



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor-Making and Annual Meeting of the Council

Monday 15 May 2023

St. Helens Church

Minutes

Present

Cllr Elio Astone
Cllr Gabby Barody
Cllr Cheryl Briggs
Cllr Penny Clover
Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Neil Fawcett
Cllr Oliver Forder
Cllr Tom Greenaway
Cllr Murali Gunarajah
Cllr Jim Halliday
Cllr Gwyneth Lewis
Cllr Pat Lonergan
Cllr Leo Midwinter
Cllr Lorraine Oates
Cllr Colin Sanderson
Cllr David Williams

In attendance

Jo Blackmore
Patrick Bird
Revd Kath Cooke
Lorraine Cotterell
Andy Crick
Felicity Dick

Admin Assistant
Town Crier
Outgoing Mayor's Chaplain
Finance Assistant
Democratic Services Assistant
Deputy Lord Lieutenant

Cat Dix	Admin Assistant
Andy Foulsham	Mayor of Abingdon 2022-23
Nicky Goodway	Admin Assistant
Paula Lopez	Interim Town Clerk
Revd Dr Charles Miller	Rector, St Helen's Church
Jeroen Mulders	Biodiversity Award representative of Rush Common School
Aidan Conroy (Director of Humanities)	Biodiversity Award representative of John Mason School
Lilia Felfel	John Mason School
Belle Walker	John Mason School
Cameron Haines	John Mason School
Katherine Brett	John Mason School
Jasper Mashall-Davila	John Mason School
Seth Meredith	John Mason School
Lucy Schwaebisch	John Mason School
Ranger Elise Macey	Mayor's Cadet - Girl Guides
Cadet Serjeant Niamh Cowan	Mayor's Cadet - Army

50 members of the public attended the meeting

1. PRELIMINARY MEETING

Revd Dr Charles Miller welcomed everyone to St Helen's Church.

A. Prayers

Opening prayers were led by Revd Kath Cooke.

B. Mayor's Announcements including Mayor's Awards

The Mayor, Cllr Andy Foulsham announced the winners of the 2022 Biodiversity competition for schools. Cllr Gabby Barody, who chaired the Environment and Amenities Committee in 2022-3, introduced the awards.

The following awards were presented:

Winner:	Cothill House School – no representative was present.
Second place:	John Mason School. The award was presented to Aidan Conroy, Director of Humanities, accompanied by Lilia Felfel, Belle Walker, Cameron Haines, Katherine Brett, Jasper Mashall-Davila, Seth Meredith and Lucy Schwaebisch

Joint third place: Rush Common and Fitzharrys Schools. The award for Rush Common School was presented to Jeroen Mulders. No representative was present from Fitzharrys School.

The Mayor's Awards for services to the community

The Mayor presented awards to those who have given outstanding service to the community of Abingdon-on-Thames.

Hilary Beale	Coordinating and managing Abingdon Food Bank and services to Girlguiding in Abingdon
John Killick	Support for green projects
Paul Shipman	Services to Scouting in Abingdon
ATOM Festival	Promoting interest and education in science.

(i) Certificates for Mayor's cadets

The Mayor awarded certificates to the outgoing Mayor's cadets:

Sea Cadets:	Able Cadet Nathan Fairchild
Girl Guides:	Ranger Elise Macey
Army Cadet:	Cadet Serjeant Niamh Cowan

Able Cadet Fairchild was not present.

(ii) The Mayor's charities

The Mayor informed the meeting that £4,000 had been raised over the year for the Mayor's Charity Fund. An award of £2,000 each would be made to the Mayor's Charities for 2022-23, the Archway Project and Yellow Submarine.

(iii) Mayor's Chaplain

The Mayor thanked his Chaplain, Revd Kath Cooke and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

The Mayor then thanked his escort, Sally Foulsham and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Finally, the Mayor thanked town council staff and the three Town Clerks who had assisted him – Nigel Warner, Alan Rouse and Paula Lopez.

2. FORMAL ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 the first business of the Annual Meeting is the election of the Mayor and this marks the start of the new Council year.

T1/23 Election of Mayor

It was **proposed** by Cllr Halliday and **seconded** by Cllr Lonergan that Cllr Gwyneth Lewis be elected as Mayor for the civic year 2023-4. There were no other nominations and the election of Cllr Lewis was **AGREED** unanimously.

The Mayor then received the Mayoral robes and chain of office and made and signed the statutory declaration of office.

The Mayor announced two Escorts for the year: Cllr Colin Sanderson and David Lewis. Both were given the Mayor's Escort badge.

T2/23 Election of Deputy Mayor

It was **proposed** by Cllr Oates and **seconded** by Cllr Crick that Cllr Gabby Barody be elected as Deputy-Mayor for the civic year 2023-4. There were no other nominations and the election of Cllr Barody was **AGREED** unanimously.

The Deputy Mayor then received her badge of office and made and signed the statutory declaration of office.

T3/23 Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor

A vote of thanks was made by Cllr Barody to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Andy Foulsham. The retiring Mayor received a Past Mayor's badge from the incoming Mayor.

T4/23 Announcements by the Mayor

The Mayor thanked Andy Foulsham and Sally Foulsham for their work over the past year and thanked colleagues for electing her.

Mayor's chaplains

The Mayor announced her chaplains for 2023-4: Deacon Selina Nesbit of Trinity Church, Abingdon, assisted by Revd Paul Smith of St Michael and All Angels and St Nicolas' Church. The Mayor said that she hoped that a multi-faith community could be set up.

Mayor's cadets

The Mayor announced her Cadets for 2023/24:

- (i) Army Cadet: Cadet Corporal Megan Brooks
- (ii) Air Cadet: Flight Sergeant Andrew Forbes-Forsyth
- (iii) Girl guides: Ruby Moore
- (iv) Scouts: Timothy Cole

Mayor's charities

The Mayor announced that, rather than nominate a charity or charities, she intended to work together with all interested groups on issues concerned with domestic abuse and refugees/homeless to foster a more locally-focused response to assist these vulnerable people in Abingdon. The precise outcome would be decided after these two groups had met, with the aim of developing a lasting strategy, not just for the current year. This may involve donations to an established charity or a different community response

T5/23 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Andrew Skinner. Cllrs Rawda Jehanli and Victoria Walker did not attend the meeting.

T6/23 **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

T7/23 **Governance**

The town council reviewed the standing orders, the terms of reference and scheme of delegation, and the code of conduct. It was **proposed** by Cllr Greenaway, **seconded** by Cllr Gunarajah and **RESOLVED** to adopt the governance documents.

T8/23. **General Power of Competence**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Halliday, **seconded** by Cllr Fawcett and **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the number of members of the council that have been declared to be elected, whether at ordinary elections or at a by-election, is equal to or greater than two-thirds of the total number of members of the council;
- (ii) the clerk to the parish council holds the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

The town council therefore declares that it has the freedom of the General Power of Competence.

T9/23. **Membership of council committees**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Halliday, **seconded** by Cllr Forder and **RESOLVED** that membership of the town council's standing committees for 2023-24 be appointed as set out in the report tabled at the meeting.

T10/23 **Representation on outside bodies**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Halliday, **seconded** by Cllr Forder and **RESOLVED** that Councillors would be appointed to represent the town council on outside bodies as set out in the report tabled at the meeting.

T11/23 **Closing Prayers**

Closing prayers were said by the outgoing Mayor's Chaplain, Revd Kath Cooke.

T12/23 **The National Anthem**

The attendees rose and sang the national anthem, accompanied by Abingdon Concert Band. The Mayor then 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 ended at 8pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____