



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Royse Court Offices, Bridge Street, Abingdon, OX14 3HU

Paula Lopez – Town Clerk (interim)

Telephone: 01235 522642

Email: enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk

Website: www.abingdon.gov.uk

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Wednesday 2 August 2023

Draft minutes

Present:

Cllr Gwyneth Lewis
Cllr Gabby Barody
Cllr Cheryl Briggs
Cllr Penny Clover
Cllr Margaret Crick
Cllr Neil Fawcett
Cllr Oliver Forder
Cllr Tom Greenaway
Cllr Jim Halliday
Cllr Pat Lonergan
Cllr Leo Midwinter
Cllr Colin Sanderson
Cllr Andrew Skinner

Mayor of Abingdon
Deputy Mayor of Abingdon

In attendance:

Andy Crick
Richard Eastham
Simon Hill
Paula Lopez
Nigel Luker
Victoria Moore

Democratic Services Officer
Consultant, FERIA
Chair of Neighbourhood Plan steering group
Town Clerk (Interim)
Honorary Mace bearer
Properties and Events Officer

T48/23 Prayers

There were no prayers at this meeting as the Mayor's Chaplain was unable to attend.

T49/23 **Public participation**

Richard Eastham from Feria, the consultancy supporting the development of the [Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan](#), and Simon Hill, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group, spoke at the meeting to inform the town council of progress on the Neighbourhood Plan and outstanding actions.

Cllr Barody left the meeting at 7.18pm
Cllr Sanderson joined the meeting at 7.20pm
Cllr Barody returned to the meeting at 7.20pm
Cllr Forder left the meeting at 7.22pm
Cllr Forder returned to the meeting at 7.27pm

Councillors would be invited to volunteer to support the development of individual projects and officers would send round the list of projects again.

T50/23 **Apologies**

Cllr Elio Astone, Cllr Murali Gunarajah, Cllr Lorraine Oates, Cllr Rawda Jehanli, Cllr Victoria Walker, Cllr David Williams

T51/23 **Declarations of interest**

None

T52/23 **Minutes**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Barody, **seconded** by Cllr Lonergan and **AGREED** that the minutes of the meeting of the town council held on 28 June 2023 and 12 July 2023 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Cllr Greenaway left the meeting at 7.38pm

T53/23 **Mayor's announcements**

The council noted the list of the Mayor's Engagements. The Mayor advised the town council that a domestic abuse group has been founded and has met once, with several councillors involved. The group is not a formal town council working party

Cllr Greenaway returned to the meeting at 7.39pm

T54/23 **Oxfordshire County Council**

No report was made.

T55/23 **Vale of White Horse District Council**

No report was made.

T56/23 **Community Committee**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Fawcett, **seconded** by Cllr Clover and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 11 July 2023 were **RECEIVED**.

T57/23 **Environment and Amenities Committee**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Barody, **seconded** by Cllr Crick and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee meeting held on 26 July 2023 were **RECEIVED**.

Cllr Barody noted that the Cemeteries and Outdoor Services Manager has prepared plans for the redevelopment of Caldecott Recreation Ground and would share proposals and quotes with councillors for information.

T58/23 **Town Infrastructure Committee**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Skinner, **seconded** by Cllr Fawcett and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Town Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 20 July 2023 were **RECEIVED**.

Cllr Clover updated the meeting on the discussion about public toilet access in the town centre (minute IF25/23 refers). Cllr Clover had visited 21 businesses who were supportive but few had been prepared to sign up to join the scheme. Cllr Clover will report further to the next meeting of the committee and aims to pursue the matter further with district council colleagues and local businesses.

T59/23 **Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Halliday, **seconded** by Cllr Forder and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee meeting held on 25 July 2023 were **RECEIVED**.

Cllr Fawcett and Cllr Halliday left the meeting here at 7.49pm

T60/23 **Civic service**

The Mayor advised the town council that she wished to hold a civic service during her year in office. A date has not been confirmed but 10 December 2023 is being considered. A number of councillors expressed an interest in the service and further details will be advised in due course.

T61/23 **Motion under Standing Order 8**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Tom Greenaway and seconded by Cllr Pat Lonergan.

‘Abingdon Town Council notes that:

1. HM Revenue and Customs permits a national salary sacrifice to be set up by an employer.
2. The Vale of White Horse District Council has set up a salary sacrifice car lease scheme - a full inclusive driving package for a fixed monthly cost.
3. The Vale of White Horse District Council allows its employees to purchase a bike through the CycleScheme (with prices cheaper than directly through a store).
4. The Town Council has declared a Climate Emergency.

‘The Town Council therefore asks the Town Clerk to prepare a report for the next Personnel sub-committee outlining how the council might participate in both the CycleScheme and car lease scheme, and requests that the report describes the advantages and disadvantages of so doing, thus enabling the Personnel sub-committee to make an informed decision / recommendation.’

An amendment was **proposed** by Cllr Lonergan, **seconded** by Cllr Midwinter and **AGREED** that the word ‘next’ in paragraph 3 be replaced with ‘within the next six months’.

Cllr Halliday joined the meeting at 7.53pm

The motion as amended was **AGREED**. The Town Clerk would contact Cllr Greenaway to discuss the resolution further.

T62/23 **Future Agenda Items**

Governance Documents

T63/23 **Dates of future meetings**

4 October 2023
15 November 2023
17 January 2024
20 March 2024
15 May 2024

It was noted that the meeting planned for 15 May 2024 clashed with a meeting of the district council. The Committee Clerk was asked to investigate this to see if this date should be changed.

T64/23 **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)

T65/23 **Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Community Committee**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2023 were considered and adopted. Members are able to refer to the confidential appendix to these minutes.

T66/23 **Confidential appendix to the minutes of the Full Council meeting
12 July 2023**

The confidential minutes of the above meeting were considered, although they were not specifically on the agenda and approved as no amendment to these was tabled.

T67/23 **Abbey Cinema update**

The town council received an update on the Abbey Cinema. Members are able to refer to the confidential appendix to these minutes.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm.