



# ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Wednesday 24 May 2023

## Minutes

### Present:

Cllr Gwyneth Lewis	Mayor of Abingdon
Cllr Elio Astone	
Cllr Penny Clover	
Cllr Margaret Crick	
Cllr Neil Fawcett	
Cllr Oliver Forder	
Cllr Tom Greenaway	
Cllr Murali Gunarajah	
Cllr Jim Halliday	
Cllr Leo Midwinter	
Cllr Lorraine Oates	
Cllr Colin Sanderson	
Cllr Andrew Skinner	
Cllr David Williams	

### In attendance:

Jo Blackmore	Admin assistant
Andy Crick	Democratic Services Assistant
Paula Lopez	Interim Town Clerk
Victoria Moore	Properties and Events Officer

Around 70 members of the public.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Forder, **seconded** by Cllr Halliday and **AGREED** that the town council's standing orders be suspended for this meeting. The Mayor welcomed residents and advised them that, following the suspension of the standing orders, public participation would be 30 minutes instead of 15.

T12/23 **Public Participation**

Ian Wiper from the Regal Cinema Evesham spoke in favour of the Abbey Cinema remaining in the Abbey Hall. A number of residents attended to speak in support of the cinema.

Cllr Halliday responded on behalf of the town council. The statement is attached as an [appendix](#).

T13/23 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gabby Barody, Cheryl Briggs, Cllr Rawda Jehanli and Cllr Pat Lonergan.

T14/23 **Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

T15/23 **Mayor's announcements**

The Mayor reminded councillors about the training offered and asked for everyone to respond as soon as possible.

T16/23 **Hybrid Meetings 2023-2024**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Forder, **seconded** by Cllr Gunarajah and **RESOLVED** that future meetings held by the town council, including standing committees, be held in person, with virtual attendance by councillors in exceptional circumstances only. There is no legal provision for hybrid meetings. Informal meetings would still be held online if useful and this would include the advisory planning panel.

T17/23 **Planning Panel**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Halliday, **seconded** by Cllr Forder and **RESOLVED** to increase the membership of the planning panel to six.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Sanderson would be added to the membership of the meeting. The full membership of the panel would be:

Cllr Lorraine Oates      Chair  
Cllr Elio Astone  
Cllr Margaret Crick  
Cllr Pat Lonergan  
Cllr Leo Midwinter  
Cllr Colin Sanderson

T18/23 **Exclusion of the Public, Including the Press**

The Mayor moved 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)**

T19/23 **The Abbey Cinema lease**

Members considered the report by the Properties and Events Manager on renewal of the Abbey Cinema lease.

Please see the confidential appendix to the minutes.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_