

**Minutes of the Council of the Town of Abingdon-on-Thames held on  
30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Abingdon-on-Thames**

**Present**

Cllr Helen Pighills	Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames
Cllr Alice Badcock	Deputy Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames
Cllr Michael Badcock	
Cllr Samantha Bowring	
Cllr Margaret Crick	
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 Jan Morter	
Cllr David Pope	
Cllr Andrew Todd	

**In Attendance**

Mrs Jane Bowen	Museum Curator
Mr David Boyd	Architect
Mr Dan Lewandowski	Architect
Mr Nigel Luker	Macebearer
Revd Dr Charles Miller	Mayor's Chaplain
Mr Steve Rich	Head of Service Delivery
Mr Peter Turvey	Quantity Surveyor
Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk (Clerk to the meeting)

**SECTION I (Open to the Public Including the Press)**

**C35 Prayers**

The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev Dr Charles Miller led the meeting in prayer.

**C36 Public Participation**

None.

C37 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lorraine Oates. Members sent their best wishes to Cllr Oates who was unwell.

C38 Declarations of Interest

None.

C39 Minutes of the meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015

(a) Approval of minutes:

**Resolved** to adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015, subject to the following amendments regarding accuracy:

- Minute C21 – Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames, third bullet point required insertion of the word “in” so the end of the sentence read “and was in aid of Stowford House and the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF).”
- Minute C29 – Approval of annual return and financial statements – last sentence, correct spelling of “relation”.
- Minute C32 – Confidential Appendix to the Minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committee, second line, to change word from “receive” to “received”.

(b) Matters arising

Annual return for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015: it was reported that the External Auditor, BDO LLP of Southampton, had completed their review of the Annual Return and given their opinion that it was in accordance with proper practices and that no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. In addition there were no matters, not affecting their opinion, which the auditor wished to bring to the attention of the Council. Consequently their report was unqualified and they had signed off the annual return for last year

C40 Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames

The Council received the schedule of Mayor’s engagements and the Mayor’s announcements. The Council noted the following amendment:

Function on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015 – Battle of Britain Service, Carterton, attended by Cllr Alice Badcock.

C41 Questions under Standing Order 10

There were no questions under Standing Order 10.

C42 County Hall Museum Management Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Monica Lovatt and seconded by Cllr Patrick Lonergan that the Council receive and consider the draft minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committees held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Monica Lovatt, reminded members that earlier in the year the Town Council had taken on the direct management of the basement café, which had been renamed “The Mousehole”. She was pleased to report that the café was progressing well, bringing income to the Museum.

**Resolved** that the draft minutes of the County Hall Museum Management Committees held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015 be approved, together with any recommendations contained therein.

C43 Community Services Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Andy Todd and seconded by Cllr Alice Badcock that the Council receive and consider the draft minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**Resolved** that the draft minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be approved, together with any recommendations contained therein.

C44 Amenities and Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock and seconded by Cllr Jan Morter that the Council receive and consider the draft minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee which took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015.

**Resolved** that the draft minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015, be approved together with any recommendations contained therein.

C45 Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Michael Badcock and seconded by Cllr Margaret Crick that the Council receive and consider the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committees of 29<sup>th</sup> June; 20<sup>th</sup> July; 10<sup>th</sup> August; 1<sup>st</sup> September and the draft minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015.

The Chairman of the Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee stated that the Committee had expressed its concerns regarding the works which were taking place in relation to Drayton Road which had brought gridlock to the town. In discussion, Cllr Neil Fawcett, as County Councillor for Abingdon South, stated that he had made a request for these works to be undertaken during the school holidays but this request had not been agreed and consequently there had been an adverse impact on the town.

Cllr Alice Badcock expressed concern regarding the work which Thames Water were planning to take place in the near future in Caldecott Road and had contacted Thames Water to see if these could be delayed at this time.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committees, held on 29<sup>th</sup> June; 20<sup>th</sup> July; 10<sup>th</sup> August; 1<sup>st</sup> September and the draft minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015, be approved, together with any recommendations contained therein.

#### C46 Guildhall Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Dennis Garrett and seconded by Cllr Michael Badcock that the Council receive and consider the minutes of the Guildhall Committee which took place on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

The Town Clerk updated the Council on the work which was now taking place in relation to the Guildhall Development Project. Following the Council's meeting in June 2015, the Guildhall Committee and the Guildhall Development Working Group had both met and the plans had been taken forward. The professional team, comprising of the Council's architects, quantity surveyor, structural engineer, mechanical and electrical engineer and acoustic engineer had been developing the plans and had been commissioned to take these plans up to our RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Stage D which would mean that the plans would be at the requisite level of detail for the Council to apply for planning permission for the project.

