

Minutes of the Council of the Town of Abingdon-on-Thames held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall on Wednesday 13 June 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 Samantha Bowring	
Cllr Jason Fiddaman	
Cllr Jeanette Halliday	
Cllr Angela Lawrence	
Cllr Lesley Legge	
Cllr Iain Littlejohn	
Cllr Patrick Lonergan	
Cllr Sandy Lovatt	
Cllr Hermann Matteson	
Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer	
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)

SECTION I (Open to the Public Including the Press)

C13 Prayers

Prayers were taken by Rev Dr Charles Miller.

C14 Public Participation

There was no participation from members of the public.

C15 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Peter Jones, Cllr Penny McDougall and Cllr Aidan Melville.

C16 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Michael Badcock, Marilyn Badcock and Sandy Lovatt declared a personal interest in any matters relating to Oxfordshire County Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council as they are Members of those Authorities.

Cllrs Jason Fiddaman, Angela Lawrence, Patrick Lonergan, Julie Mayhew-Archer 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.

Agenda Item 8 – Representation on Outside Bodies

Christ's Hospital - Cllr Angela Lawrence declared a personal interest as she is a friend of Mr Peter Fulk.

Agenda Item 13 – Guildhall Committee

Cllr Jeanette Halliday declared a personal interest as she lives within the vicinity of the Guildhall.

Agenda Item 14 – To Receive Notice of Motion Under Standing Orders 8

Cllr Alison Rooke declared a personal interest as a member of Abingdon Operatic Society.

C17 Minutes

Resolved to adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames held on 21 March, the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames Special Meeting on 4 April and the Annual Meeting of the Council 9 May 2012 – subject to the following amendments:

Annual Meeting 9 May 2012:

Agenda Item 5 – Election of Mayor

Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer asked for confirmation from the Town Clerk that the scheme of Council Seniority, as approved by the Council on 30th March 2011 (minute 81/10) remained in place, and that according to the list which had been produced at the start of this Council, Cllr Samantha Bowring was next in line to be Mayor. Cllr Mayhew-Archer emphasised that she implied no disrespect of the Mayor by asking this question. The Leader of the Council, Cllr Sandy Lovatt, stated that the list is used to determine processional order. However, with regard to the Mayoralty, the Council could not be fettered in its choice of Mayor.

In response to Cllr Mayhew-Archer's question, the Town Clerk responded that the "Council seniority" list was used to determine the processional order at ceremonial events (in order of lists A and B) and as a guide to the Mayoral succession (list B). He confirmed that in relation to the latter, Cllr Samantha Bowring was at the head of list B, the guide list for Mayoral succession.

Agenda Item 8 – Membership of Council Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups

The Town Clerk confirmed that the appendix to the minutes was a copy of his report prior to the Annual Meeting, and this showed a vacancy against the Planning and Highways Committee. However the vacancy no longer existed as at the Annual Meeting Cllr Peter Jones was elected the Planning & Highways Committee. This was noted by the meeting.

C18 Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames

(a) **Resolved** to note the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's engagements from 12 May 2012 – 4 June 2012 (attached) subject to the following amendment:

Thursday 17 May – Abingdon Drama Group should be added.

(b) The Mayor announced that a meeting had been held via Skype between representatives of the Town Council and the Town Council in the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, USA. Those present were the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames – Cllr Monica Lovatt, Deputy Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames Cllr Andrew Todd, Cllr Alice Badcock, Cllr Sandy Lovatt, Cllr Alison Rooke and the Town Clerk. The Town of Abingdon-on-Thames were presented with a proclamation outlining the 50 years of the Town's connections with the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, USA.

The Mayor extended an invitation to those present at Town Council to view the proclamation in the Mayor's Parlour after the meeting

She further reported that she would be sending invitations to Councillors to join her at the Annual Bowls Competition at Abingdon-on-Thames Bowls Club.

C19 Questions under Standing Order 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

C20 Representation on Outside Bodies

Members considered representation to two bodies which were deferred from the Annual Meeting:

Christ's Hospital of Abingdon:

Cllr Sandy Lovatt confirmed that the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames is an ex-officio to Christ's Hospital of Abingdon. He therefore nominated Cllrs Andrew Todd, Iain Littlejohn and Marilyn Badcock for the three remaining places.

Cllr Alison Rooke nominated Mr Peter Fulk.

Cllr Angela Lawrence declared a personal interest as she is a friend of Mr Peter Fulk.

Members **resolved** that as Deputy Mayor, Cllr Andrew Todd should be nominated as a Governor. In relation to the remaining two places, following a vote it was **resolved** that Cllrs Iain Littlejohn and Marilyn Badcock be nominated as Governors of Christ's Hospital of Abingdon.

Choose Abingdon Partnership

It was **resolved** that Cllrs Iain Littlejohn and Katie Nobes be the Council's representatives on the Choose Abingdon Partnership.

Earth Trust

The Town Clerk the Earth Trust had confirmed that it wished to invite a nomination from the Town Council.

Resolved that Cllr Lesley Legge be the Council's representative on the Earth Trust.

C21 Finance and General Purposes Committee

Minute 5 Civic regalia: Cllr Alison Rooke asked that it be noted that whilst the minute was not incorrect, it did not refer to the voting on this item and that in that regard the resolved matter was not unanimous.

Minute F7 (91): A member requested and received confirmation that the list of community assets should not include the Council's own assets.

Resolved to receive the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 29 May 2012 and approve any recommendations contained therein.

C22 County Hall Museum Management Committee

Resolved to receive the minutes of the special meeting of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 24 April 2012, and the County Hall Museum

Management Committee meeting on 22 May 2012, and approve any recommendations therein.

C23 Amenities and Recreation Committee

The Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee reported that she had not had the opportunity to see the Minutes for the meeting held on 23 May 2012. As there are a number of alterations and amendments to these Minutes it was **resolved** that these matters would be discussed at the next meeting of the Amenities & Recreation Committee on 29 August 2012 and amended accordingly; this was in line with usual procedure as accuracy was a matter for the Committee itself. However this did not substantively alter the report of the meeting and there were no recommendations.

Resolved to receive the minutes of the meeting of 23 May 2012.

C24 Planning and Highways Committee

Resolved to receive the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meetings held on 26 March, 16 April, 8 May and 28 May 2012, and to approve any recommendations therein – subject to the following amendments:

28 May – page 2

08 - page header should read 28 May 2012.

09 - Proposal and Observations text to be deleted.

C25 Guildhall Committee

Cllr Jeanette Halliday declared a personal interest as she lives within the vicinity of the Guildhall, and indicated that she was therefore abstaining on voting on this item.

Resolved to receive the minutes of the Guildhall Committee meetings held on 4 May, 9 May and 22 May 2012, and to approve any recommendations therein.

C26 To Receive Notice of Motion Under Standing Order 8 as follows

Motion proposed by the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames, Cllr Monica Lovatt and seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Andrew Todd:

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council would like to thank the Town Clerk and his staff for all their hard work during HM Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee celebrations over the weekend of the 2nd to the 5th June 2012. They worked beyond the call of duty and while others were celebrating they were busy making sure all the events ran smoothly.

The celebrations were planned for over a year and thanks must go to members of the Queen's Jubilee Working Party, Cllr Alice Badcock (Chairman), Cllr Katie Nobes (Vice Chairman), Cllr Jason Fiddaman, Cllr Aidan Melville and Cllr Alison Rooke as well as other interested Councillors who supported them.

Because of the events that the Town Council arranged, the people of Abingdon were able to celebrate their allegiance to HM the Queen and to thank her with style and in the Abingdon tradition.

In moving the Motion the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames thanked the people of Abingdon-on-Thames for their support over the Jubilee weekend.

The Chair of the Jubilee Working Group, Cllr Alice Badcock, gave thanks to councillors, staff, MG Car Club and Harriet Photography for their support over the Jubilee weekend.

Cllr Alison Rooke declared a person interest as she is a member of Abingdon Operatic Society who participated in the Proms in the Park

An **amendment** to the Motion was proposed by Cllr Alison Rooke and seconded by Cllr Patrick Lonergan that the Motion should read:

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council would like to thank the Town Clerk and his staff for all their hard work during HM Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee celebrations over the weekend of the 2nd to the 5th June 2012. They worked beyond the call of duty and while others were celebrating they were busy making sure all the events ran smoothly.

On being put to the vote there were **6 votes for** the amendment and **10 against** with **2 abstentions**. Therefore the **amendment was lost**.

It was proposed that the Motion now be put. There were **12 votes in favour**, **2 against** and **4 abstentions** that the Motion be put.

At least three Members of the Council requested that a named vote be taken in accordance with Standing Order 6. On returning to the substantive Motion it was **resolved** by **12 votes in favour** -

Cllr Alice Badcock, Cllr Marilyn Badcock, Cllr Michael Badcock, Cllr Jason Fiddaman, Cllr Jeanette Halliday, Cllr Angela Lawrence, Cllr Iain Littlejohn, Cllr Sandy Lovatt, Cllr Monica Lovatt, Cllr Hermann Matheson, Cllr Katie Nobes and Cllr Andrew Todd.

and **6 abstentions** - Cllr Samantha Bowring, Cllr Lesley Legge, Cllr Patrick Lonergan, Cllr Julie Mayhew-Archer, Cllr Helen Pighills and Cllr Alison Rooke.

That the following motion be **approved**:

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council would like to thank the Town Clerk and his staff for all their hard work during HM Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee celebrations over the weekend of the 2nd to the 5th June 2012. They worked beyond the call of duty and while others were celebrating they were busy making sure all the events ran smoothly.

The celebrations were planned for over a year and thanks must go to members of the Queen's Jubilee Working Party, Cllr Alice Badcock (Chairman), Cllr Katie Nobes (Vice Chairman), Cllr Jason Fiddaman, Cllr Aidan Melville and Cllr Alison Rooke as well as other interested Councillors who supported them.

Because of the events that the Town Council arranged, the people of Abingdon were able to celebrate their allegiance to HM the Queen and to thank her with style and in the Abingdon tradition.

C27 Councillor Peter Jones

It was reported that since December 2011 Councillor Peter Jones has been unable to attend meetings of the Council, its Committee and Sub-Committees, due to illness. Cllr Jones is now in a nursing home and making progress. Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 stipulates that if a Member fails to attend a meeting throughout a period of six consecutive months, he or she loses the right to remain a Member of the Council. However, before the end of the six month period, the Council can approve a longer absence away from Council duties to avoid these provisions from arising.

Cllr Jones attended the meeting of the Council's Planning and Highways Committee on 3 December 2011. At the Council meeting on 25 January 2012 the Council approved absence from Council duties to 31 July 2012; this period expires before the next Council meeting, and therefore it is necessary to review this matter.

It is unlikely that Cllr Jones will be able to return to Council activities for the time being and the Council is therefore **requested** to approve an absence for a further period.

A Motion was proposed and seconded that Cllr Jones' period of absence should be extended from 31 July 2012 for a further six months', and be reviewed at the meeting of the Town Council on 30 January 2013.

It was proposed and seconded for an amendment to the Motion for a period of three months' absence until 30 September 2012, and be reviewed at the meeting of the Town Council on 19 September 2012. On being put to the vote there were **8 in favour, 8 against** and **1 abstention**. A **casting** vote was placed by the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames being **against** the amendment. Therefore the amendment was **lost**

On voting for the **substantive motion** there were **10 in favour, 1 against** and **7 abstentions**. Therefore the following Motion was **carried**

Cllr Peter Jones' period of absence should be further extended from 31 July 2012 for a further six months' and be reviewed at the meeting of the Town Council on 30 January 2013.

C28 Localism Act – Code of Conduct

It was proposed and seconded to defer consideration of the Code of Conduct to the Special Town Council meeting on 27 June 2012. On being put to the **vote** there were **7 in favour, 9 against** and **2 abstentions**. Therefore the proposal was **lost**.

On voting for the substantive Motion there were **17 in favour, 0 against** and **1 abstention**. Therefore the following Motion was **carried**.

- 1. the code of conduct adopted by Vale of White Horse District Council be adopted as the code for Members and co-opted Members of the Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council with effect from 1st July 2012, or such other date as may be specified in regulations *, to replace the current code of conduct; and*
- 2. the Town Clerk be requested to notify the monitoring officer of Vale of White Horse District Council of the passing of the above resolution.*

C29 Special Meeting

Resolved that a Special Town Council Meeting be convened for 6pm on Wednesday 27 June 2012 to approve the Council's annual return for the year ended 31 March 2012.

C30 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)

C31 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 29 May 2012

Resolved to receive the appendix to the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 29 May 2012, and the recommendations contained therein.

C32 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 24 April 2012 and 22 May 2012

Resolved to receive the confidential appendix to the Minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 24 April 2012 and 22 May 2012, and the recommendations contained therein.

C33 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Guildhall Committee held on

Resolved to receive the confidential appendix to the minutes of the Guildhall Committee held on 9 May 2012 and 22 May 2012 and the recommendations contained therein.