

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Guildhall Committee held on Thursday 12th November 2020 at 7:00pm

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting was held online in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”)

Present:

Cllr Margaret Crick	Chair
Cllr Charlie Birks	(ex-officio Mayor)
Cllr Cheryl Briggs	(Vice-chair)
Cllr Neil Fawcett	
Cllr Andy Foulsham	(substitute for Cllr Andrew Coveney)
Cllr Jim Halliday	

In Attendance

Mr Ian Wiper	The Abbey Cinema
Mrs Sue Wiper	The Abbey Cinema
Mrs Jo Blackmore	Administrative Assistant (Clerk to the meeting)
Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk
Mrs Susan Whipp	Treasurer / Responsible Financial Officer

G65 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sam Bowring.
Apologies were received from Cllr Andrew Coveney with Cllr Andy Foulsham substituting for him

G66 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

G67 **Election of Vice-Chair**

It was proposed by Cllr Neil Fawcett, seconded by Cllr Margaret Crick and **Resolved** that Cllr Cheryl Briggs be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Guildhall Committee.

G68 **Statements and Questions from the Public**

No statements and questions were received from the public. *[Cllr Jim Halliday joined the meeting, the time being 7:05pm].*

G69 **Minutes**

Members received and considered the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee of 20th October 2020.

It was proposed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee of 20th October 2020 are a correct record and signed by the Chair.

G70 **Matters arising**

- Regarding temporary heating in the Guildhall, the underwriters to our insurers have raised several issues which the company contacted to provide temporary heating have yet to answer. All answers received will be filed for future reference as with lockdown and how well the new boiler works are progressing it is looking like temporary heating will not be required.
- The order has been placed for the racking in the Muniment Room.
- The Town Clerk is to forward the specification for the dehumidifier to Cllr Jim Halliday before the order is placed.
- The Town Clerk is to forward the plan for the Treasure cabinet to all members of the Guildhall committee.

G71 **Committee actions and Forward Plan**

The committee received, considered, and **NOTED** the report of the Town Clerk.

Point 6 updates

- (i) Quotes are being received for the energy audit
- (ii), (iii) & (iv) Next year's arrangements have almost been agreed
- (ii) A negotiator has been appointed to agree a longer-term lease.
- (v) Capitol programs; Boilers, Roof and lighting surveys, lightning prevention.

It was proposed by Cllr Charlie Birks and seconded by Cllr Margaret Crick and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair of the Guildhall Committee enter dates into the five-year action plan.

G72 **Finance Report**

Members received and considered the financial report and Appendixes of the Treasurer / RFO of Thursday 12th November 2020.

5(i) 2. Management Accounts

It was proposed by Cllr Jim Halliday and seconded by Cllr Andy Foulsham and **RESOLVED** that the Management Accounts for the period 1st April 2020 to September 2020 are **APPROVED**.

3. Projected year end income and expenditure

Members **NOTED** the projected outturn for 2020-21.

5(ii) 4.9 Fees and charges for 2021-22

Members **AGREED** to keep all fees and charges at current rate due to Covid-19 closing the building.

5(iii) 4.11 Budget

It was proposed by Cllr Jim Halliday and seconded by Cllr Neil Fawcett and **RESOLVED** that the budget for this committee for existing services for 2021-22 be **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council, through the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

5(iv) 4.12 New Projects

There are NO additional budget bids for new projects.

G73 Guildhall and Abbey Cinema (Operation and Management)

The Mrs Wiper of The Abbey Cinema joined the meeting, who gave a presentation on the current operation of the Guildhall and Abbey Cinema.

- Terms of new lease agreed
- Cinema overview
 - They had a very good half term. Broke even plus a little more.
 - All major new films for Christmas have gone. They have booked other films to show and are receiving good support from the British film industry.
 - Plan to re-open the Guildhall (old side) in January 2021 subject to government regulations.
 - Receiving good support from Layla Moran and the Evesham MP.
 - Thank you for Abingdon Town Council support
- Booked a live panto.
- Hope to work with Abingdon Town Council regarding 'No child goes hungry'

Cllr Neil Fawcett apologised for not getting back to Mr and Mrs Wiper and gave an update on the management of the Guildhall rooms (old side).

Cllr Margaret Crick thanked Mrs Wiper who then left the meeting, the time being 8:00pm.

G74 **Environmental implications**

It was **NOTED** that the boilers were being replaced.

G75 **Publicity**

It was **RESOLVED** that the following is to be publicised, and included in the next edition of the Town Cryer:

- (i) When the new boilers have been commissioned their installation is publicised emphasising the efficiency of the new boilers compared to the old, the money spent on this project showing that the council is taking the building and making green improvements seriously in line with the councils agreed objectives.
- (ii) Another term on the lease with Abbey Cinema has been agreed.
- (iii) The Abbey Cinema has been given financial support during the pandemic.

It was NOTED that improvements and a wider scope is needed in how we promote the services of the council to the public.

G76 **Dates of meetings**

The dates of the future meetings were noted:

- 7th January 2021
- 4th March 2021
- 20th May 2021

G77 **Exclusion of the public, including the press**

The Chair moved and it was **resolved**:

That in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

G78 **Confidential appendix to the minutes**

Members received and considered the confidential appendix to the minutes of the committee meeting of 20th October 2020.

It was proposed and **RESOLVED** that the confidential appendix to the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee of 20th October 2020 are a correct record and signed by the Chair.

G79 **Guildhall and Abbey Cinema – Property matters**

The committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk and received an update from Neil King of Andrew Crease and Company.

See the Confidential Appendix to these minutes.

The meeting rose at 9:36 pm.