



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

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ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Wednesday 25 January 2023

DRAFT MINUTES

Present in person

Cllr Andy Foulsham	Mayor (Chair)
Cllr Gabby Barody	
Cllr Samantha Bowring	Leader
Cllr Grace Clifton	
Cllr Margaret Crick	
Cllr Neil Fawcett	
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

Revd. Kath Cooke	Chaplain to the Mayor
Andy Crick	Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Paula Lopez	Locum Deputy Town Clerk
Nigel Luker	Mace bearer

In attendance online

Cherie Carruthers	Responsible Finance Officer
Cllr Nathan Ley	Oxfordshire County Council

There was one member of the public present

T90/22. **Prayers**

The meeting began with prayers led by Revd. Kath Cooke.

T91/22. **Public participation**

There was no public participation.

T92/22. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cheryl Briggs, Cllr Andrew Coveney, Cllr Alex Greenaway and Cllr Ulrike Rowbottom.

T93/22. **Declarations of interest**

Cllrs Halliday and de la Harpe are trustees of the Albert Memorial (Abingdon) Trust, which receives a grant from the town council.

Cllr Bowring is a trustee of Abingdon Carousel and Abingdon Baptist Church, which receive grant funding from the town council.

Cllr Crick is a trustee of Christ's Hospital, which receives grant funding from the town council.

Cllrs Bowring, Crick, Fawcett, Foulsham, de la Harpe, Pighills are district councillors and thus responsible for agreeing the final precept for council tax.

T94/22. **Minutes**

The town council received the draft minutes of the town council meeting held on 8 December 2022. Cllr Halliday noted that the reference at minute T68/22, paragraph 2 to Mr Hemmings was incorrect and should have referred to 'Mr Hemmings' Traditional Morris Dancers'.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Lonergan, **seconded** by Cllr Barody and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022, subject to the amendment of minute T68/22 which should refer to 'Mr Hemmings' Traditional Morris Dancers', be signed by the Chair as a correct record of the meeting.

T95/22. **Mayor's announcements**

The town council received the list of the Mayor's Engagements. The Mayor thanked Dalton Barracks for their hospitality in hosting him for the disbandment parade of the 3rd Regiment, Royal Logistics Corps. He also thanks St Michael and All Angels Church for inviting him to read a lesson at the carol service in December.

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The Mayor noted the resignation from the town council of Cllr Charlie Birks, which he had received that day. The vacancy would be considered at the meeting on 22 March 2023.

The Mayor noted the recent death of Peter Spooner, who had been Mayor of Abingdon from 1987 to 1988. The town council flag had been raised at half-mast on the County Hall from Tuesday 24 January 2023. The meeting observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr Spooner.

T96/22. Oxfordshire County Council

The town council received and considered a report on the work of the County Council from Abingdon North Councillor Nathan Ley. Cllr Ley provided further updates at the meeting.

20mph scheme

The 20mph scheme proposed for Abingdon has been considered by the county council and the decision has been delegated to officers, who have recommended that the proposal is agreed, with Drayton Road, Wootton Road, Ock Street and Oxford Road excluded due to concerns raised by bus companies. A decision is expected on 23 February 2023.

Local Cycling, Walking and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

A consultation is being held on the LCWIP and decision is due on 23 February 2023.

ALDI, Wootton Road

A toucan crossing was planned and should have been installed before the new supermarket opened. A decision on this is expected on 23 February 2023. The junction to enter the supermarket car park has not been built to the agreed specification, which would give greater priority to pedestrians and cyclists. This is being amended by officers.

County council budget

The 2023-4 budget is expected to include a small amount of additional funding due to greater council tax receipts from the increased number of dwellings in the county and an increase in central government funding for adult social care, which requires the county council to increase its precept for adult social care as well. The budget is expected to increase by 4.99%, which will enable some additional spending on services.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Ley for attending the meeting. Cllr Ley left the meeting at 7.26pm.

T97/22. **Vale of White Horse District Council**

Cllr Fawcett provided an update on behalf of the district council.

Budget

The Vale of White Horse District Council is proposing a five year medium term financial plan to deliver a balanced budget. The planned increase in the district council's share of council tax for a band D dwelling is £5 a year.

