



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Council Summons & Agenda

Wednesday 24 May 2023

Old Magistrates Court, 7pm

18 May 2023

To All Members of the Council

Dear Councillors,

You are hereby summoned to attend a **special meeting** of the Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council, to be held on **Wednesday 24 May 2023 at 7pm** for the transaction of the business stated below.

If you are unable to attend in person you may observe the meeting via a Teams link, which will be sent to all Members.

At each open agenda item there are links to the relevant documents which open the document from the [Town Council website](#). Should you require a separate pdf version of individual documents please e-mail democratic@abingdon.gov.uk.

Any queries on the agenda should also be directed to democratic@abingdon.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

Gwyneth Lewis

Cllr Gwyneth Lewis
Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames

signed electronically

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

1. Public Participation

It is Council policy that the Council sets aside a total of 15 minutes prior to the commencement of full Council Meetings for residents of Abingdon-on-Thames or owners/managers of businesses in Abingdon-on-Thames to ask questions of the Mayor or Chairs of the Standing Committees or to express views by way of making a statement in respect of any item of business included in this agenda.

In order to ask questions or make a statement written notice of questions or statements, served by way of letter or e-mail (democratic@abingdon.gov.uk), must be given to the Town Clerk by 1700hrs on Monday 22 May 2023.

2. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest from Members in relation to any items to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the Local Code of Conduct.

4. **Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor, Cllr Lewis to update councillors with regards to the training available for new and existing councillors.

5. **Hybrid Meetings 2023-2024**

The Mayor to open a discussion regarding hybrid meetings going forward with a view to making virtual attendance by councillors available in exceptional circumstances only. Members to consider and approve if appropriate.

6. **Planning Panel**

To confirm the number of members on this panel and to note those members elected at the annual meeting of the town council.

The planning panel is established in the town council's standing orders and scheme of delegation under the Town Infrastructure Committee as follows (para (iii)(2)):

'The Council is consulted by the district council in relation to all planning applications registered in Abingdon. In order to exercise this power in an efficient, effective and focused manner the Council will appoint a panel of three members* which will meet every three weeks to consider planning applications. The panel will have authority to consider and comment on any plans which have been registered on the District Council's website and which any member of the council has requested the panel to consider by way of a "call-in" mechanism. Authority is delegated to the Town Clerk to offer no objection to any application which has not been called-in by members. The Committee will agree a detailed scheme to regulate this procedure which will include deadlines ahead of meetings for the call-in mechanism to be exercised.'

*The size of the planning panel was increased to five by the town council at its meeting on 30 March 2022 (minute C101).

The members of the planning panel elected at the annual meeting of the town council on 15 May 2023 were:

Cllr Elio Astone
Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Pat Lonergan
Cllr Leo Midwinter
Cllr Lorraine Oates

The Mayor and the Chair of the Finance, Governance & Asset Management Committee are permitted to attend all meetings ex officio.

7. **Exclusion of the Public, Including the Press**

The Mayor may move:

“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.”

Subject to the approval of the above motion the meeting will then move into confidential session.

SECTION II (Confidential Agenda)

8. **The Abbey Cinema lease**

Members to review and consider the report by the Properties and Events Manager on renewal of the Abbey Cinema lease.