

**Draft minutes of the Council of the Town of Abingdon-on-Thames held on
Wednesday 20th March 2019
in the Roysse Room, Guildhall, Bridge Street, Abingdon**

Present

Cllr Margaret Crick	Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames
Cllr David Pope	Deputy Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames
Cllr Alice Badcock	
Cllr Mike Badcock	
Cllr Samantha Bowring	
Cllr Neil Fawcett	
Cllr Dennis Garrett	
Cllr Robert Hall	
Cllr Jeanette Halliday	
Cllr Brian Hedley	
Cllr Vicky Jenkins	
Cllr Angela Lawrence	
Cllr Patrick Lonergan	
Cllr Monica Lovatt	
Cllr Sandy Lovatt	
Cllr Lorraine Oates	
Cllr Helen Pighills	
Cllr Andrew Todd	

In Attendance

Rev Dr Charles Miller	Rector, Mayor's Chaplain
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

15 members of the public and the press.

SECTION I (Open to the Public Including the Press)

C72 Prayers

Rev Dr Charles Miller led the meeting in prayer.

(Rev Dr Charles Miller left the meeting following conclusion of this item).

C73 **Public Participation**

a) Presentation of Grant Cheques to Local Organisations

The Mayor, Cllr Margaret Crick, stated that the Council, through the Community Services Committee, had awarded grants to a number of local organisations and was pleased to present cheques to those organisations as follows:

Name of applicant and person collecting cheque	Purpose of grant	Cheque for
Abingdon Freewheeling – Andy Ellis	Towards the cost of the 2019 Abingdon Cycle Festival in Abingdon Market Place	£800
Abingdon Concert Band – Kathy Wilcox	To help support the expenditure on new music to play in 2019 and future years.	£400
6 th Abingdon (Trinity) Scout Group – Tom Kyffin	Towards the cost of new equipment and storage facility	£1500
The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society – Bobbie Nichols	Towards the cost that come with moving the Community Free space shop including electricity checks and cleaning and some redecoration	£1000

A grant of £500 was also awarded to the Abingdon Joint School Carnegie Forum towards the cost of the 2019 Carnegie Forum Event.

- b) Bobbie Nichols addressed the Council and asked the following questions but prior to asking the question she congratulated the Council on a very successful Clubs' & Societies' Day which had been held the previous weekend (Saturday 16th March 2019).

1. Information Centre

At the TC meeting on 27 June 2018 a statement was made on behalf of the Friends of Abingdon, regretting the proposal to leave the Information Centre in the Museum for the foreseeable future and suggesting some alternative locations.

We now note that the Information Centre is included in the One Public Estate Project as one of the public assets identified in the master plan scope for Abingdon town centre. Since our understanding is that this is a very long-term exercise and it is likely to be several years before any moves take place, we urge you to consider a better solution for the

interim, such as the Abbey Hall Foyer. We ask the Town Council to seriously investigate such a move before the summer visitor season and, if that is deemed not practicable, to make public the reasons.

2. Old Abbey House

We also note that Old Abbey House is still included in the One Public Estate Project, although in answer to a question at the Parish Meeting on 13 March it was stated that a registered provider was currently assessing its use for social housing. We therefore ask the Town Council to clarify the position with regard to Old Abbey House, which is rapidly deteriorating to the great concern of many Abingdon residents.

3. Publicity

The Friends of Abingdon are pleased to note that costed proposals for replacing the town centre notice boards are to go before the Finance & General Purposes Committee in May and presumably, if approved, to the subsequent full Council meeting for final agreement. However, this will mean a delay of several months before new notice boards are in place. This is a serious disadvantage for the many residents who do not use social media. We appreciate that staff shortages make servicing notice boards difficult, but that is something which we and other community groups can help with. If the Town Council can provide the boards and a collection point for notices, we can arrange volunteers to manage them – as indeed we did, unasked and at short notice, for the recent Clubs and Societies Day. We could also service the notices at bus stops. We note that the Community Services Committee has a significant underspend on this year's budget, which is to be carried forward.

We therefore ask the Town Council to progress the replacement of the boards as quickly as practicable and ideally to create a few authorised banner sites. We would be happy to be involved in discussions about their location and/or management (or indeed communications more generally).

