



**ABINGDON-ON-THAMES
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Council Summons
& Agenda**

Wednesday 25th March 2015
At 7pm in the Roysse Room, The Guildhall,
Abingdon-on-Thames.

(Members are reminded to please attend for robing at 6.45pm and to sign the attendance register before leaving the meeting).

19th March 2015

All Members of the Council

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested a meeting of the Council of the Town of Abingdon-on-Thames to be held in the Roysse Room, Guildhall, Abbey Close, Abingdon-on-Thames on **Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 7pm** for the transaction of the business stated below.

Yours faithfully

Nigel Warner

Nigel Warner
Town Clerk/ signed electronically

SECTION I (Open to the Public Including the Press)

A G E N D A

1 Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev Paul Smith, will lead the Council in prayer.

2 Public Participation

(a) It is Council policy that the Council sets aside a total of 15 minutes prior to the commencement of full Council Meetings for residents of Abingdon-on-Thames or owners/managers of businesses in Abingdon-on-Thames to ask questions of the Mayor, Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Chairman of the Planning and Highways Committee or to express views by way of making a statement.

In order to ask questions or make a statement written notice of questions or statements, served by way of letter or e-mail (enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk), must be given to the Town Clerk by 5.00 pm on Monday 23rd March 2015.

(b) To receive a presentation from Mr Jim Hines of the Abingdon Music Education Trust.

3 Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

4 Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations interest from Members in relation to any items to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the Local Code of Conduct.

5 Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames held on 28th January 2015 (attached) and to consider any matters arising from the minutes which are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

6 Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames

To receive the schedule of Mayor's engagements and to receive Mayor's announcements.

7 Questions under Standing Order 10

8 County Hall Museum Management Committee

To receive and consider the minutes of the meeting of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 3rd February (attached) and 17th March 2015 (to follow), and to approve any recommendations therein.

9 Amenities and Recreation Committee

To receive and consider the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 11th February 2015, and to approve any recommendations therein – attached.

10 Planning and Highways Committee

To receive and consider the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meetings held on 2nd February (attached); 23rd February (attached); and 16th March (to follow); and to approve any recommendations therein - attached.

11 Guildhall Committee

To receive an update.

12 Finance and General Purposes Committee

To receive and consider the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 10th March 2015, and to approve any recommendations therein (to follow).

13 Motion to permanently change Standing Order

The following Motion, under Standing Order 38, was moved by Cllr Marilyn Badcock and seconded by Cllr Helen Pighills at the Council meeting on 28th January 2015. In accordance with the Standing Orders the item was then adjourned and the motion is brought forward for discussion at this meeting.

It is proposed:

A. To delete Standing Order 32 and replace with the following:

Code of conduct. All councillors shall observe the code of conduct adopted by the Council.

B. To delete the Standing Order 38 and replace with the following:

COMMITTEES

38 *List of Committees*

(1) *The following committees shall be the Standing Committees of the Council and shall consist of the number of members stated below each committee:*

(a) *Finance and General Purposes*

Chairmen of the five other Standing Committees plus five other members. The Chairman of Finance and General

Purposes Committee cannot be Chairman of any other Standing Committee. The Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee shall also act as Leader of the Council.

(b) *Planning and Highways*

Nine members

Where a member is unable to attend a meeting of this Committee they may nominate a substitute member provided that the nominating member informs the office of the Town Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting.

(c) *Amenities and Recreation*

Seven members.

(d) *Community Services*

Seven members.

(d) *County Hall Museum Management*

Seven members.

(e) *Guildhall*

Seven members.

Membership of Committees and Sub-Committees shall take into account the spirit of the provision of Section 15 (4) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, concerning the allocation of places between representatives of any political groups.

(2) *Chairman*

If any Chairman is unable to attend any particular meeting of the committee he/she may be represented at the meeting by his/her Vice-Chairman.

(3) *Mayor*

The Mayor shall be an ex-officio voting member of every Standing Committee. The Mayor shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of all other Sub-Committees and Working Parties appointed by the Council.

