



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL
Mayor-Making
and Annual Meeting of the Council
Wednesday 11 May 2022

MINUTES

Present

Cllr Gabby Barody
Cllr Samantha Bowring
Cllr Cheryl Briggs
Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Andy Foulsham
Cllr Alex Greenaway
Cllr Jim Halliday
Cllr Eric de la Harpe
Cllr Rawda Jehanli
Cllr Pat Lonergan
Cllr Lorraine Oates
Cllr Helen Pighills
Cllr Andrew Skinner

In attendance

Nigel Warner
Susan Whipp
Paula Lopez
Andy Crick
Jo Blackmore
Catherine Dix
Jo Blackmore

Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk
Locum committee clerk (clerk to the meeting)
Mace Bearer
Admin Assistant
Admin Assistant
Admin Assistant

Michael Matthews Revd Dr Charles Miller	Freeman of Abingdon Rector, St Helen's Church
Rita Atkinson Caroline Townsend Anne Smart John Killick Nadine Matough	Abingdon DAMASCUS, Mayor's Award winner Abingdon Carbon Cutters, Mayor's Award winners Abingdon Carbon Cutters, Mayor's Award winners Abingdon Carbon Cutters, Mayor's Award winners Abingdon Carbon Cutters, Mayor's Award winners
Alex & Frances Lewis Liz Bauer Xiaowei Duan David Mulholland Michael Turner	Biodiversity Award winner, on behalf of Bothy Vineyard Biodiversity Award winner Biodiversity Award winner Biodiversity Award winner Biodiversity Award winner
Rev Kath Cook Able Cadet Nathan Fairchild Ranger Elise Macey	Mayors Chaplain Mayors Cadet, (Sea Cadets) Mayors Cadet, (Girl Guides)

PRELIMINARY MEETING

A **Prayers**

Prayers were led by Revd. Dr. Charles Miller.

B **Apologies**

Apologies were received from, Cllr Charlie Birks, Cllr Grace Clifton, Cllr Andrew Coveney, Cllr Neil Fawcett, Cllr Robert Maddison, and Cllr Ulrika Rowbottom.

C **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

D **Conferment of the honorary citizenship of Lucca**

Mr Michael Matthews, Freeman of Abingdon (1998) and past Mayor was, in February, awarded the honorary citizenship of Lucca, Italy, of Abingdon's twin towns.

The Mayor, Cllr Cheryl Briggs presented Mr Matthews with a certificate on behalf of Lucca City Council 'as a token of recognition for the passionate work that Mr Matthews has done over the years for the mutual understanding of our communities'.

E Mayor's Announcements including Mayor's Awards

The Mayor, Cllr Cheryl Briggs, announced the following awards:

- (i) Biodiversity Awards. In 2021 the Town Council instituted its Biodiversity competition. This competition invited individuals and organisations to let the Town Council know how they were actively promoting biodiversity. The following awards were presented:

Personal Garden

3rd Placed entry: Michael Turner – Michael was unable to attend

2nd Placed entry: Xiaowei Duan

Winner: Liz Bauer.

Shared Green Space

3rd Placed entry: Sian Liwicki – Sian was unable to attend and so the award was presented to Alex and Frances Lewis on her behalf.

Winner: David Mulholland.

- (ii) The Mayor's Awards for services to the community.

Each year since 1996 the Mayor has presented awards to those who have given outstanding service to the community of Abingdon-on-Thames. The Mayor, Cllr Cheryl Briggs, presented this year's awards as follows:

Rita Atkinson – for the invaluable role played by her within the community through Abingdon DAMASCUS and the Abingdon Integrated Youth Project.

Abingdon Carbon Cutters – for the invaluable role it plays within the community, encouraging and inspiring the public to reduce their carbon footprint.

- (iii) The Mayor presented cheques for the funds raised during her year for her nominated charities. The total raised for these charities amounted to £2,545.76.

(a) Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project.

(b) Yellow Submarine.

FORMAL ANNUAL MEETING

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

T1/22 Election of Mayor

It was **proposed** by Cllr Helen Pighills, **seconded** by Cllr Margaret Crick, **that** Cllr Andy Foulsham be elected as Mayor for the Civic Year 2022-23. There were no other nominations, and the election of Cllr Foulsham was agreed unanimously.

The Mayor then:

- (i) Received the mayoral robes and chain of office.
- (ii) Made the Statutory Declaration of Office.
- (iii) Made a short speech and announced his Escort for the year as his spouse Mrs Sally Foulsham.
- (iv) Mrs Foulsham received the Mayor's Escort badge.

T2/22 Election of Deputy Mayor

It was **proposed** by Cllr Cheryl Briggs, **seconded** by Cllr Rawda Jehanli, **that** Cllr Gabby Barody be elected as Deputy Mayor for the Civic Year 2022-23. There were no other nominations, and the election of Cllr Barody was agreed unanimously.

The Deputy Mayor then:

- (i) Received her badge of office.
- (ii) Made the Statutory Declaration of Office.
- (iii) Made a short speech and announced her Escorts for the year as, her spouse Mr Bryan Evans, Ms Sian Lavers, and Ms Veronika Joy.

T3/22 Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor

A vote of thanks was made to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Cheryl Briggs, which was given by Cllr Lorraine Oates.

The retiring Mayor received a Past Mayor's badge from the incoming Mayor.

T4/22 Membership of Council Committees

The membership of the Town Council committees for 2022-2023 was **proposed** by Cllr Samantha Bowring, **seconded** by Cllr Jim Halliday, and **AGREED**.

T5/22 Representation on outside bodies

The Town Council representation on outside bodies for 2022-23, was **proposed** by Cllr Samantha Bowring, **seconded** by Cllr Jim Halliday, and **AGREED**.

T6/22 Announcements by the Mayor

(a) The Mayor's Chaplain for 2022-2023 was announced as the Rev. Kath Cook, the Associate Vicar at Christ Church in the Parish of North Abingdon.

(b) The appointment of Mayor's Cadets for 2022-23.

The following Cadets were appointed and received their badges of office:

- (i) Sea Cadets: Able Cadet Nathan Fairchild.
- (ii) Girl Guides: Ranger Elise Macey.
- (iii) Army Cadet: Corporal Niamh Cowan. Niamh was unable to attend and so will be presented with her badge at a future date.

(c) The Mayor's Charities for 2022-23. The Mayor's charities are:

- (i) The Archway Foundation, who are celebrating their 40th Anniversary this year and serve those in our community who are hurt by loneliness, and,
- (ii) Yellow Submarine who work with teenagers and young adults with autism or learning difficulties, supporting them, and providing pathways into employment, and are soon to open a hub in the Charter here in the centre of town.

T7/22 Closing Prayers

The closing prayer were said by the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev. Kath Cook.

T8/22 The National Anthem

Abingdon Town Band played the National Anthem, those present stood and joined in.

The Mayor thanked councillors and members of the public for attending and invited those present to remain after the ceremony to greet the Mayor and share a drink and a light buffet with the Mayor and councillors.

Members of the public remained standing as the Mayor and Councillors processed out of the meeting.

The meeting rose at 7:55pm.

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