Cllr Mike Badcock, Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee responded to the questions as follows:

- 1. The Council is aware of the issues in relation to the Information Centre. It is the intention of the Council to consider matters and come to a conclusion on this shortly.*
- 2. The Old Abbey House is not owned by Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council so we cannot answer this question.*

Cllr Alice Badcock, Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee responded in relation to Question 3. Cllr Badcock stated that the answer to this question would be found in the Amenities and Recreation Committee Minutes of 6th February 2019, Minute A57, as detailed on page 48 of this agenda.

c) Dr Jim Halliday addressed the Council and asked the following Question:

As you will be aware I have addressed both the Guildhall Committee and the Full Council meeting on the matter of the lack of high-speed broadband in the town centre on a number of occasions, initially on 13th September and most recently on 23rd January (as reported in Minute C56c on page 10 and 11 of this agenda). Despite the positive comments in the answer you gave me on 23rd January since then I have not heard from you. May I therefore, ask for an update on the progress that the Council, and in particular the Guildhall Committee, has made with its investigations and/or procurement of high-speed broadband, and if other interested parties (including the Regal, the Friends of Abingdon, and the local residents' association) can assist in any way?

Cllr Dennis Garrett, Chairman of the Guildhall Committee, responded as follows:

As yet we have not made much further progress. Much of the officer time has been taken up working with the Abbey Cinema on establishing and handing over the facilities. Cllr Garrett understood that the Town Clerk had recently had discussions with the Council's IT support provider in relation to the Guildhall and the Cinema. The Town Clerk confirmed that he had been in discussions with the Council's IT provider on this and a number of other matters and the provision of high speed broadband to the Guildhall and Abbey Cinema was being investigated to see if this could help also with provision of high speed broadband to local residents. This matter would now be referred to the incoming Council to consider.

d) Mr Frank Watters addressed the Council in relation to the Abingdon Business Improvement District. He thanked Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council for their assistance in relation to this matter. However he stated that there were a number of outstanding issues and in particular Cllr Sandy Lovatt's involvement in the BID. The Mayor, Cllr Margaret Crick, interrupted the speaker at this point and explained that this was not relevant to the Council meeting.

Seven members of the public left the meeting at this point, it being 7.20pm.

C74 **Apologies**

No apologies for absence were received.

C75 **Declarations of Interest**

Minute C92: Cllr Jeanette Halliday declared a non-pecuniary interest in the

proposal to nominate Marilyn Badcock as a Freeman of the town on the basis that she was a friend of the nominee, and left the meeting during the discussion of this item.

C76 **Minutes**

Resolved that the draft minutes of the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames held on 23rd January 2019 be adopted and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

Matters arising

None.

C77 **Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames: Engagements and Announcements**

The Mayor, Cllr Margaret Crick, presented her schedule of engagements since the last meeting of the Council, as circulated with the agenda.

The Mayor highlighted that the Annual Morris Men's Challenge was due to take place at the Brewery Tap on Thursday 21st March 2019, at 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr David Pope, informed the meeting that he would be attending a twinning event in Schongau on behalf of the Mayor from Thursday 28th March to Friday 29th March 2019. He was pleased to attend this event on behalf of the Mayor. He stated that he would be attending at no cost to the Town Council.

C78 **Oxfordshire County Council Report**

The Council received and considered the report from Cllr Neil Fawcett, County Councillor for Abingdon South Division in relation to the above, as circulated to the meeting and attached to these minutes.

Cllr Patrick Lonergan reported a problem in relation to the "Fix My Street" website. He stated that when a problem is reported, only the first report goes to the appropriate council for action. If further feedback, for instance, an ineffective repair, is added to the particular issue on the website, this report is not forwarded to the appropriate council. Cllr Fawcett stated that he would take this comment back to the County Council.

In relation to Lodge Hill, Cllr Mike Badcock stated that at the Growth Infrastructure Board Meeting which took place the previous day (19th March 2019) he had understood that the funding for the work had been agreed. Cllr Fawcett stated that the delay to the project was not due to the funding but instead that the delay was related to the detailed surveys and the traffic impact modelling which had yet to take place.

C79 **Questions under Standing Order 10**

- 1) Cllr Pat Lonergan asked the following Question to Cllr Dennis Garrett, Chairman of the Guildhall Committee:

On what date will the archives be moved into the new muniment room?

Cllr Dennis Garrett responded with: *We have previously advised on this. The advice has been that the temperature and humidity should be monitored over the course of a number of months to establish whether mechanical environmental control is required. The standard advice and preference is not to have such machinery unless it is necessary as this itself introduces a source of ignition into the area but this cannot be ascertained in advance of monitoring. We have and will continue to take advice from the Archivist Mark Stevens at the Berkshire Record Office. As it stands the room is still drying out although the environment is stabilising compared with a few months ago, the humidity much reduced with the assistance of a dehumidifier. When the dehumidifier is switched off the humidity rises again, the rise is not as high and steep now compared with a few weeks ago.*

I cannot at present give a date for when the archives will come back but we will not move them back until we know that the environment will be safe for them. I understand that in 2000 the archives were moved to the Old Abbey House and unfortunately they were moved too early when the room was too cold and humid; urgent action by the Council was required to avoid potential damage to the papers, which was not easy as the archive was in situ. We will not move the archives until the new room is ready.