(4) *Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee*

The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee shall be an ex-officio voting member of every Standing Committee. The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of all other Sub-Committees and Working Parties/ Groups appointed by the Council.

- (5) *The Council may make a scheme for the terms of reference and delegation to Council committees, sub-committees and working groups/ parties.*

14 Council Committee/ Democratic Services Structure

To receive and consider the report of the Council Committee/ Democratic Services Structure Working Group which met on 18th March 2015. This will include consideration of Committee terms of reference (to follow).

The previous report of the Working Group, which was circulated at the January Council meeting and also the March Finance and General Purposes Committee, is also attached.

15 Motions under Standing Order 8

- (a) Motion proposed by Cllr Jeanette Halliday
Seconded by Cllr Jan Morter:

Council :

- 1. recognises that there is a strong public desire to have a cinema in Abingdon;*
- 2. notes that the Guildhall building, due to its historic nature, poses particular challenges for the disabled;*
- 3. notes that over £180,000 has been spent in phase 1 refurbishing the historic part of the building and that as at 7 Jan 2015 over £85,000 had been spent on phase 2 of the project. Only the Phase 1 Work has been funded from the money received from the Vale of White Horse District Council in 2011 and consequently approximately £1,019,000 of this sum remains;*
- 4. notes that the Abbey Hall requires major refurbishment;*
- 5. notes that the Heritage Lottery Fund bid failed, and that other funding opportunities appear to be limited. Council therefore resolves to scope a project to include disabled access, pop-up cinema and refurbishment of the building within resources already available to it.*

- (b) Motion proposed by Cllr Jan Morter.
Seconded by Cllr Alice Badcock:

This council agrees Written answers to questions will be published within 10 working days of the meeting and that all such answers to be appended to minutes of said meeting.

- (c) Motion proposed by Cllr Jan Morter
Seconded by Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer

Council recognises there is strong public concern about the rushed consultation by the Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) about the future of the Abbey Meadow. It notes that the display in the Community Shop has been finished early because of the start of the 'Purdah' period. Council further notes that two of the three options being put forward in the consultation would lead to the closure of the Open Air Pool, but that this is not obvious within the consultation. The short time scale has precluded this council from sending a formal response to the consultation. Council resolves that the Town Clerk will write to the VWHDC asking for the current consultation to be halted, and that a full, more open and transparent consultation into the future of the Abbey Meadow is started in the summer of 2015.

16 Internal Control and the Management of Risk

Report of Town Clerk (attached).

17 Representation on outside bodies

To consider a proposal from the Earth Trust that the Town Council appoint a Member to their Stakeholder Group.

18 Calendar of Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings and the Council Calendar for 2015/16

To approve the draft calendar of meetings and Standing Committee Meetings for the 2015/2016 municipal year as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee together with the Council Calendar for 2015/16 - attached.

The Calendar of Council meetings details each Committee cycle through to Full Council. The Council Calendar follows the year through month by month and adds in dates for some other Sub-Committee meetings; and Mayoral, Civic and other events.

19 Election of Mayor

To receive nominations from Members for the election of Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames for the 2015/2016 Civic Year.

20 Election of Deputy Mayor

To receive nominations from Members for the election of Deputy Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames for the 2015/2016 Civic Year.

21 Exclusion of the Public, Including the Press

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)

22 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames

To receive and consider the confidential appendix to the minutes of the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames held on 28th January 2015, and to approve any recommendations therein – attached.

23 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee

To receive and consider the confidential appendix to the minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 3rd February (attached) and 17th March 2015 (to follow), and to approve any recommendations therein.

24 Guildhall Committee

To receive an update in relation to any matters which may need to be considered under the confidential agenda.

25 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

To receive and consider the confidential appendix to the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on held on 10th March 2015 and to approve any recommendations therein (to follow).

- To receive a confidential report from the Town Clerk in relation to staffing matters.