

Nigel E. Warner, M.A. (Oxon)
Town Clerk
Telephone: (01235) 522642
Facsimile: (01235) 533112
Email: enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk
Website: www.abingdon.gov.uk

Royse Court,
Bridge Street,
Abingdon-on-Thames
OX14 3HU



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Special meeting

Thursday 25 August 2022

Draft Minutes

Present in person:

Cllr Andy Foulsham Mayor
Cllr Charlie Birks
Cllr Samantha Bowring Leader
Cllr Cheryl Briggs
Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Jim Halliday
Cllr Rawda Jehanli
Cllr Pat Lonergan
Cllr Lorraine Oates

In attendance in person:

Nigel Warner Town Clerk
Paula Lopez Locum Deputy Town Clerk
Vicky Moore Properties Officer
Andy Crick Community Services and Events Officer
Andrew Crease Consultant
There were 5 members of the public present.

In attendance online:

Cllr Gabby Barody Deputy Mayor
Cllr Grace Clifton
Cllr Neil Fawcett
Cllr Alex Greenaway
Cllr Helen Pighills
Cllr Ulrike Rowbottom

Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council, Thursday 26 August 2022
DRAFT MINUTES

Before the start of the business of the meeting the Mayor explained to the members of the public who were present that it was the intention that the lease with the Abbey Cinema would be heard in a confidential session and that this was usual when discussing items of a commercial nature. He reassured those present that the Council was working with the cinema to try to resolve the issue with the lease and invited those present to speak if they wished.

Cllr Jehanli also addressed the meeting stating that, as elected representatives, councillors had a responsibility to look after the assets of the town and community and consider the best use of its assets.

Cllr Halliday spoke next thanking the members of the public present for attending and all those who had contacted the Council on the cinema. He stated that it was a difficult balance looking after the assets and obtaining value for money.

T50/22. Public Participation

5 members of the public spoke in support of the Abbey Cinema.

In reply,

Cllr Birks, everyone agrees, it had been hard work for councillors and officers to bring the cinema to the town and welcomed the cooperation from the cinema to ensure proper management in the future.

Cllr Lonergan replied that there should be a strict code of conduct for the operation of the cinema.

Cllr Bowring stated that the Council were really committed to the negotiations to resolve this and that negotiations had started 3 years ago as it has been known for some time that the lease comes to an end in November, the assets of the town needed to be looked after properly and reiterated that the Council were 100% committed to finding a solution and want to negotiate in good faith.

T51/22. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Coveney, Cllr Skinner and Cllr de la Harpe. Cllr Maddison were not present.

Here Cllr Pighills joined online.

T52/22. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

T53/22. **Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting of 3 August 2022 be deferred to the next full meeting of Council.

T54/22. **Exclusion of the Public, Including the Press**

The Mayor moved 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.

A vote took place and it was **RESOLVED** that the public, including the press, now be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

SECTION II (Confidential Agenda)

T55/22. **Confidential appendix to the meeting of the 3 August 2022**

The confidential appendix to the minutes of the meeting of Full Council on 3 August 2022 were **APPROVED**.

T56/22. **Property matters**

Members considered the confidential report and confidential documents from the Properties Officer which was discussed at great length and a way forward was **APPROVED**.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.