- 2) Cllr Helen Pighills asked the following question to Cllr Dennis Garrett, Chairman of the Guildhall Committee:

When I was married in the Roysse Room it was lovely to have the town silver on display. When will the silver be returned to the Roysse Room so that other couples will once more be able to enjoy the display?

Cllr Dennis Garrett Responded with: *the silver cabinet is a job which requires a lot of thought – we need to be sure exactly what is going in it (we have much which there is not room to display) and also how it is designed, the interpretation etc. Technology has moved on and there are all sorts of ways of doing this. We simply did not have capacity to scope this in last year.*

- 3) Cllr Neil Fawcett asked the following question to Cllr Mike Badcock, Leader of the Council and Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee:

The last eight years has seen the Vale spend £1.5 million pounds spent on the Beacon at Wantage; what is the leader of the council doing to get an equivalent level of support for a civic facility in Abingdon?

Cllr Mike Badcock responded with: *How the District Council allocates its spending is a matter for that Council , what I would not be considering is suggesting an Open air Swimming Pool and an impressive Play area be considered for Wantage or other parts of the Vale.*

- 4) Cllr Samantha Bowring asked the following question to Cllr Mike Badcock, Leader of the Council and Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee:

What is Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council doing to safeguard Abingdon residents from the impact of the Vale of White Horse District Council setting a budget for 2019/2020 which relies on a transfer from reserves which, if replicated in future years, as currently projected, would result in the general fund balance being completely spent within four years?

Cllr Mike Badcock responded with: *Together with all other Vale Parishes this Council is not consulted on the budget.*

This council has not been informed of any likely General Fund Deficit.

- 5) Cllr Neil Fawcett asked the following question to Cllr Mike Badcock, Leader of the Council and Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee:

How much money is coming back to the council as a result of the dissolution of the Abingdon BID?

Cllr Mike Badcock responded with an update from Suzanne Malcolm from the VWHDC which read:

“By way of update on the Abingdon BID:

We received notification last week that the Abingdon BID Company was formally dissolved at Companies House on 5 February 2019.

We are working with legal colleagues to confirm the position in respect of the 2018/19 payments and associated refunds to the levy payers, with reference to the BID regulations. We are expecting to resolve this in the next couple of weeks.”

Cllr Badcock also responded with: *Once the amount is confirmed I will ensure a written reply is sent to all members.*

Cllr Samantha Bowring asked the following question to Cllr Mike Badcock, Leader of the Council and Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee:

What progress has been made against council's carbon emission reduction targets?

Cllr Mike Badcock confirmed that he would provide a written reply at a later date.

6) Cllr Pat Lonergan asked the following question to Cllr Monica Lovatt, Chairman of the County Hall Committee:

For how many months since its installation has the lift to the museum basement been out of service?

Cllr Monica Lovatt responded with: *I am not sure of the purpose of this question as I doubt since the lift was installed it has been out of service for whole months at a time and to find the information is time consuming to collate for our hardworking officers in the timescale between the agenda coming out and the Council meeting. Perhaps a written answer at a later date would suffice?*

As Cllr Lonergan well knows as a previous member of the County Hall Museum Management committee and being a member of the Lib Dem Council when the design and installation of the lift was discussed and agreed, it was an unsatisfactory solution to the desire to have an internal lift going to the Sessions Hall to provide disabled access. Sadly, English Heritage quashed the idea and we have instead a wholly unsatisfactory outside platform lift going to the basement.

When Cllr Lonergan was a member of the County Hall Museum Management Committee from 2011 to 2015 he will recall that there were problems with the lift from the start as it was outside and subject to the ingress of rain. Improvements were made but it was difficult.

Cllr Lonergan may wish to know that we have a new contractor maintaining the lift and the arrangement is working well. The only permanent solution is to apply again in the future for a full internal lift and that would be my preferred solution.

7) Cllr Lorraine Oates asked the following question to Cllr Alice Badcock, Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee:

Where has the bus shelter and seats for the northbound Peachcroft roundabout bus stop gone and when will it be back?

