

Minutes of the Council of the Town of Abingdon-on-Thames held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall on Wednesday 19 September 2012

Present

Cllr Monica Lovatt	Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames
Cllr Andrew Todd	Deputy Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames
Cllr Alice Badcock	
Cllr Marilyn Badcock	
Cllr Michael Badcock	
Cllr Jason Fiddaman	
Cllr Jeanette Halliday	
Cllr Lesley Legge	
Cllr Iain Littlejohn	
Cllr Patrick Lonergan	
Cllr Sandy Lovatt	
Cllr Hermann Matteson	
Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer	
Cllr Penny McDougall	
Cllr Katie Nobes	
Cllr Helen Pighills	
Cllr Alison Rooke	

In Attendance

Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk
Mrs Sandra Hill	Deputy Town Clerk (Clerk to the Meeting)
Mr Steve Rich	Head of Service Delivery

C47 Prayers

In the absence of the Rector, the Mayor asked the meeting to observe a short period of silent contemplation ahead of the meeting.

C48 Public Participation

There was no participation from members of the public.

C49 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Jones, Cllr Aidan Melville, Cllr Angela Lawrence and Cllr Samantha Bowring.

C50 Declarations of Interest

C58 – Guildhall Committee

Cllr Jeanette Halliday declared a non-pecuniary interest as she lives within the vicinity of the Guildhall.

C56 – Amenities & Recreation Committee

Cllr Patrick Lonergan declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to A34, Chilton Close Play Area, as he lives nearby.

C51 Minutes

It was highlighted that the front cover of the Council papers should read Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council.

It was reported that Cllr Peter Jones is making steady progress, and has been communicating via telephone and email.

Resolved to adopt and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames held on 13 June 2012 subject to the following amendments:

C17 4th paragraph 5th line – should read: Cllr Mayhew-Archer emphasised that she implied no disrespect **to** the mayor by asking.

C18 (b) **Cllr Andrew Todd was also present.**

The penultimate line should read: The Town of Abingdon-on-Thames **was** presented with a proclamation outlining the....

C20 – Earth Trust first line should read: The Town Clerk **reported that** the Earth Trust had confirmed that it wished to invite a nomination...

C26 7th paragraph should read: Cllr Alison Rooke declared a **personal** interest as she is a member of Abingdon....

C26 13th paragraph, 2nd line – Cllr Andrew Todd should be deleted and replaced by **Cllr Alison Rooke.**

Resolved to adopt and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames Special Meeting held on 27 June 2012, subject to the following amendments:

Removal of the word **Draft** from the heading.

Cllr Jeanette Halliday was present at the meeting.

Resolved to adopt and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames Special Meetings held on 28 August 2012 and 30 August 2012, subject to the following amendments:

Removal of the word **Draft** from the Minute headings.

It was highlighted that Abingdon-on-Thames headed paper had not been used in relation to the submission to the electoral review as contained with the minutes on 30 August 2012. In reply, the Town Clerk stated that it was agreed that 'old' stationary should continue to be used until stocks are depleted.

C52 Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames

Resolved to note the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's engagements.

The Mayor extended an invitation for everyone to join her after the meeting to celebrate the birth Cllr Samantha Bowring's daughter and Cllrs Mike & Marilyn Badcock's granddaughter.

The Mayor announced that in aid of one of her charities, SSAFA, she would be hosting the Big Brew on 20 October from 3-4.30pm in the Roysse Room. The annual Remembrance Service would be taking place on Sunday 11 November 2012. She also relayed her appreciation to those councillors who supported her at the annual Bowling Event in August.

C53 Questions under Standing Order 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

C54 Finance and General Purposes Committee

F27 - Church in Abingdon Twinning Group Grant Application.

The recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes Committee to support the refusal of this grant by the Grants Sub-Committee was questioned by some Members on the grounds that they believed that it was a reasonable request, and that the aims of twinning were beneficial to many people. If the Sub-Committee had concerns on the limited amount of detail contained within the application, then the applicant should have been asked to submit more information.

The Chairman of the Grants Sub-Committee stated that the application did not contain enough detail, and taking this into account he would, in the future, contact applicants if he has concerns about applications. He further stated that he supported the decision of the Grants Sub-Committee that the grant should not be awarded. The Leader of the Council reported that the Council supports twinning, but in assessing the application the Grants Sub-Committee were not in favour of awarding the grant.

It was proposed and seconded that the Church in Abingdon Twinning Group should be asked to re-submit their application giving more detail as to why they require the grant.

On being put to the **vote** there were 11 in favour, 3 against and 3 abstentions the proposal was therefore **carried**.

Resolved to receive the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 4 September 2012, and to approve the recommendations contained therein.

C55 County Hall Museum Management Committee

Resolved to receive the minutes of the meeting of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 28 August 2012, and to approve the recommendations therein.

C56 Amenities and Recreation Committee

Cllr Patrick Lonergan declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to A34, Chilton Close Play Area, as he lives nearby.

A 36 – June 2013 Events Working Group

It was **resolved** that Cllrs Alice Badcock, Katie Nobes, Andrew Todd, Angela Lawrence and Lesley Legge should form the Events Working Group.

A40 – Christmas Lights Working Group

It was **resolved** that Cllrs Alice Badcock, Jeanette Halliday and Hermann Matheson should form the Christmas Lights Working Group.

Resolved to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 29 August 2012, and approve the recommendations therein subject to the following amendment:

A27 – the letters of appreciation were not attached to the Minute.

A36 – 2nd paragraph: It was noted that this recommendation was **resolved** at the Finance & General Purposes Committee of 4 September 2012.

C57 Planning and Highways Committee

Resolved to receive and consider the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meetings held on 18 June, 9 July, 30 July, 20 August 2012 and 10 September 2012, and approve the recommendations therein.

C58 Guildhall Committee

Cllr Jeanette Halliday declared a non-pecuniary interest as she lives within the vicinity of the Guildhall.

Resolved to receive and consider the minutes of the Guildhall Committee meetings held on 3 July, 2 August and 5 September 2012, and approve the recommendations therein.

P105 – 50 (2) it was **resolved** that the sum specified in the confidential appendix should be released for the work as detailed in the appendix.

C59 Notice of Motion to permanently vary Standing Orders

Notice of a motion has been received under Standing Order 34 (3), proposed by Cllr Sandy Lovatt and seconded by Cllr Alison Rooke:

To amend Standing Order 38 – List of Committees by adding the words:

“(e) *Guildhall*
Five members.”

It was **resolved** that in accordance with Standing Order 38 the motion will stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

C60 Localising Support For Council Tax Council Consultation - tax base and funding for local precepting authorities

The Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames had requested that the consultation should be considered by the Council as it directly affects the Council Tax base and therefore the budget.

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** that authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader and the Leader of the Opposition, to respond to the consultation on behalf of Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council to support the proposals set out in the consultation that the Council Tax base for town and parish councils should not be reduced, as a result of the localisation of Council Tax Support.

C61 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)

C62 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee.

Resolved to receive the confidential appendix to the minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 28 August 2012, and approve the recommendations therein.

C63 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Amenities & Recreation Committee

Resolved to receive the confidential appendix to the minutes of the Amenities & Recreation Committee held on 29 August 2012, and approve the recommendations therein.

C64 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Guildhall Committee.

Resolved to receive the confidential appendix to the minutes of the Guildhall Committee held on 3 July, 2 August and 5 September 2012, and approve the recommendations therein.

The meeting rose at 8.45pm