



## Abingdon-on-Thames Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town (Parish) Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7pm.**

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 joining instructions for the meeting are: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

The Council uses the Microsoft Teams platform.

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).

This is a public meeting of the Local Government electors of Abingdon who are invited to attend and take part in discussions.

This is an annual statutory meeting of the town's electors and is not a Council meeting although the Council does take the opportunity for its Committee Chairs to make a report to the meeting on the work being undertaken by the Council's Committees.

## **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.

## **AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Note: Due to the nature of this online meeting, all questions and comments will be taken at agenda item 9.**

### **1 General Introduction**

The Mayor, Councillor Charlie Birks, will chair the meeting.

### **2 Abingdon Video**

To launch a video showcasing the work of the Town Council in the community over the last year. This video will then be made available on the website [www.abingdon.gov.uk](http://www.abingdon.gov.uk) following the meeting.

### **3 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

To agree the [minutes](#) of the Annual Town Meeting that took place on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

To receive an [update](#) on matters raised at last meeting.

#### 4 **Reports by Town Council Committee Chairs**

To receive reports from Chairs of Town Council Committees.

- [Amenities and Recreation Committee](#) – Cllr Jim Halliday;
- [Community Services Committee](#) – Cllr Neil Fawcett;
- [County Hall Museum Management Committee](#) – Cllr Patrick Lonergan;
- [Green Advisory & Scrutiny Committee](#) - Cllr Gabby Barody;
- [Guildhall Committee](#) – Cllr Margaret Crick;
- [Planning, Highways and Consultations Committee](#) – Cllr Lorraine Oates;
- [Finance and General Purposes Committee](#) – Cllr Samantha Bowring.

#### 5 **Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan**

The Neighbourhood Plan was launched at the Annual Town Meeting in March 2020. Despite the difficult circumstances of 2020/21 work on the Plan is proceeding well and is led by a Steering Group chaired by Simon Hills. Mr Hills will give an update on the Plan and how you may get involved.

#### 6 **Platinum Jubilee 2022**

2022 will mark the Platinum Jubilee (70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) of HM The Queen's Accession to the throne.

The Council will outline some of the proposals for celebrating this event and its proposals for a permanent commemoration.

#### 7 **Presentations by Community Groups**

The Council gives a number of grants each year and there will be short presentations to the meeting from a number of organisations which receive larger grants from the Council to include:

- Abingdon Carousel;
- Be Free Young Carers;
- The Abingdon Bridge;
- South and Vale Citizens' Advice
- Christs Hospital
- Abbey Buildings Project

## 8 Youth Services and Youth Council

During the last year the Council has been working with its partners on the future of youth services in Abingdon. In the past these have been the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council and in her budget speech to the Council in January 2021 the Leader, Cllr Samantha Bowring called upon the County Council “to reinstate adequate funding for youth services but in the meantime, I am proposing a new budget line of £30,000 for supporting young people.” She went on to state: “We plan to work with community partners with Abingdon Bridge and Damascus taking a lead to develop ways of supporting young people in this town.”

Part of this work would be the establishment of a Youth Council for Abingdon.

Roxy Elford of the DAMASCUS project and Gary Hibbins and Holly Freeland of The Abingdon Bridge will make a presentation to the meeting regarding the way forward.

## 9 To discuss Town affairs

At this point the meeting may discuss Town affairs and members of the public are invited to ask questions of their elected councillors.

- (i) Questions ahead of the meeting. This is the first time that we have held a virtual Annual Town Meeting and in order to assist the efficient administration of the meeting we are requesting that members of the public e-mail their questions in via [democratic@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@abingdon.gov.uk)

This will also have the benefit that we are able to prepare a fuller answer than we would be able to if we did not receive notice.

In e-mailing your question, [please use the attached form.](#)

- (ii) Questions at the meeting. You may have questions arising from earlier discussions at this meeting. These may be submitted either in writing via the “Chat facility” or if you wish to speak, by raising your hand.

### **Note:**

Members of the public are reminded that the limitation upon discussions at this agenda item. All items raised must relate to public matters in the town. There can be no discussion of private matters (such as litigation between persons in their private capacity) or of matters so general that they would affect the town no more than any other parish.

By law the Mayor, as Chair of this meeting, determines whether a matter may be discussed and their decision is final.

*Charlie Birks*

**Councillor Charlie Birks  
Mayor / signed electronically**

**2 March 2021**  
**Rev. 5 March 2021**