The Town Clerk then introduced the Council's architects, Mr Dan Lewandowski and Mr David Boyd, together with the Council's quantity surveyor, Mr Peter Turvey. He then handed over to the professional team who gave a presentation to the Council regarding the development plans.

Mr Lewandowski stated that the plans which were being presented this evening were those which the Guildhall Committee had already approved, but with some changes following work undertaken by the whole team and the input of the specialist engineers in relation to structural, mechanical and electrical and acoustic matters.

In presenting the plans the architects drew Members' attention to the following features:

- The current access to the Guildhall from Abbey Close was uninviting and the new plans would introduce a welcoming elevation onto Abbey Close at street level.
- There was a major development of the ground floor space which would include upgrading of existing toilets, in current locations, and new disabled and family toilets.
- A glazed frontage onto Abbey Close.
- A large café / social space on the ground floor, opening onto a refurbished existing piazza area.
- New external rear stairs with the existing lift and disabled WC upgraded.

- It should be noted that whilst there were extensive works being planned at street level / ground floor, the architects were working within the existing structure of the Guildhall.
- There would be a newly opened up space between the existing WCs which could act as a meeting space and also be an area which could exhibit treasures / artefacts.
- At the Abbey Hall level, the architects were basically working within the footprint of the existing space. Nonetheless the Abbey Hall was planned to have a major, comprehensive upgrade with the stage repositioned at the west end of the hall.
- The proposals included the option for the project to include retractable seating in the Abbey Hall.
- An important aspect of the work would be the acoustic engineering design which would ensure the building was properly soundproofed so that fuller use could be made of the Abbey Hall for functions, performances etc which included music.
- A previous proposal for the filling in of the areas between the bay windows had been omitted due to the recent proposed partitioning off of the stage from the hall which would provide a much larger storage space. The existing double height windows to both sides of the hall would be replaced by energy efficient triple glazed units.
- The existing stage would be partitioned off to provide a very large storage area.
- At the west end of the Abbey Hall, the timber partition would be taken down and a new acoustic wall built further back to create more space for the stage and access for performers to the stage would be via the existing steps up from the foyer area.
- There was also an option for an additional floor plate above the existing stage area which could provide for a new space for hire accessed by the proposed new external rear stairs and lift.
- There would be an acoustic wall to close off the gallery.
- A major area of work would be to ensure that the acoustic design of the Guildhall was correct and consequently some tests would be undertaken in relation to noise and neighbours would be informed regarding this matter as appropriate.

During and after the presentation Members made a number of comments and asked a number of questions. This discussion is summarised below:

- There was a query regarding the representation of the ground floor reception area in the plans. The architects stated that at this stage the plans were at a more diagrammatic level and at the next stage further work would be undertaken regarding how the spaces would actually work and detailed design would be undertaken. A member had suggested that a curved reception area would be appropriate at ground floor level.
- Consideration would be given to the cinema screen and whether this would be a drop down screen or a surface mounted one.
- A member queried why the balcony / gallery was being closed off. In response, the architect, Mr David Boyd, commented that this was partly because the ceiling was being lowered and that it was necessary in

order to simplify the acoustics in the building. He also understood that the existing balcony was not used.

- What would happen to the existing entrance lobby?
- Some of the questions which members were asking were not ones which could be answered at this stage, they were questions for the next stage of the plans. The Council should not get too concerned over detail at this stage, there would be many changes to the detailed design as the plans progressed. In relation to the point made regarding the balcony there would be many choices which the Council would have to make through this process and Members would also have to consider value for money in relation to such matters. The overall aim of the project was to make the building as flexible and usable a space as possible, and to maximise use of the building.
- The balcony had only been used a few times over the last 30 years and was basically a redundant space. It was likely that its closing up would be important to the acoustic design which would enable more use to be made of the Abbey Hall.
- There was a query over fire precautions / prevention and safety of design. The architects stated that these matters had been fully incorporated into their designs from the start and the new plans should improve the position in this regard, for example by allowing a direct escape to street level. There would also be refuge points on each landing.

It was noted that the plans would be developed further over the autumn period with the intention being that they would be brought back to the Guildhall Committee and special meetings of both the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Council for approval prior to the submission of a planning application.

