

**Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council**

**Minutes of a special meeting of the Guildhall Committee held on  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 8:00 pm  
In the Roysse Room, Guildhall, Abingdon**

**Present:**

Cllr Margaret Crick	Chair
Cllr Grace Clifton	Vice Chair
Cllr Cheryl Briggs	
Cllr Neil Fawcett	
Cllr Charlie Birks	Ex-officio - Mayor
Cllr Samantha Bowring	Ex-officio – Chair F & GP Committee, Leader

**In Attendance**

Mrs Susan Whipp	Treasurer and Responsible Financial Officer
Mr Ian Wiper	The Abbey Cinema
Mrs Sue Wiper	The Abbey Cinema
Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk

G16 **Apologies for Absence**

None.

G17 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

G18 **Minutes**

Members received and considered the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

G19 **Matters arising**

These would be covered in the report of the Town Clerk for the meeting due to take place in September 2019.

G20 **Public participation**

None.

## G21 **The Guildhall and the Abbey Cinema**

*Ian and Sue Wiper entered the meeting at this point, it being 8.06pm.*

The Chair, Cllr Margaret Crick, introduced Sue and Ian Wiper of the Regal Cinema, Evesham. It was noted that the Regal leased the Abbey Hall from the Council for the operation of the Abbey Cinema and also managed and operated the Guildhall on behalf of the Council.

Mr and Mrs Wiper made a presentation to the Committee regarding the management and operation of both the Guildhall and the Abbey Cinema. The first half of the presentation was a management update on the Guildhall and the cinema. This is attached as an appendix to these minutes. The second half of the presentation centred around lease related issues and is attached as a confidential appendix to these minutes, as is the staffing section of their presentation.

The Chair, Cllr Margaret Crick, thanked Mr and Mrs Wiper for their presentation and they left the meeting, it being 9.07 pm.

The Town Clerk updated Members in relation to the passenger lift at the Abbey Hall. This was currently out of action due to a problem with the door mechanism. There were meetings pending with Ridge and Partners (in relation to the mechanical and electrical engineering aspects) and also Crest Lifts, who service and maintain the lift. It was intended that a further technical inspection of the lift take place together with additional training for staff. It was then hoped that the lift would be back in operation. Councillor Charlie Birks stated that during his professional career he had some experience in relation to these matters and he requested to attend the training session as an observer. The Town Clerk stated that he was welcome to attend but that Cllr Birks would not be expected to undertake any staff duties in relation to the lift.

The Town Clerk stated that he would report back to the committee at its meeting in September 2019 in relation to the door mechanism on the lift. He stated that likely costs for a replacement door mechanism would be in the order of £20,000.

## G21 **Environmental implications**

It was noted that this item would be a standing agenda item for all future committee meetings and would give committees, if they had not already done so, the opportunity to consider the environmental implications in relation to matters on the agenda, in particular having regard to the Council's resolution in relation to the Climate Change Emergency.

It was recognised that going forward there were major issues for the Committee to consider, having regard to the building's energy use and its design. However

at this stage members considered there was nothing further specific to consider for this meeting.

**G22 Publicity**

There were no items highlighted for specific publicity.

**G23 Dates of meetings**

The calendar of meetings for the remainder of the Council year, updated since the meeting, was as follows:

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, in the Old Magistrates' Court;
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December, in the Old Magistrates' Court;
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020, in the Old Magistrates' Court.

All meetings anticipated to commence at 7pm. It was noted that there may be changes to the meeting rooms and times. These will be highlighted on the agenda for the various meetings.

**G24 Exclusion of the public, including the press**

**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.

**G25 The Guildhall and the Abbey Cinema**

The confidential report of Town Clerk, as circulated with the agenda, was received and considered.

The committee considered a request from the Regal Evesham to assign the lease in relation to the Abbey Hall to the Abbey Cinema. Following due consideration of this matter it was **resolved** that authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to approve the assignment of the lease, subject to legal advice and formal agreement to assign the lease being entered in to.

The Committee considered other matters related to the lease with the Regal Cinema, Evesham, in relation to the Abbey Hall. As these are subject to potential legal advice and negotiation, this is further detailed in the confidential appendix to these minutes. It was noted that a further report would come forward to the September meeting in relation to this matter.

The meeting rose at 9.56 pm.