



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL
Mayor-Making
and Annual Meeting of the Council
Wednesday 19 May 2021

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Charlie Birks
Cllr Cheryl Briggs
Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Andy Foulsham
Cllr Pat Lonergan
Cllr Lorraine Oates
Cllr Andrew Skinner

In attendance

Nigel Warner	Town Clerk	In person
Victoria Moore	Properties Officer	In person
Cllr Gabby Barody		Virtual
Cllr Grace Clifton		Virtual
Cllr Alex Greenaway		Virtual
Cllr Eric de la Harpe		Virtual
Rita Atkinson	DAMASCUS	Virtual
Andy Crick	Committee Clerk (Clerk to the Meeting)	Virtual
Sally Foulsham	Resident	Virtual
Hester Hand	Resident	Virtual
Nigel Luker	Resident	Virtual
Rev Dr Charles Miller	Rector, St Mary's Church	Virtual
Susan Whipp	Deputy Town Clerk	Virtual
Dion Webster	Resident	Virtual

PRELIMINARY MEETING

A Prayers

Prayers were led by Revd. Dr. Charles Miller, Rector of Abingdon.

B Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Samantha Bowring, Cllr Andrew Coveney, Cllr Neil Fawcett, Cllr Jim Halliday, Cllr Rawda Jehanli, Cllr Rob Maddison, Cllr Helen Pighills and Cllr Ulrike Rowbottom.

All those members not attending in person and those who gave their apologies provided the reason as being as a result of the Town Council's management of meetings risk during the pandemic and the consequent limit on numbers for in-person attendance. It was agreed unanimously for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 (1) that the above reason for absence would be accepted.

C Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

D Mayor's Announcements including Mayor's Awards

The Mayor, Cllr Charlie Birks, noted that he had held the position for two years and had not had the opportunity to present Mayor's Awards previously. The following awards were therefore given for the two years:

2020

For their work on the Abingdon Community Response group during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Julie Kemp-Harper, Debbie Elwood and Sarah Anthony.

For his inspirational work on the Abimeds Group during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Clive Elsmore

2021

In recognition of the contribution Abingdon Lions make to the Town and his outstanding care he gave to the Town as a GP for 35 years: Dr Frank Debney.

In recognition of the Abingdon Community Fridge and her support of the citizens of Abingdon: Jennifer Philipart.

In recognition of dedication to her Abingdon law enforcement duty and the courteous way she has carried it out for many years: PCSO Ali Blood.

Cadets

The Mayor noted that it had not been possible to have the same connection with the Cadets as last year and it was hoped that this would be redressed as soon as possible.

Charities

It is customary to present cheques to the Mayor's nominated charities at the Annual Meeting but this has not been possible. The Abingdon Bridge and Shift remain as recipients and for 2020-21 the Mayor included SeeSaw, which supports bereaved children.

FORMAL ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 the first business of the Annual Meeting is the election of the Mayor.

C1 Election of Mayor

It was proposed by Cllr Pat Lonergan, seconded by Cllr Andy Foulsham, that Cllr Cheryl Briggs be elected as Mayor for the Civic Year 2021-22. There were no other nominations and the election of Cllr Briggs was agreed unanimously.

The incoming Mayor then made and signed the Statutory Declaration of Office.

The Mayor named her escorts for the year:

Halima Brewer
Dion Webster-King
Lewis Webster-King
Dominique Henderson-Guillo
Chris Henderson
Julian Mole

C2 Election of Deputy Mayor

It was proposed by Cllr Lorraine Oates, seconded by Cllr Andrew Skinner that Cllr Andy Foulsham be elected as Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2021-22. There were no other nominations and the election of Cllr Foulsham was agreed unanimously.

The incoming Deputy Mayor then made and signed the Statutory Declaration of Office.

C3 Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor

A vote of thanks was proposed by the Mayor for the outgoing Mayor, seconded by Cllr Lonergan and agreed. A statement was published on the Council's website and the retiring Mayor received a Past Mayor's badge.

C4 By-election Fitzharris Ock Ward; and Membership of Council Committees, Sub-Committees and other groups

The Council received and considered the report of Town Clerk on the by-election for the Fitzharris Ock Ward and the election of Cllr Rawda Jehanli, who was welcomed to the Town Council.

The membership of the Town Council committees was proposed by Cllr Lonergan, seconded by Cllr Birks and agreed.

C5 Representation on outside bodies

The Council received and considered the report of Town Clerk in relation to Town Council representation on outside bodies. The appointments were proposed by Cllr Birks, seconded by Cllr Lonergan and resolved.

C6 Announcements by the Mayor

Mayor's Chaplain for 2021/22

The Mayor proposed to invite representatives of various faiths to attend and speak at Town Council meetings and details would be announced in due course.

Mayor's Cadets

Details of the Mayor's Cadets would be announced in due course.

Mayor's Charities for 2021/22

The Mayor announced that her charities would be Yellow Submarine and Abingdon DAMASCUS.

C7 Closing Prayers

The Mayor thanked councillors for attending in person and virtually.

The meeting rose at 7.38pm