00 pm on 18 November 2009 in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Abingdon.

Present:

Cllr Samantha Bowring
Cllr Duncan Brown (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Alastair Fear
Cllr Peter Fulk
Cllr James Halliday
Cllr Jeanette Halliday
Cllr Patricia Hobby (Mayor)
Cllr Angela Lawrence
Cllr Lesley Legge
Cllr Patrick Lonergan
Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer
Cllr Janet Morter
Cllr Lorraine Oates
Cllr Tim Oates
Cllr Alison Rooke
Cllr Lorraine Smith
Cllr Martin Smith
Cllr Audrey Tamplin
Cllr Colin Walters

44 Prayers

A reading was given by the Town Clerk.

45 Public participation

There were no members of the public who wished to make a statement to the Council.

46 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Margaret Crick and Di Nixon.

47 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Samantha Bowring, Jim Halliday, Patrick Lonergan, Julie Mayhew-Archer, Angela Lawrence and Alison 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. Also in relation to 12, change of date for Mayor Making as the District Council have booked the Abbey Hall on 5 May 2010 for a Development Control meeting and in relation to 54 Motion, as the District Council provide an annual grant towards the Choose Abingdon Partnership.

48 Minutes

Resolved: *to adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 30th September 2009 and the Special Meeting of 13th October 2009.*

49 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor thanked Members for their attendance at the Remembrance Service, and stated that the first year anniversary of the Farmers' Market is due to take place on Friday 20 November 2009.

50 Finance and General Purposes Committee

29 September 2009 - Special Meeting.

Annual Governance Report, Statement of Accounts 2008/2009 and Audit Action Plan.

Thanks were relayed to the Town Clerk for his hard work in ensuring a positive outcome in the Audit Commission reports.

13 October 2009 - Special Meeting.

Attendance List: Cllr Angela Lawrence is listed as both present and absent. This would be corrected at the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

11 November 2009 – Finance & General Purposes Committee

Minute No 87 - Fire Service Consultation

Cllr Duncan Brown declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting at 7.20 pm.

Resolved: *that the Town Clerk invite the Fire Service to meet with Members at 6.00pm on 25 November 2009 in the Old Abbey House. Questions can be forwarded to the Town Clerk by those who are not able to attend.*

Cllr Duncan Brown rejoined the meeting at 7.24 pm

11 November 2009 - Finance & General Purposes

Minute No 88 – New Waste Collection and Recycling Services

Resolved: *that Town Council representation would be prioritised from Members for Abbey Barton and Ock Meadow Wards.*

Resolved: *that the minutes of the special meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 28 September, 29 September (reconvened meeting) and 13 October 2009 and of the ordinary meeting held on 11 November 2009 were received and any recommendations therein approved.*

51 County Hall Museum Management Committee

Resolved: *to receive the minutes of the meeting of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 13th October 2009 and approve any recommendations therein.*

The Chair of the County Hall Museum Management Committee stated that a Public Meeting on the County Hall project would take place on 19 November in the Guildhall, and that Dr Andrew Brown, Regional Director from English Heritage, has been invited to explain English Heritage's decision to decline the lift tower.

52 Amenities and Recreation Committee

48 - Allotment Working Party: A Member stated that it would be useful to have the Chair's name as well as their position in the Minutes.

Resolved: *to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 28th October 2009 and approve any recommendations therein.*

53 **Planning and Highways Committee**

The Chair of Planning & Highways informed Members that a meeting has been arranged by Oxfordshire County Council, to obtain the public's view on the proposed cuts to bus services. The meeting is due to take place at 2.30 pm on 25 November 2009.

Resolved: *that the Town Clerk would acquire further details, and email to all Members.*

Resolved: *to receive the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meetings held on 28th September and 19th October 2009 and to approve any recommendations therein.*

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

Motion proposed by Councillor Alastair Fear and seconded by Lorraine Oates:

Abingdon Town Council welcomes the Choose Abingdon Partnership which has grown out of the Joint Economic Forum of Abingdon Town Council, the Vale of White Horse District Council and the Chamber of Commerce. The Town Council is pleased that the County Council has committed to join in the Partnership which also aims to include larger businesses and the community.

Abingdon Town Council continues to work innovatively to foster town vitality and looks forward to being an integral part of the Partnership focusing on an agreed action plan for Abingdon. Abingdon Town Council believes that working together the Partnership can achieve more than the sum of the constituent parts.

This Council welcomes the new Partnership Manager, Heather Brown, and the voluntary independent Chairman, James White, and the determination of all parties to work together for the good of Abingdon.

In the moving the Motion Cllr Alastair Fear stated that the Choose Abingdon Partnership have a number of projects which are due to start soon, such as the refurbishment of town centre maps, event advertising, mural in the stairwell at the Charter Car Park. More substantial projects are being planned and work on these should be implemented soon.

Cllr Lesley Legge stated that the Partnership would have not been formed without the hard work of the Joint Economic Forum and the 'drive' from Members and staff at Abingdon Town Council.

The Chair of Britain in Bloom Committee stated that she welcomes working with the Partnership in readiness for next year's Britain in Bloom competition.

The Chair of the Joint Economic Forum (JEF) informed Members that the arranged JEF AGM has been cancelled and will now take place at 7.00 pm on Monday 7 December 2009. She highlighted that JEF has been in existence for a number of years and its members value the opportunity to talk with each other. On this basis JEF should seriously consider to continue to meet on an annual basis.

Resolved: *that the Motion be accepted.*

55 **Meeting dates**

The Town Clerk explained that the Mayor Making and Annual Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 5th May 2010. It has recently been brought to his attention that the Abbey Hall would not be available on that date and therefore asks that consideration should be given that the meeting be moved to the 2nd Wednesday in May 2010.

Resolved: *that the Town Clerk should seek to keep the original meeting date and if that fails, the meeting should be arranged for 12 May 2010.*

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

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 30th September 2009;
- Confidential minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 11th November 2009;
- Confidential minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 13th October 2009;
- Confidential minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 28th October 2009.