

Draft minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council on Tuesday 21st May 2019 in the Roysse Room, the Guildhall, Abingdon-on-Thames.

Present

Cllr Charlie Birks
Cllr Cheryl Briggs
Cllr Gabby Barody
Cllr Samantha Bowring
Cllr Grace Clifton
Cllr Andrew Coveney
Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Neil Fawcett
Cllr Andy Foulsham
Cllr Alex Greenaway
Cllr Patrick Lonergan
Cllr Robert Maddison
Cllr Lorraine Oates
Cllr Ulrike Rowbottom
Cllr Andrew Skinner

Mayor
Deputy Mayor

In Attendance

Mr Steve Rich Assistant Town Clerk/ Head of Services
Mr Nigel Warner Town Clerk (Clerk to the meeting)
Mrs Susan Whipp Treasurer/ Responsible Financial Officer

13 Public Participation

There were no statements or questions from the public.

14 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Eric de la Harpe, Jeanette Halliday, Jim Halliday and Helen Pighills.

15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

16 Minutes

As this was a Special Meeting it was noted that the draft minutes of the meeting of 20th March 2019 and of the Annual Meeting of 13th May 2019 would be considered by the next ordinary meeting of the Council (26th June 2019).

17 Mayor's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Mayor.

18 Matters for decision

The Council received and considered the report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above, as circulated with the agenda.

The Town Clerk reported that the following items which had been submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group and were presented to the Council for consideration on the basis of urgency.

a. Flag policy

It was proposed by Cllr Samantha Bowring and seconded by Cllr Cheryl Briggs that the Rainbow flag is added to the list of flags which may be flown from the town flag pole at the County Hall, with immediate effect and that this will stand until the next review of the flag policy.

Following debate this was **resolved** unanimously.

It was proposed by Cllr Samantha Bowring and seconded by Cllr Cheryl Briggs that a working group be set up to review the flag policy including which flags may be flown from the County Hall flag pole. This group would then bring recommendations to full council for consideration and adoption at the January meeting.

Following debate this was **resolved** unanimously.

It was agreed that membership of the Working Group would be a matter for decision by the Council at its meeting due to take place on 26th June 2019.

It was further **resolved** that, pending the review, authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader, to determine the dates on which the Rainbow flag should be flown.

b. Street Furniture

It was proposed by Cllr Lorraine Oates and seconded by Cllr Robert Maddison, that:

- i. Council agrees to clean all bus stops that it owns as soon as possible and where it will be beneficial to repaint all or parts of bus stops.
- ii. Council resolves to bring into use any notice boards at bus stops that we own with any necessary repairs or refurbishments carried out by the end of June.
- iii. Council will work with partners to update notice boards every two weeks.

- iv. Council will explore other locations for noticeboards as part of a communications review.
- v. Council will clean and if needed repaint any other signage for which it is responsible.

It was noted that this was a busy time of the year for the works team and it agreed that, at ii(above) the phrase “carried out by the end of June” should be replaced by “carried out as soon as possible.”

Members also considered that the matter should then come forward for review at the next meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee at its meeting on 6th June 2019.

It was **resolved** unanimously:

- i. Council agrees to clean all bus stops that it owns as soon as possible and where it will be beneficial to repaint all or parts of bus stops.
- ii. Council resolves to bring into use any notice boards at bus stops that we own with any necessary repairs or refurbishments carried out as soon as possible.
- iii. Council will work with partners to update notice boards every two weeks.
- iv. Council will explore other locations for noticeboards as part of a communications review.
- v. Council will clean and if needed repaint any other signage for which it is responsible.

c. IT

It was proposed by Cllr Pat Lonergan and seconded by Cllr Andy Foulsham that a working group be set up with delegated authority to procure electronic devices and software to enable a move to electronic agendas and minutes Council. It was noted that Council had already indicated that this should be funded and there is sufficient funding for this from the existing pooled equipment budget for 2019/20. It is agreed that a sum of £5,000 be allocated accordingly. It was noted that there would be significant savings to paper, copying, postage and staff time associated with producing paperwork for meetings over the time of this administration.

Following debate this was **resolved** unanimously.

It was further **resolved** that the Working Group consist of Cllrs Andrew Coveney, Any Foulsham and Jim Halliday.

d. Floral displays

It was proposed by Cllr Samantha Bowring and seconded by Cllr Ulrike Rowbottom that a floral display is placed at the Reynolds Way precinct.

In debate Members noted that whether it would be possible to implement this for the summer would be reported to the next meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee at its meeting on 6th June 2019. It was further noted that the proposal did not have a timescale against it.

On being taken to the vote the Council **resolved** (unanimously) to agree the proposal as set out above.

e. Substitution on Committee and Sub-Committees

It was proposed by Cllr Andrew Coveney and seconded by Cllr Lorraine Oates that the Council agrees to implement a substitution system across all of its Committee and Sub-Committees and that this be incorporated in to the Council and Committee terms of reference, with immediate effect.

Following debate this was **resolved** unanimously.

It was noted that a number of other items had been referred directly to the Community Services Committee due to meet later in the evening.

8. Democratic matters

a. Green Scrutiny Committee

It was noted that the intention had been that Cllr Gabby Barody should be appointed to the Green Scrutiny Committee at the Annual Meeting of the Council. This had not happened and therefore it will be proposed by Cllr Margaret Crick and seconded by Cllr Grace Clifton that Cllr Gabby Barody be appointed to the Green Scrutiny Committee. The Council **resolved** accordingly.

b. Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils

It was noted that the Council was a member of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC). The OALC was itself part of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and provided services to parish and town councils (also known as "local councils") in terms of advice, information and training. OALC also had a role in representing local council interests including in partnership with local and regional agencies in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The OALC's Executive Committee had vacancies for three members to represent the 68 parish and town councils and meetings in the Vale of the White Horse. The term of office was four years; the Executive met four times a year during the daytime.

The Council considered whether to nominate a Member to serve on this Committee. If a nomination were made and if more than three Members were nominated from the Vale of White Horse area then an election would be held at the OALC AGM on 1st July 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr Patrick Lonergan, seconded by Cllr Lorraine Oates and **resolved** (unanimously) that Cllr Jeanette Halliday be nominated to serve on the Executive Committee of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils for as detailed above.

The meeting rose at 7.45pm.

DRAFT