



Abingdon-on-Thames Annual Town Meeting

Wednesday 10 April, 7pm

Royse Room, Guildhall, Bridge Street, Abingdon, OX14 3HU

The Annual Town (Parish) Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 7pm in the Royse Room, Guildhall, Bridge Street, Abingdon, OX14 3HU.**

Members of the public may, with notice, make representations, ask questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business at agenda item 8.

The reports presented at the meeting will be available to view ahead of the meeting on the town council's [website](#). Should you require a separate pdf version of individual documents please e-mail enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk

Any queries relating to the Agenda should be directed to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk

This is a public meeting of the Local Government electors of Abingdon-on-Thames who are invited to attend and take part in discussions. This is an annual statutory meeting of the town's electors and is not a town council meeting although the town council does take the opportunity for its Committee Chairs to make a report to the meeting on the work being undertaken by the town council's committees.

Gwyneth Lewis

Councillor Gwyneth Lewis
Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames
3 April 2024

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 **General Introduction**

The Mayor, Councillor Gwyneth Lewis, will chair the meeting and present an update on her activities during the year.

2 **Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2 March 2023**

To agree the [minutes](#) of the Annual Town Meeting that took place on 2 March 2023.

3 **Reports by Town Council Committee Chairs**

To receive reports from the Chairs of Town Council committees:

- [Community committee](#) – Cllr Neil Fawcett
- [Environment and Amenities committee](#) – Cllr Gabby Barody
- [Town Infrastructure committee](#) - Cllr Colin Sanderson
- [Finance, Governance, Asset Management committee](#) – Cllr Jim Halliday

4 **Abingdon Neighbourhood Plan**

To receive an update on the [Neighbourhood Plan](#) from the Chair of the steering group, Simon Hills.

5 **Abingdon Green Forum**

Abingdon Town Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019, in recognition of the crises of global warming and destruction of the natural environment. The town council pledged to take urgent positive action as a local response to help meet the huge challenges posed. A series of green forums began in 2022, each with a different environmental focus. The purpose of the forums is to promote and initiate changes which will help towards carbon neutrality within the town, reduce waste, promote the general well-being of our residents, and improve its biodiversity. The Forum Steering Group is a collaboration of town councillors and local voluntary groups which are active in trying to improve the town's environment. A report from the Chair of the green forum, Anne Smart, can be found [here](#).

6 **Presentations by Community Groups**

The council gives several grants each year and there will be short presentations to the meeting from several organisations which receive larger grants from the Council to include:

- [Christ's Hospital](#) of Abingdon
- [Abingdon Damascus Youth Project](#)
- [Abingdon Guild of Town Criers](#)
- [The Abingdon Bridge](#)
- [Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice](#)
- [Abingdon Carousel](#)
- [One Planet Abingdon](#)

7 **Abingdon Integrated Youth Support Project (AIYSP)**

To receive a presentation on the Abingdon Integrated Youth Support Project (AIYSP). This project is a partnership between Abingdon Town Council, The Abingdon Bridge and Abingdon Damascus Youth Project.

8 **To discuss town affairs**

At this point the meeting may discuss Town affairs and residents of the parish are invited to ask questions of their elected councillors.

- (i) Questions ahead of the meeting. In order to assist the efficient administration of the meeting we are requesting that members of the public e-mail their

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questions to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk Please include your address in your email in order to confirm you are a resident of Abingdon.

This will also have the benefit that we are able to prepare a fuller answer than we would be able to if we did not receive notice.

Note:

Members of the public are reminded of the limitations upon discussions at this agenda item:

- All items raised must relate to public matters in the town.
- There can be no discussion of private matters (such as litigation between persons in their private capacity) or of matters so general that they would affect the town no more than any other parish.

By law the Mayor, as Chair of this meeting, determines whether a matter may be discussed and their decision is final.