In response Cllr Alice Badcock, Chairman of the Amenities and Recreation Committee stated that unfortunately the bus shelter had to be removed after it was badly damaged by a vehicle. The bus shelter was so badly damaged that it cannot be repaired; it is planned that it be replaced with a new bus shelter.

C80 **Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr David Pope and seconded by Cllr Mike Badcock that the Council receive and consider the minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Highways & Consultations Committee held on held on 28th January 2019, 18th February 2019, and the draft minutes of 11th March 2019, as circulated with the agenda.

Meeting of 28th January 2019, Minute 4: Matters Arising – Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon (page 24 of the agenda)

A member referred to the planning application by Abingdon School. This was a multi-million pound business and over the years developments at Abingdon School have been incremental and piecemeal, with resulting problems for the local community. The developments needed to be guided by an overall plan and the Member asked the Chairman of the Committee whether he had received a response to his letter as yet. The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr David Pope, stated that the production of the letter was in hand.

Minutes of the meeting of 18th February 2019: Minute 10 – Neighbourhood Plan

A Member stated that she had been asking for a Neighbourhood Plan for eight years. In the minutes it stated that “the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Mike Badcock, stated that the Council had previously decided to undertake a Community Led Plan rather than a Neighbourhood Plan.” The Member stated that she did not consider that the Community Led Plan had been commenced instead of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr David Pope, stated that he believed that the minute was correct and noted that the minutes went on to state that this would be a matter now for the Council due to be elected in May 2019 to consider.

Resolved that the minutes of the Planning, Highways & Consultations Committee held on 11th March 2019 be approved, together with any recommendations contained therein.

C81 **Amenities and Recreation Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock and seconded by Cllr Helen Pighills that the Council receive and consider the draft minutes of the meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 6th February 2019, as circulated with the agenda.

Minute A55 – Play Areas

A Member referred to the Chilton Close play area and reported that as result of “joy riding” two panels had been removed from the fence and now motorcyclists are able to ride through the gap. He also stated that temporary fencing which had been installed appeared to be unstable. The Assistant Town Clerk / Head of Services stated that this matter would be rectified.

The Member commended the staff for clearing the pathway through the Chilton Close play area but noted that the gravelled pathway was prone to water ponding at either end. In response the Assistant Town Clerk / Head of Services stated that there was provision within the 2019/20 budget to improve this pathway.

Resolved that the minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 6th February 2019 be approved, together with any recommendations contained therein.

C82 Community Services Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Vicky Jenkins and seconded by Cllr Andrew Todd that the Council receive and consider the draft minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 26th February 2019, as circulated with the agenda.

Resolved that the minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 26th February 2019 be approved, together with any recommendations contained therein.

C83 County Hall Museum Management Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Monica Lovatt and seconded by Cllr Dennis Garrett that the Council receive and consider the draft minutes of the meeting of the County Hall Museum Management Committee held on 28th February 2019, as circulated with the agenda.

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Monica Lovatt, stated that this had been a steady year for the Museum and matters were progressing well.

Minute M44: Financial Report

Cllr Samantha Bowring wished to clarify her statements in relation to the underspend on staffing at the Museum. She felt that the Council needed to look at the impact on services and on staff of the current arrangements. She also stated that at the end of the meeting she had thanked the Chairman for her work as Chairman of the County Hall Museum Management Committee and as this was not in the draft minutes she reiterated those thanks at this meeting.

Resolved that the draft minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee of 28th February 2019 be approved, together with any recommendations contained therein.

C84 Guildhall Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Dennis Garrett and seconded by Cllr Mike Badcock that the Council receive and consider the draft minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee held on 4th March 2019 as circulated with the agenda

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Mike Badcock, thanked the Chairman of the Guildhall Committee, Cllr Dennis Garrett, for all his hard and dedicated work to the Guildhall and the development project over the last four years.

Minute G60 – Management and Operation of the Guildhall

(Page 61 of the agenda.) A member stated that she had attended the Open Weekend and wondered where all the old wooden furniture had gone. In response the Town Clerk stated that the old furniture was still in storage. There were over 50 chairs and it was anticipated that some of them, for instance the three armchairs and a number of the chairs which were in good condition, could be brought back into use. However there were a number of chairs which required major repairs either to the upholstery or to the structure of the chair itself, or to both. In this regard the advice from the Council's valuers, Bonhams, had been that it would uneconomic to repair these chairs as the value of the chairs as repaired would be less than the cost of repairing them. By way of background the Town Clerk stated that the oldest of these chairs dated back to the 1950s with additional chairs having been acquired by the Council over the years and that most of them had been removed from the historic rooms by the District Council prior to 2011. The Member also noted that on the Open Weekend the large painting that was on the main historic staircase had been damaged; she asked how this had happened and would it be repaired? The Town Clerk stated that this was probably some old damage to the painting which had been caused when furniture had been moved around the building, this being one of the reasons it was preferable not to have to move furniture around the building. *However on later taking a look at this matter it was found that there was potentially additional new damage to the painting and consequently enquiries were made.*

Minute G57: Management and Operation of the Guildhall – Old Magistrates' Court

The Town Clerk stated that it had only come to his attention on the day of the meeting that his report in relation to the proposed use of the Old Magistrates' Court had unfortunately not gone out with the Council agenda. The report was therefore tabled at the meeting and is attached to these minutes. The Town Clerk apologised for the omission but stated that what the report was seeking to do was to delegate authority to the Guildhall Development Working Group to consider the alternative options which would then come back for further consideration by the full Council. Cllr Patrick Lonergan stated that his opinion was that cinema users of the Old Magistrates' Court were also the public and so would be happy for it to be used by the cinema. Cllr Mike Badcock stated that the Council had made a commitment for rooms to be available for hire by the public and this must be considered by the Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Patrick Lonergan, seconded by Cllr Mike Badcock, and **resolved:**

- That authority be delegated to the Guildhall Development Working Group to consider the proposal from the Abbey Cinema in relation to the Old Magistrates' Court, along with alternative options suggested by your Officers.
- That the Guildhall Development Working Group considers the proposal and alternative options both in terms of financial arrangements and the balance between this and availability for use by the public;
- The Guildhall Development Working Group then makes a recommendation to be considered by the full Council.

Resolved that the draft minutes of the Guildhall Committee of 4th March 2019 be approved, together with any recommendations contained therein.

C85 **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Mike Badcock and seconded by Cllr Dennis Garrett that the Council receive and consider the draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 5th March 2019 as circulated with the agenda.

Minute F52: Matters Referred – Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee of 28th January 2019 (page 78)

It was noted that following a consultation from the District Council in relation to the allocation of their proportion of the Communication Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the Town Council's Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee had considered the allocation towards different areas of infrastructure spending proposed. A recommendation had been made which the Finance and General Purposes Committee had referred to the Town Council for approval. It was **resolved**: that the following split for the Town Council's share of the CIL be approved. The figures stated in italics are the corresponding share of the Town Council and District Council combined:

County Council: Education and Transport Infrastructure 0% (*42.50%*)
 Clinical Commissioning Group: Community Health Care 40% (*23.00%*)
 District Council: Sports & Leisure Facilities 20% (*20%*)
 District Council: Green Infrastructure / Biodiversity Provision 20% (*7.25%*)
 District Council: Public Art & Cultural Heritage / Public Realm 20% (*7.25%*)

Minute F57: Guildhall and Abbey Hall Improvement Project (page 80)

It was **resolved**:

- (i) The financial update and revised budget estimates in relation to the Guildhall Project, both capital and revenue (appendices A and C of the report), including the transfers between the budget lines as reported and funding from the deferred grant from the District Council, Town Council earmarked reserves and revenue budgets be approved;
- (ii) The financial update and the revised budget estimates in relation to the Guildhall related projects – the Abbey Hall / cinema and Roysse Court –

both capital and revenue (appendices B and C of the report) including the transfers between budget lines as reported and funding from the deferred grant from the District Council, Town Council earmarked reserves and revenue budgets be approved;

- (iii) The financial update and the funding position in relation to the Guildhall related maintenance items and funding from the current year revenue budgets (appendix C of the report) be approved.

Resolved that the draft minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee of 5th March 2019 be approved, together with any recommendations (as amended) contained therein.

C86 **Traffic Advisory Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock and seconded by Cllr Helen Pighills that the Council receive and consider the minutes of the meeting of 7th November 2018 and the draft meeting of the meeting of 6th March 2019.

In relation to the minutes of 7th November 2018 the Chairman, Cllr Alice Badcock, stated that these were no longer draft minutes (as stated on the agenda) but had been approved by the Committee.

Minutes of 7th November 2018: Minute T15 Sustrans Cycle Route

In relation to the Sustrans Route, Cllr Angela Lawrence stated that she had been correct regarding this route. In relation to the contraflow cycle lane at the Iron Bridge (St Helen's Wharf) Cllr Lawrence stated that this arrangement works well and urged the authorities not to alter the contraflow. Cyclists know how it works and manage it well.

Draft Minutes of 6th March 2019: Minute T22.1 Traffic issues in relation to schools and, in particular, buses

The Chairman explained the issues in relation to parking near schools and stated that there ongoing meetings between the schools, the County Council and the Police in relation to the various issues. Cllr Monica Lovatt updated the meeting regarding the parking issues in relation to St Helen and St Katherine School.

(One member of the public arrived at this point, it being 8.10pm.)

C87 **Motions under Standing Order 8**

Members considered the following motions:

Motion 1

Motion proposed by Cllr Jeanette Halliday

Seconded by Cllr Pat Lonergan

Residents on Dunmore Road have noticed a deterioration in air quality since Wootton Road roundabout has been changed to a single lane. Could the Town Clerk write to the Chief Executive of the Vale of the White Horse Council (without delay) asking the Environmental Officer to monitor air quality on Dunmore Road both before and after the new houses are built?

It was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock and seconded by Cllr Sandy Lovatt that the motion be amended as indicated below (underlined):

Residents on Dunmore Road have noticed a deterioration in air quality since Wootton Road roundabout has been changed to a single lane. Could the Town Clerk write to the Chief Executive of the Vale of the White Horse Council (without delay) to request that the air quality on Dunmore Road, Wootton Road and Copenhagen Drive be monitored before and on completion of the housing developments in the local area.

The amendment was accepted by the proposer and the seconder and the Council (signified without discussion). Consequently the motion was altered by the proposer in accordance with Standing Order 16.

Following debate it was **resolved** (unanimously) that:

Residents on Dunmore Road have noticed a deterioration in air quality since Wootton Road roundabout has been changed to a single lane. Could the Town Clerk write to the Chief Executive of the Vale of the White Horse Council (without delay) to request that the air quality on Dunmore Road, Wootton Road and Copenhagen Drive be monitored before and on completion of the housing developments in the local area.

Motion 2

Motion proposed by Cllr Samantha Bowring
Seconded by Cllr Lorraine Oates

- 1. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.*
- 2. Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency. Council believes that:*

1. *All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Change. It is important for the residents of Abingdon and the UK that councils commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;*
2. *The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority; and,*
3. *Bold climate action can also deliver economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).*

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council will

- a. *Declare a 'Climate Emergency';*
- b. *Pledge to make council carbon neutral by 2030 and to do all it can to support carbon emission reduction across the town.*
- c. *Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;*
- d. *Work with other councils and governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;*
- e. *Continue to work with partners from local businesses, community groups and residents to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;*
- f. *Report to Full Council within six months the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.*
- g. *Set up a green scrutiny committee made up of councillors and interested local residents to monitor the council's environmental impact and lead changes within the community.*

Councillor Alice Badcock proposed a number of amendments, seconded by Cllr Mike Badcock as follows:

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock and seconded by Cllr Mike Badcock that in relation to (a) above, to add the words "in line with the Vale of White Horse District Council." Following debate the amendment was withdrawn by the proposer with the unanimous consent of the Council, signified without discussion (Standing Order 13 [I]).

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock and seconded by Cllr Mike Badcock that in relation to (b) above to add the following words (underlined): “Pledge to make council as carbon neutral as possible by 2030 and to do all it can to support carbon emission reduction across the town.” Following debate the amendment was put to the vote and was approved by 9 votes in favour, 8 against and 1 abstention.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock and seconded by Cllr Mike Badcock that in relation to (d) above, to amend the words at the start of the sentence so that this part of the motion read: “As the Vale of White Horse District Council have already passed a motion and have the resources to tackle this, to work in liaison with them to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C.” The amendment was accepted by the proposer and the seconder and the Council (signified without discussion). Consequently the motion was altered by the proposer in accordance with Standing Order 16.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock and seconded by Cllr Mike Badcock that in relation to (f) above, to change the time period from six to twelve months. Following debate the amendment was withdrawn by the proposer with the unanimous consent of the Council, signified without discussion (Standing Order 13 [I]).

In relation to (f) above, Cllr Angela Lawrence proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Alice Badcock to change the time period from six to nine months. The amendment was accepted by the proposer and the seconder and the Council (signified without discussion). Consequently the motion was altered by the proposer in accordance with Standing Order 16.

In relation to (g) above, it was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock and seconded by Cllr Mike Badcock that the wording be amended to read: “Have these matters as a standing item on the agenda of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to receive updates.” Following debate there were 7 votes for the amendment, 8 votes against and 3 abstentions and therefore the amendment was lost.

There being no further amendments, the proposer of the motion Councillor Samantha Bowring, summed up. The motion was then put to the vote and it was **resolved** by 17 votes in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention:

1. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities.