The Mayor, Cllr Helen Pighills, thanked the professional team for their presentation.

*(Mr David Boyd, Mr Dan Lewandowski and Mr Peter Turvey left the meeting at this point, it being 8.15pm.)*

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Guildhall Committees, held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015, be approved together with any recommendations contained therein.

#### C47 Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Sandy Lovatt and seconded by Cllr Mike Badcock that the Council receive and consider the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be approved, together with the recommendations contained therein:

#### Neighbourhood Planning

**Resolved** that: the proposed Neighbourhood Planning area as detailed on the

map, and previously circulated to Members, be submitted to the District Council following consultation with those neighbouring parishes detailed in the minutes of the Committee.

### General Market Strategy

**Resolved** that Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council considers that markets are an opportunity to promote the town, raise its profile and demonstrate its vibrancy, as well as offer local businesses a low-cost way to reach consumers. Therefore this council will create and manage markets with the primary objective being the increase of footfall into the town rather than the raising of income. Previous investment in the infrastructure of the Market Place has been worthwhile as it has created a very appropriate and usable space but this Council recognises that ongoing small investments in marketing and promotional activity to increase footfall is also an important part of a sound strategy which will provide economic and social benefit to the whole town.

### Community Events that also include stalls

**Resolved** that an annual delegation be made to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Community Services Committee to create a maximum of one market in any calendar month so that this delegation can be used in such situations, this delegation to be exercised where there was not sufficient notice to bring the matter to Committee.

### Business Improvement District (BID)

**Resolved** that the Council vote in favour of the BID and that a delegation is granted to the Town Clerk to cast this vote on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Angela Lawrence stated that she was delighted that the Town Council was considering a Neighbourhood Plan and she stated that she would wish to be part of any steering group which was created.

## C48 Motions under Standing Order 8

- (a) Motion proposed by Cllr Samantha Bowring and  
Seconded by Cllr Patrick Lonergan:

*“This council notes that fossil fuels are not expected to remain economically viable by the end of this century.*

*Council therefore resolves to support the transition town initiative which seeks to facilitate a community led response to changes in energy production and use.*

*This council agrees it has a responsibility to reduce its energy usage.*

*Council will therefore take an energy audit of all of its services;*

*Will reduce carbon emissions by 20% by 2020;*

*Will aim to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 by following a programme of energy reduction, carbon offsetting within our own town and using renewable energy.”*

In proposing the motion, Cllr Samantha Bowring stated that it was effectively a mission statement. What she was proposing was an audit of council services which would show the Council’s commitment to the Transition Town Initiative. Over 100 councils were part of this initiative and there were also businesses involved such as Marks & Spencer. Almost all councils have a framework in relation to these matters.

Cllr Samantha Bowring went on to say that Abingdon is the oldest town in England and we have a brief stewardship of this town. We owe it to future inhabitants so that the town remains a pleasant and thriving town. Our decisions have a far reaching effect on the future and the era of fossil fuels is drawing to a close. Matters are moving quickly. For example, 20 years ago fracking was not considered viable but now was considered viable. Fossil fuels will become more and more expensive and we need to take action now. We need to move forward and explore new ways of obtaining our energy. This planning needs to start today and we need to work with the community. There was much potential and many ways of doing this, for example vegetable beds in the Abbey Meadows to name just one. We need to take the next step and not leave it too late. We need to stand with other authorities such as Oxfordshire County Council and look at their targets. We need clean, sustainable sources of energy. Cllr Samantha Bowring stated that this was not a radical motion and she requested that the Council support it.

In seconding the motion, Cllr Patrick Lonergan stated that there were many locally- based initiatives throughout the country which supported the Transition Towns initiative and sustainable energy. He gave examples in relation to the Tooting Carnival, the Toxteth Brewery and the Community of Dragons in Totnes. He stated that the Town Council does have influence, for example through the Choose Abingdon Partnership it had been instrumental in taking work forward on the proposed Business Improvement District. There were also other groups in the town who were pursuing initiatives, for example, the Abingdon Hydro. There were things which the Town Council could consider in relation to its own services, for example solar panels on the Guildhall. If progressed, consideration of these matters would be part of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Angela Lawrence suggested an amendment which was to add an additional clause to the proposal “and resolve to set up a working group to explore ways of achieving this.” This amendment was accepted by both the proposer and the seconder and consequently became part of the substantive motion for debate.

