



**ABINGDON-ON-THAMES  
TOWN COUNCIL**

**Council Summons  
& Agenda**

Wednesday 27 January 2021

At 7.00pm

22 January 2021

All Members of the Council

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Town of Abingdon-on-Thames to be held on **Wednesday 27 January 2021 at 7pm** for the transaction of the business stated below.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and in order to comply with Government regulations the Town Council will hold this meeting online and not in person, in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations").

The meeting ID will be forwarded to Members separately. Any members of the public who wish to attend should e-mail [democratic@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@abingdon.gov.uk) and you will be sent the relevant link.

The meeting will be conducted in the same way, as far as possible, as a meeting in person. Members of the public may view the meeting online and may, with notice, make representations, ask questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business at agenda item 2.

At each open agenda item there are links to the relevant documents which open the document from the Council's website. Should you require a separate pdf version of individual documents please e-mail [democratic@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@abingdon.gov.uk)

Any queries on the agenda should also be directed to [democratic@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@abingdon.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

*Nigel Warner*

Nigel Warner

Town Clerk/ signed electronically

### **Abingdon Town Council - Our Vision**

To develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. In developing this community the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.

#### **Our key objectives**

1 To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency.

2 To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future.

3 To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.

4 To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity.

SECTION I (Open to the Public Including the Press)

A G E N D A

1 **Prayers**

The Rector, Rev Dr Charles Miller, will open the meeting with prayers.

2 **Public Participation**

It is Council policy that the Council sets aside a total of 15 minutes prior to the commencement of full Council Meetings for residents of Abingdon-on-Thames or owners/managers of businesses in Abingdon-on-Thames to ask questions of the Mayor or Chairs of the Standing Committees or to express views by way of making a statement.

In order to ask questions or make a statement written notice of questions or statements, served by way of letter or e-mail ([democratic@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@abingdon.gov.uk)), must be given to the Town Clerk by 7.00 pm on Monday 25 January 2021.

3 **Apologies**

To receive apologies for absence.

4 **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations interest from Members in relation to any items to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the Local Code of Conduct

5 **Minutes**

To adopt and sign as a correct record the [draft minutes](#) meeting of the Council held on 16 December 2020 and to consider any matters arising.

6 **Mayor's Announcements**

To receive the [Mayor's announcements](#).

7 **Oxfordshire County Council**

To receive and consider a [report from Cllr Emily Smith](#) (County Councillor, Abingdon North) in relation to the above.

8 **Vale of White Horse District Council**

To receive and consider a [report from Cllr Helen Pighills](#) (District Councillor, Abingdon Abbey Northcourt) in relation to the above.

9 **Questions under Standing Order 10**

**Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr Charlie Birks, Mayor of Abingdon**

**Seconded by Cllr Andy Foulsham, Chair of Covid Response Working Group**

The Council notes that during this pandemic organisations and residents in the town have worked together effectively to help many people.

One of the Council's four key objectives is "to work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity."

A major problem in relation to social inclusivity during lockdown is that at a time when most school children have to work from home there are many who have no or very limited access to a suitable device. This is a massive barrier to their learning at home and further disadvantages already disadvantaged students.

Government funding to provide devices has been limited and so the council is delighted that, through the schools, our local charity Christ's Hospital of Abingdon have agreed to fund laptops and Chromebooks for any children who require them. This is a major financial commitment for the charity but one which will enable the schools in Abingdon to support more children and enable them to access the wide range of on-line and remote learning. It is noted that Christ's Hospital have been a major charitable benefactor for many people in need since 1553; through the years they have supported the town and worked in partnership with the Council and in recognition of this they hold the highest honour the town can bestow, the Freedom of Abingdon.

This Council has been pleased to work closely with Christ's Hospital and the schools in the town on this project.

This motion:

1. Thanks Christ's Hospital of Abingdon for their generosity in funding devices which will enable children to work from home;
2. Asks the Town Clerk to write to Christ's Hospital to formally thank them on behalf of the town.

## **Reports (minutes) of Council Committees, for adoption**

### 10 **Traffic Advisory Committee**

To receive and consider the [draft minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee](#) meeting held on 26 November 2020.

### 11 **Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee**

To receive and consider the draft minutes of the Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee meetings held on [21 December 2020](#) and [11 January 2021](#).

### 12 **Community Services Committee**

To receive and consider the draft minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on [12 January 2021](#).

### 13 **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

To receive and consider the draft minutes of the meeting held on [13 January 2021](#).

Minute F124

## **Estimates**

### **It was recommended to Full Council that:**

- i. A net revenue expenditure budget be set at £1,791,379
- ii. The net revenue expenditure budget include £85,000 to cover potential COVID-19 costs
- iii. The net revenue expenditure budget include the three proposed budget bids (£30,000 Youth Strategy, £5,000 Platinum Jubilee project, £20,000 play areas)
- iv. The net revenue budget be funded by way of:
  - (a) A precept, based on a 6% increase in band D council tax be set at £1,737,703 (tax base 12359.2 and band D council tax £140.60)
  - (b) Use of general reserve of £53,676.

## **Fees and charges**

### **It was recommended to Full Council that:**

- i. Monday Market tolls remain as 2020-21 rates
- ii. Farmers' Market tolls remain as 2020-21 rates
- iii. Use of electricity on the Market Place increase from £12.60 to £13.00
- iv. Permission to sell alcohol at a market event where the organiser provides a personal licence holder remain as 2020-21 rates
- v. Permission to sell alcohol at a market event where the organiser does not provide a personal licence holder remain as 2020-21 rates
- vi. Fishing charges remain as 2020-21 rates
- vii. Certifications for Abingdon parishioners remain as 2020-21 rates
- viii. Certifications for those outside the parish remain as 2020-21 rates

## **Allowances**

### **It was recommended to Full Council that:**

- i. Members allowances remain as 20% of the Vale of White Horse District Council basic allowance
- ii. Travel and subsistence rates for members travelling outside of Abingdon remain the same as national rates
- iii. The Mayor's allowance remain unchanged at £3,500

## 14 **Amenities and Recreation Committee**

To receive and consider the draft minutes of the Amenities and Recreation Committee meeting held on [20 January 2021](#).

### Minute A54

Fees and charges – **It was recommended to Full Council that** the schedule of proposed Cemetery fees and charges for 2021/22, as per the appendix to minutes, be approved (no increases from current rates).

## **Reports**

## 15 **Forward Plan, Democratic and Governance Matters**

To receive and consider the [report of the Town Clerk](#) in relation to the above.

## **Exclusion of the Public, Including the Press**

The Mayor will move:

*“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.”*

### 16 **Confidential appendices to the minutes of meetings**

To receive and consider the confidential appendices to the minutes of the following committees and any recommendations contained therein:

- (i) Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting of 13 January 2021
- (ii) Amenities and Recreation Committee meeting of 20 January 2021