2. Councils around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency. Council believes that:

1. All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Change. It is important for

the residents of Abingdon and the UK that councils commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;

2. The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority; and,

3. Bold climate action can also deliver economic savings and market opportunities (as well as improved well-being for people worldwide).

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council will

- a. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
- b. Pledge to make council as carbon neutral as possible by 2030 and to do all it can to support carbon emission reduction across the town.
- c. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
- d. As the Vale of White Horse District Council have already passed a motion and have the resources to tackle this, to work in liaison with them to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C.
- e. Continue to work with partners from local businesses, community groups and residents to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;
- f. Report to Full Council within nine months the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.
- g. Set up a green scrutiny committee made up of councillors and interested local residents to monitor the council's environmental impact and lead changes within the community.

Motion 3

3. Motion proposed by Cllr Neil Fawcett
Seconded by Cllr Jeanette Halliday

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council regrets the decision to drop the proposed flood alleviation scheme for Abingdon and calls for the Government to increase funding for the Environment Agency and calls upon the Environment Agency to clarify and publicise the alternative approach they currently plan to take.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock and seconded by Cllr Mike Badcock to add, remove and amend words so that the motion read as follows:

“Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council regrets the decision by the Environment Agency to stop their progress on the Abingdon Flood Alleviation Scheme. We acknowledge the work that the Environment Agency have already done to alleviate flooding in Abingdon. We request that the Environment Agency addresses the Town Council to highlight all of the information from both the Oxford and Abingdon Flood Alleviation schemes presentations they have given. This is to include the work they are continuing to do upstream and elsewhere in the catchment areas.”

The amendment was accepted by the proposer and the seconder and the Council (signified without discussion). Consequently the motion was altered by the proposer in accordance with Standing Order 16.

Following debate it was **resolved** (unanimously) that:

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council regrets the decision by the Environment Agency to stop their progress on the Abingdon Flood Alleviation Scheme. We acknowledge the work that the Environment Agency have already done to alleviate flooding in Abingdon. We request that the Environment Agency addresses the Town Council to highlight all of the information from both the Oxford and Abingdon Flood Alleviation schemes presentations they have given. This is to include the work they are continuing to do upstream and elsewhere in the catchment areas.

Motion 4

4. Motion proposed by Cllr Helen Pighills
Seconded by Cllr Samantha Bowring

That “Council and Committee Terms of Reference” in relation to the number of Members appointed to the Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee are amended to provide for the appointment of five members with effect from the next Annual Meeting of the Council. It is noted that the terms of reference also state that “where a member is unable to attend a meeting of this Committee they may nominate a substitute member provided that the nominating member informs the office of the Town Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting.” Members of the Committee are strongly encouraged to appoint a substitute when they are unable to attend a meeting.

Following debate it was **resolved** by 16 votes in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions;

That “Council and Committee Terms of Reference” in relation to the number of Members appointed to the Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee are amended to provide for the appointment of five members with effect from the next Annual Meeting of the Council. It is noted that the terms of reference also state that “where a member is unable to attend a meeting of this Committee they may nominate a substitute member provided that the nominating member informs the office of the Town Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting.” Members of the Committee

are strongly encouraged to appoint a substitute when they are unable to attend a meeting.

The motion was then put to the vote and it was **resolved** by 16 votes in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions:

C88 Internal Control & Management of Risk

The Council received and considered the report of the Treasurer / Responsible Financial Officer in relation to the above.

It was proposed by Cllr Mike Badcock, seconded by Cllr Dennis Garrett and **resolved** (unanimously) that the Council notes the report of the Treasurer / Responsible Financial Officer in relation to internal control and the management of risk and endorse the action plan, authorising the Mayor to sign this on behalf of the Council.

C89 Calendar of Meetings

Members noted the above (which had been circulated with the agenda.)

Cllr Mike Badcock proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor, Cllr Margaret Crick, for her hard work and commitment during the year. She had served the town well and devoted much of her time to the service of the town this last year. This vote of thanks was approved unanimously by the Council.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at this point, it being 9.14 pm. At this point the members of the public also left the meeting.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 9.27 pm.

C90 Exclusion of the public including the press

The Mayor moved:

“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)

C91 Matters deferred from Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Council received and considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above, as circulated prior to the meeting.

Resolved: that the report be approved together with the recommendations contained therein, as detailed in the confidential appendix to the minutes.

C92 Confidential Motions

At the meeting of the Town Council which took place on 23rd January 2019 two motions in relation to nominations for Honorary Freedoms were moved and seconded. In accordance with the Council's established procedure, having been moved and seconded these motions had stood adjourned until this meeting (20th March 2019) when they were discussed and determined.

Lesley Legge:

It was proposed by Cllr Angela Lawrence, seconded by Cllr Monica Lovatt and **resolved:**

That this council recognises the enormous contribution that Mrs Lesley Legge has made to the well-being of our town of Abingdon-on Thames.

Lesley has served the community over very many years and continues to do so to this day. Back in the 1990s she led the campaign to keep beds open in the Marcham Road hospital, for 12 years she served as a Red Cross Volunteer, often being called out in the middle of the night. These are just two from many examples.

Lesley's focus has always been on supporting the less advantaged residents of our town. To this end she is extremely actively involved in supporting Young Carers and, as Chair of Trustees of Abingdon Carousel, she succeeded in helping to save Abingdon's Children's Centre.

For 20 years from 1995 to 2015 Lesley served as a conscientious, hardworking and effective Town Councillor, and was elected Mayor of Abingdon in 2000.

From 2001 to 2009 she also served as a distinguished and diligent County Councillor and was elected Chair of Oxfordshire County Council in 2006.

In recognition and appreciation of her long and active commitment to our town, this council proposes making Mrs Lesley Legge a Freeman of Abingdon-On-Thames.

Marilyn Badcock and Julie Mayhew-Archer:

Cllr Jeanette Halliday declared a non-pecuniary interest in the proposal to nominate Marilyn Badcock as a Freeman of the town on the basis that she was a friend of the nominee, and left the meeting at this point.

It was proposed by Cllr Samantha Bowring, seconded by Cllr Vicky Jenkins and **resolved:**

That in accordance with its powers under the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and in recognition of their long and eminent service to Abingdon-on-Thames, the Council nominate Mrs Marilyn Badcock and Mrs Julie Mayhew-Archer to the position of Freeman of the Town of Abingdon.

Update and procedural note:

All three individuals have accepted the nominations.

When a prospective Freeman accepts a nomination then a special meeting of the Council is convened for the sole purpose of appointing the Freeman. This is the meeting at which the Freeman is legally appointed and again requires no less than two-thirds of the Members of the Council to approve the proposal, i.e. 13 Members. However it would at that stage be unprecedented for the matter not to be formally approved at that meeting; it is to avoid this possibility that the nominations are discussed at this (20th March) Council Meeting. The formal meeting which would follow is in essence a ceremonial meeting, which would include the presentation of the Freeman's scroll and badge.

The meeting rose at 9.55 pm.

.....
Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames

.....
Date

DRAFT

County Councillor report to Abingdon Town Council – 20th March 2019 – from Neil Fawcett

Reporting potholes, faulty street lights etc.

The most effective way to report potholes, faulty street lights, drainage problems and other similar issues is through the 'Fix My Street' website. Some improvements have been made to the system recently and I have certainly had more useful responses on issues I have reported.

The website is here:

<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

County Councillors were also asked to submit priorities for road resurfacing/surface dressing/patching now that additional capital funds have finally been provided for road maintenance. I submitted a sizeable list and believe my colleagues did likewise.

Councillor Priority Fund

Priority Fund allocations have been made to the following groups and more are in consideration:

North-East Abingdon Community Association, The Abingdon Bridge, Be Free Young Carers, The Abingdon Baby Café, Children in Care Xmas Dinner, ARCh Abingdon Eagles Basketball Club, ATOM Festival, Abingdon Swimming Club.

Information about how to apply is here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund>

County Council Budget

The County Council element of the Council Tax rose by 2.99%, the maximum allowed. Abingdon's County Councillors supported an amendment which provided for the provision of a proper youth service.

Lodge Hill

We ask about progress on Lodge Hill at every opportunity. The latest report is that the County Council is ready to carry out detailed surveys of the A34 and is pressing the Highways Agency to agree this. There has also been a delay in agreeing the traffic impact modelling. This, combined with other delays, means that the scheme is now a year behind where it should have been.

Oxfordshire Plan 2050

The County Council, along with the districts, is consulting on the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSPP).

This Plan will provide an integrated strategic planning framework and evidence base to support sustainable growth across the county to 2050, including the planned delivery of new homes and economic development, and the anticipated supporting infrastructure needed.

You can respond to the current consultations here:

<https://oxfordshireplan.inconsult.uk/consult.ti>

Peer review

The County Council is currently going through a 'peer review' process where the organisations strengths and weaknesses are assessed by senior councillors from other authorities.

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