In debating this matter, the following points were then made:



- Many reservations regarding this proposal, primarily that it was not achievable, for example how could the Town Council become carbon neutral by 2030? The motion was proposing a commitment which could not be achieved; it was a sentiment.
- It was noted that in 2006 Totnes became the first transition town. This was a very different town to Abingdon with a sizeable alternative and new age community. However it was noteworthy that Totnes Town Council had no mention of the initiative on its own website. It was also noted that whilst there were 130 transition towns in 43 countries there was no mention of anything on the relevant website after 2014. This proposal was unnecessary and would add to the cost of running the council.
- Environmental initiatives have always been an important part of the Town Council's work, for example through the provision of allotments. However the Town Council has two large schemes, either agreed or proposed, being in relation to the Guildhall and Neighbourhood Planning. Consequently there is no officer time available to undertake this work, the staff are fully committed to existing priorities and there is nothing in the budget for this.
- Sentiment will not ameliorate the impact of climate change. Approval of this motion and undertaking the work involved will reduce the Council's costs. It would be far better for efficient energy usage to be part of the Guildhall plans now rather than retro fitted. In relation to the Guildhall, for example, a modest reduction in energy costs of 10% would yield the Council a major financial saving.
- Agreement with the sentiment of the motion, but these were things that the Town Council was doing anyway, for instance, in the Museum. Do not see why the Council would be setting targets in this regard. We are making a rod for our own backs.

Following debate, the Mayor invited Cllr Samantha Bowring to sum up. Cllr Bowring stated that the purpose of the motion was to set out a statement of intent. There was an aspiration. We needed to see where we are now and then move forward. We needed to see how much we could reduce costs by reducing fuel bills. There were many things which we should look at, for example, insulation and carbon off-setting. If we think about these things now we could save money, we need to look into these matters. A Neighbourhood Plan would shape the town for decades ahead and we should be thinking of the impact of our energy use in this regard. This is not some tenuous idea, we must take these matters seriously. There is lots of work to do and in order to take this forward and she had been pleased to accept the amendment from Cllr Angela Lawrence.

The Mayor then put the matter to the vote and there were 7 votes in favour of the motion, 7 votes recorded against the motion and 4 abstentions. In accordance with the Standing Orders the Mayor, having abstained on the initial vote then had a casting vote which she

cast in favour of the motion and consequently it was **resolved:**

*“This council notes that fossil fuels are not expected to remain economically viable by the end of this century.*

*“Council therefore resolves to support the transition town initiative which seeks to facilitate a community led response to changes in energy production and use.*

*“This council agrees it has a responsibility to reduce its energy usage.*

*“Council will therefore take an energy audit of all of its services;*

*“Will reduce carbon emissions by 20% by 2020;*

*“Will aim to be Carbon Neutral by 2030 by following a programme of energy reduction, carbon offsetting within our own town and using renewable energy and resolve to set up a working group to explore ways of achieving this.”*

- (b) Motion proposed by Cllr Neil Fawcett and  
Seconded by Cllr Margaret Crick

*“This council notes that Oxfordshire County Council has launched a consultation into its plan to close Children's Centres including those in North and South Abingdon.*

*“This council believes that Children's Centres offer vital support to children and their parents and carers in Abingdon, in line with published research evidence including the Evaluation of Children's Centres in England series.*

*“This council resolves to respond to the consultation urging the County Council to find a solution to the financial pressure on this service that does not involve closing down the North and South Abingdon Children's Centres.”*

In proposing the motion, Cllr Neil Fawcett stated that he was not arguing that there was no need to make savings. He was very familiar with the work of the Children's Centres and how valuable these Centres were especially to those with lower incomes / deprived backgrounds. The Centres delivered a very wide range of services and these included providing services and training across very diverse areas. The work of the Children's Centres led to improved life chances for many people. The County Council had to make savings and had now agreed to consult on the closure of the 44 Children's Centres across the County. He felt that the County Council should prioritise keeping the buildings open as Children's Centres work. Abingdon itself had two Children's Centres, one in south Abingdon and one in north Abingdon. There was a proposal to move to eight Centres across the County. Cllr Fawcett stated that the Council should make an argument

to keep both Abingdon Children's Centres open. They both undertook valuable work and with the size of the town, it needed to be considered that not all families have cars and many have to rely on walking to get to Children's Centres. Consequently it was important to have Centres which were local. He emphasised that this motion was not a criticism of the County Council.

The motion was seconded by Cllr Margaret Crick.

In supporting the motion, a Member stated that it was important to understand that Children's Centres provided important services which were universal and open to all. He knew of a young mother who was not deprived but who had been greatly assisted by the work of the Centres and he was dismayed by the proposals that they be closed.

In response to the motion, Cllr Sandy Lovatt stated that he appreciated the services delivered by Children's Centres and would wish to recommend a solution to the current problems. There was the potential to provide services more efficiently. The principal of running services from eight centres was on a "hub and spoke" mechanism. There was a large cost in terms of buildings and staffing of running 44 Centres across the County and the County needed to look at more efficient ways of delivering the services. In this regard the County Council Officers had proved to be very good at coming up with solutions. In particular, he felt that an increased role for the voluntary sector needed to be examined. Consequently, a number of amendments to delete and add words were proposed by Cllr Sandy Lovatt and seconded by Cllr Dennis Garrett. The words which it was proposed should be deleted are crossed out whereas the words which it was proposed should be added are underlined as below:

*"This council notes that Oxfordshire County Council has launched ~~will launch~~ a consultation into its plan to ~~close children's Centres~~ introduce a new children's service, including those in North and South Abingdon.*

*"This council believes that Children's Centres offered vital support to children and their parents and carers in Abingdon, in line with published research evidence including the Evaluation of Children's Centres in England series. The Council is pleased to note that the County Council Officers are recommending the continuation of these services.*

*"This council resolves to delegate its response to the consultation to the Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee ~~urging the County Council to find a solution to the financial pressure on this service that does not involve closing down the North and South Abingdon Children's Centres~~ including a response to the challenge to communities to seek ways to continue the universal service of Stay & Plan and Youth Open Access."*

The Mayor, Cllr Helen Pighills, then ruled on the admissibility of the various amendments being put. She stated that the Leader had put forward a very extensive amendment to the motion, one which made significant changes to the motion as tabled. However she accepted that

his intentions were well founded and as he indicated, the consultation had yet to be launched. The Mayor stated that she had read the Officer's report "Future Arrangements in Children's Social Care" which was submitted to Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> September and noted that the proposal was to close 44 Children's Centres and create 8 new hubs. She had considered the Leader's amendments to each paragraph in turn and her ruling on this matter is set out below:

- To allow the amendment to paragraph 1 provided that the words "that may lead to closure of children's centres" are inserted after "new Children's service."
- To allow the amendments to paragraph 2.
- To allow the amendments to add words in paragraph 3 provided that the words deleted in this paragraph were reinstated. This was because deleting these words would negate this substantial part of the motion.

The Mayor stated that if the Leader was prepared to accept these conditions then she would allow the amendment to be debated.

This was accepted by Cllrs Sandy Lovatt and Dennis Garrett, as proposer and seconder of the amendments.

The amendments were then accepted by Cllrs Neil Fawcett and Margaret Crick as the proposer and seconder of the motion and became part of the substantive motion.

There being no further debate the Mayor then put the motion to the vote and it was **resolved** unanimously that:

*"This council notes that Oxfordshire County Council will launch a consultation into its plan to introduce a new children's service, which may lead to closure of Children's Centres including those in North and South Abingdon .*

*"This council believes that Children's Centres offered vital support to children and their parents and carers in Abingdon, in line with published research evidence including the Evaluation of Children's Centres in England series. The Council is pleased to note that the County Council Officers are recommending the continuation of these services.*

*"This council resolves to delegate its response to the consultation to the Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee urging the County Council to find a solution to the financial pressure on this service that does not involve closing down the North and South Abingdon Children's Centres including a response to the challenge to communities to seek ways to continue the universal service of Stay & Plan and Youth Open Access."*

- (c) Motion proposed by Cllr Jeanette Halliday and  
Seconded by Cllr Patrick Lonergan

*“Council notes that the current Mayor, Cllr Helen Pighills. tabled a motion at the Council meeting of 28th November 2012 asking that ‘This Council resolves to begin the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Abingdon-on-Thames and that this process should be undertaken as soon as possible’.*

*“Council therefore welcomes the fact that its Planning and Finance and General Purposes Committees have both recently agreed that a Neighbourhood Planning area should be established as a first step to the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Abingdon.”*

Cllr Jeanette Halliday stated that by putting this motion forward the town would be protecting the Community Infrastructure Levy which would be available from developers. Creating a Neighbourhood Plan would involve many community groups in the town and she hoped that all the Council would be in favour of this motion. In debating this matter the following points were made:

- If the Council had started a Neighbourhood Plan process in 2012 it would have run up against the Vale Local Plan 2031 and this Council would now be in a position where it would probably have needed to have rapidly amended its Neighbourhood Plan. It should be remembered that Abingdon comprises one third of the Vale. It should also be noted that the land north of the Dunmore Road is outside the parish boundary but the proposed houses would generate £9.6 million of Community Infrastructure Levy of which £2.4 million, ie 25% could accrue to the parish council. There would have been no benefit had the Council started the process earlier.

In being put to the vote the motion was approved by 8 votes in favour with 10 abstentions and therefore it was **resolved**:

*“Council notes that the current Mayor, Cllr Helen Pighills. tabled a motion at the Council meeting of 28th November 2012 asking that ‘This Council resolves to begin the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Abingdon-on-Thames and that this process should be undertaken as soon as possible’.*

*“Council therefore welcomes the fact that its Planning and Finance and General Purposes Committees have both recently agreed that a Neighbourhood Planning area should be established as a first step to the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Abingdon.”*

C49 HM The Queen 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

It was noted that this item had been placed on the agenda to discuss plans of HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It was understood that national celebrations will take place over the weekend of the official birthday, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

It was noted that the Council had already discussed organising a Bun Throwing ceremony over this weekend. A proposal was also being discussed for a street party. In taking matters forward the Council would need to set a budget and also look at other sources of funding.

It was noted that the Council's terms of reference state that the Community Services Committee has the responsibility:

*“To manage and organise the Council's civic events programme with the proviso that any material changes or new dates being added in will be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Council for decision, this including any proposals for a Bun-Throwing Ceremony.”*

Consequently, the Council's view was requested regarding this matter before detail would then be discussed through the Committee.

It was proposed by the Mayor, Cllr Helen Pighills, and seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Alice Badcock that:

*“In order to progress matters (in relation to celebrations by the Town of HM the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday), the Council delegates authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Community Services Committee, to consider plans for the celebrations, this to include authority to apply for any available grants funds etc, and to report back to the Community Services Committee at its meeting in November 2015.*

*“The Community Services Committee is then requested to consider proposals and any necessary budget bid for submission to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Council.”*

In debating this matter the following points were made:

- The street party was enjoyed by many people during the 2012 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. However the residents of Ock Street and the surrounding roads are beleaguered through the year by road closures and therefore it was requested that, before all plans are laid down, consideration should be given to having a street party in another town centre area. There may be scope for reducing costs by doing this and having the party in another area may enhance the atmosphere of the party.
- Suggested alternative locations included the Market Place and the Abbey Gardens.

- It was understood that the Vale of White Horse District Council was considering making a budget of £25,000 available to parishes in relation to the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations of which up to £10,000 could potentially be available to Abingdon-on-Thames.
- If the Market Place and eastern part of the High Street were to be used then the road closures which are instituted in relation to the Runaway Fair could be considered. In addition, consideration could be given to utilising the Abbey Shopping Centre.

On being put to the vote, it was then **resolved** (unanimously) that:

*"In order to progress matters (in relation to celebrations by the Town of HM the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday), the Council delegates authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Community Services Committee, to consider plans for the celebrations, this to include authority to apply for any available grants funds etc, and to report back to the Community Services Committee at its meeting in November 2015.*

*"The Community Services Committee is then requested to consider proposals and any necessary budget bid for submission to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Council."*

C50 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)

C51 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames

The Committee received and considered the draft confidential appendix to the minutes of the Council of Abingdon-on-Thames held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

**Resolved** to adopt the draft confidential appendix to the minutes of the Town Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and that they be signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

C52 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Guildhall Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Dennis Garrett and seconded by Cllr Michael Badcock that the Committee receive and consider the draft confidential appendix to the Minutes of the Guildhall Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015.

**Resolved** that the draft confidential appendix to the minutes of the Guildhall Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2015, be approved.

C53 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Alice Badcock and seconded by Cllr Jan Morter that the Committee receive and consider the draft confidential appendix to the Minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015.

**Resolved** that the confidential appendix to the minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015, be approved.

C54 Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Sandy Lovatt and seconded by Cllr Michael Badcock that the Committee receive and consider the confidential appendix to the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and the draft confidential appendix to the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

**Resolved** that the confidential appendix to the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and the draft confidential appendix to the minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015, be approved.

The meeting rose at 9.30pm.

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Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames