



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Guild of Town Criers

AGM

Bear Room, Guildhall

10 April 2025

Present:

Lesley Legge	Master
Patrick Bird	Secretary
Penny Clover	
Laury Conn	
John Crowley	
Hilary Green	
Tony Legge	
Cllr Gabby Barody	Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames

In attendance:

Andy Crick	Democratic Services Officer, clerk to the meeting
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1 **To welcome the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames**

The Master welcomed the Mayor and invited her to chair the meeting.

2 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Duncan Blagrove, Jim Humphreys.

3 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 7 November 2024 were received.

Matters arising

- The Robing room heater is now on and the room is much better for storage. The room needs cleaning and officers are going to look into this. Robes have been stored in bags and it was agreed that it would be better to store them out of bags to allow them to air.
- The 25th anniversary of the Guild should be marked and the Mayor was asked if she would be willing to organise a small celebration.
- Patrick Bird gave a report to the annual parish meeting on 26 March 2025 which was very well received.
- Regalia hats: Tony Legge was still looking into this and would report back to a future meeting. Ede and Ravenscroft was suggested as a possible source. A community grant request would be considered as the hats are very expensive.
- T-shirts: Jon Crowley has obtained a quote for new Guild t-shirts @ £12.50 per shirt. He would obtain a written quote and this would be included in the community grant request.

4 Election of Master

It was **proposed** by Patrick Bird, **seconded** by Jon Crowley and **RESOLVED** that Lesley Legge be elected as Master of the Guild of Town Criers for the two-year period to the spring meeting of 2027.

5 Election of Rota Secretary

It was **proposed** by the Master, Lesley Legge, **seconded** by Patrick Bird and **RESOLVED** that Hilary Green be elected as Rota Secretary of the Guild of Town Criers for the two-year period to the spring meeting of 2027.

HG noted that she would be away for June and most of July and PB offered to cover for this period.

The Master proposed a note of thanks to PB for his work as secretary.

6 Schedule of events

The schedule of events was reviewed and updated and the secretary would send round a new version after the meeting. PB noted that the number of events remains lower than pre-lockdown. The Guild is not always involved in events with the Mayor and that link needs to be refreshed.

Town criers were recommended to foster relationships with local groups to ensure that their services are regularly used. The Mayor recommended that the Guild contacts the Mayor's secretary to encourage invitations to events. A meeting would be scheduled between the Mayor's secretary, the outgoing Mayor and her deputy and the Guild secretary.

A request has been received for a cry in Kennington. It was noted that anyone undertaking a cry outside of Abingdon was recommended to encourage a donation to the Mayor's charities.

The Mayor said that it was always wonderful to have the Town Criers for all her events and she thanked the Town Criers for their attendance through the year.

7 **VE and VJ Day commemorations**

Penny Clover provided an update on plans to mark both days and attendees at specific events were agreed.

8 **Uniforms**

This item was covered under the minutes, above.

9 **AOB**

Possible new criers have expressed an interest and PB and LC have followed this up. Details will be shared with the outgoing Secretary (PB) to follow up.

PC noted that the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers are looking for the most unique location for a town cry on VE Day. The Abingdon Guild will share details of the cry on the day and the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers would certify the Abingdon Guild for its VE Day cry.

10 **Date of next meetings**

- Monday 10 November 2025
- Wednesday 20 May 2026

The meeting closed at 8.24pm