The district council has been able to find savings without impacting on frontline services, including bringing some outsourced services back in house.

Energy saving grants

The district council will receive £6m towards an £8.2m project to decarbonise heating systems at the White Horse Leisure Centre in Abingdon and Wantage Leisure Centre. This will help to reduce energy bills considerably and cut 25% from the district council's carbon footprint.

Outdoor pool

Cllr Halliday asked about options for reducing costs at the outdoor pool, such as a cover for the pool and the installation of a heat pump. Cllr Pighills replied that a cover had been purchased and other energy saving options had been included in the budget.

T98/22. **Community Committee**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Fawcett, **seconded** by Cllr Lonergan and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 6 December 2022 were **RECEIVED**.

Cllr Pighills asked about 'warm spaces' to clarify if any grants had been given out. Churches in Abingdon have established a rota system to ensure that a warm space is available each day of the week.

T99/22. **Environment and Amenities Committee**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Barody, **seconded** by Cllr Halliday and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee meeting held on 10 January 2022 were **RECEIVED**.

Cllr Barody noted that John Killick was retiring from his activities due to health reasons and she thanked him for his help and support for town council projects.

T100/22. **Town Infrastructure Committee**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Skinner, **seconded** by Cllr de la Harpe and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Town Infrastructure Committee meetings held on 12 January 2023 were **RECEIVED**.

Cllr Skinner noted that Cllr Clifton had stepped down as the town council's representative on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Cllr Bowring proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Clifton for her work on this project. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Foulsham and agreed.

Recommendation from the Town Infrastructure Committee

IF44/22. **Neighbourhood Plan**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Skinner, **seconded** by Cllr de la Harpe and **AGREED** that Cllr Lonergan would act as lead councillor on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Cllr Halliday volunteered to act as substitute for Cllr Lonergan should this be needed.

T101/22. **Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bowring, **seconded** by Cllr Halliday and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee meetings held on 17 January 2023 were **RECEIVED**.

Recommendations from the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee

- (i) **Fees and Charges as recommended by the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee.**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bowring, **seconded** by Cllr Halliday, that the fees and charges for 2023-4 as set out in appendix A of the report from the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) be **APPROVED**.

Cllr Halliday **proposed** an **amendment** that the new fees and charges be introduced with immediate effect from Thursday 26 January 2023. This was **seconded** by Cllr Lonergan and **AGREED**.

The amended proposal was **APPROVED**.

- (ii) To approve and adopt the 2023-34 budget as recommended by the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bowring, **seconded** by Cllr Fawcett and agreed that the proposed budget of £2,136,960 for 2023-34, as recommended by the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee and set out in appendix B of the report from the RFO, be **APPROVED**.

- (iii) To set the precept for 2023-24 fiscal year as recommended by the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Bowring, **seconded** by Cllr Fawcett and agreed by 6 votes to 5, with one abstention, that the precept for the 2023-24 fiscal year of £1,823,515 be **APPROVED**.

T102/22. Honorary archivist's report

The town council received and considered a report on the work of the Honorary Archivist in 2021-22. The town council welcomed the report and noted how fortunate Abingdon is to have an archivist. On behalf of the town council, the Mayor thanked Jackie Smith for her work.

T103/22. Future Agenda items

No items were proposed.

T104/22. Dates of future meetings

The dates of future meetings were noted:

- 22 March 2023
- 15 May 2023
- 28 June 2023

T105/22. Exclusion of the Public, including the Press

The Mayor **proposed**, Cllr Crick **seconded** and it was **AGREED** 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.

SECTION II (Confidential Agenda)

T106/22. Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee

E143/22. Property matters

The town council considered the confidential recommendation from the meeting held on 17 January 2023 with regard to a recommendation from the Environment and Amenities Committee over a request from a resident to purchase a small piece of land which is owned by the town council.

Cllr Halliday **proposed**, Cllr Lonergan **seconded** and it was **RESOLVED** that the town council introduce an overage clause into any agreement which would guarantee the town council a share of any additional benefit arising from other uses of the land after its sale, such as the erection of a new dwelling. The purchaser would also be required to cover any legal costs incurred by the town council.

The motion as amended was **proposed** by Cllr Bowring, **seconded** by Cllr Clifton and **RESOLVED**.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm