



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Guild of Town Criers

Bear Room, Guildhall

10 November 2025

Draft minutes

Present:

Lesley Legge	Master
Hilary Green	Secretary
Laury Conn	
John Crowley	
Jim Humphries	
Tony Legge	
Richard Matthews	
The Mayor, Cllr Rawda Jehanli	

In attendance:

Andy Crick	Democratic Services Officer, clerk to the meeting
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1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Patrick Bird, Duncan Blagrove, Terry Boswell and Penny Clover.

The Master welcomed the secretary, Hilary Green, back to the meeting.

2 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 10 April 2025 were received.

Matters arising

- The Robing Room heater is on and the environment where the robes are stored is now much better.
- Replacement hats remain outstanding.

3 **Schedule of events**

The schedule of events was reviewed. The number of events continues to increase from the lockdown period in 2020-21.

Past cries were reviewed:

- Jim Humphries has been a town crier for 25 years and is not actively crying at present. He is happy to do static cries if needed.
- John Crowley mentioned the VE Day cries and a cry for the grandson of Helen Pighills at Roysse Court, which he greatly enjoyed.
- Laury Conn did the boundary walk which is always an enjoyable event.
- Richard Matthews mentioned two cries: the VJ Day cry in the Market Place was very busy. There was less interest from passers-by in the cry for the craft fair.

The Mayor arrived at 7.20pm and was welcomed by the Master. The Master noted that the Guild would celebrate its 25th anniversary this year and asked if the Mayor would help to mark that at the AGM in 2026. Dates would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

The Guild asked for an article in the Spring Town Crier magazine to mark the 25th anniversary. AC to message the editor of the magazine.

Action: AC

Schedule of events

- 22.11.25 – Local Excellence Market – John C.
- Extravaganza, 29.11.25 – John C doing AM procession. John C was asked to add an advert for the Xmas craft fair the following week.
- Mayor's Over 75s Xmas party, 4.12.25, 2-4pm – Jim H. Pre-event cry recommended for Saturday 15 November 2025, 11am – John C.
- 6.12.25, 11am, Xmas Craft Market – Jim H.
- Carols on the Market Place, Saturday 13 December 2025, 10am - Crier TBC.
- Abingdon ABC Xmas carol concert, 4.15pm, 20.12.25 – Crier TBC
- New Year's Day Boundary Walk – John C to do, Laury C as first substitute
- Mayor's quiz, 23.12.25 – Mayor asked for a cry the week before to help sell tickets.

The Mayor noted that an event was being planned for 2026 with Kensington and Chelsea Council, with whom Abingdon has long-standing ties. Cricket match to be held in Chelsea organised by Abingdon Cricket Club.

4 **Uniforms**

T-shirts: John Crowley has obtained a quote for new t-shirts at a cost of £12.50 each. It was agreed to order six in large. AC to ask the Town Clerk if the t-shirts could be funded by the town council.

Action: AC

Jabots: three new ones were sourced by the Master and distributed at the meeting. The cost would be met by the town council.

Hats: Tony Legge is looking into this.

Action: TL

Cleaning of uniforms to be planned for the winter. Secretary to organise for February.

Action: Secretary

The Mayor left the meeting at 8.13pm and was thanked for attending.

5 **Process of a cry**

The process of cries was discussed and ideas shared, led by Tony Legge.

The meeting discussed getting a 'baldrick', a belt holder for the bell. All members to look into this.

Action: ALL

An archive of photos provided by Tony Legge was added to the town council server and members were asked to send any photos from the date of Tony Legge's ones to AC to archive.

Action: ALL

6 **Date of next meetings**

- Wednesday 20 May 2026

An additional meeting was considered to give the members the opportunity to meet the new Mayor.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

After the end of the meeting, it was agreed that future meetings would be held in ground floor rooms.