



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Council summons and agenda for annual Mayor-Making

Wednesday 15 May 2024

7.30pm

St. Helens Church

To All Members of the Council

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend the annual Mayor-Making of the Council of the Town of Abingdon-on-Thames, to be held on **Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 7.30pm** for the transaction of the business stated below.

Councillors are requested to arrive at the church by 7pm and to proceed to the vestry by the South Aisle. Councillors will robe (including hats) in at the Old Magistrate Court and then proceed independently to their seats at the front of the church.

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

Yours faithfully

Cherie Carruthers

Cherie Carruthers
Town Clerk/Chief Executive

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.

At 7.30pm, members of the public will be requested to stand, if possible, as the Mayoral Party processes into the meeting. Abbey Brass Band will provide musical accompaniment.

Seats are only reserved for invited guests and members of the public who are directly participating in the meeting, e.g. through a presentation.

1. Prayers

Opening prayers will be said.

2. Outgoing Mayor's announcements including Mayor's Awards

The outgoing Mayor, Cllr Gwyneth Lewis, will make her announcements:

(i) **The Mayor's Awards for services to the community**

Each year since 1996 the Mayor has presented awards to those who have given outstanding service to the community of Abingdon-on-Thames. This year the Mayor will present awards as follows:

- Judy Hashman Secretary & organiser, Abingdon and District Volunteer Centre
- Frank Jordan Volunteer Lock Keeper – Abingdon
- Roger Baker OXFAM volunteer

- DAWN Didcot, Abingdon & Wantage Talking Newspaper

(ii) **Certificates for Mayor's cadets**

To award certificates to the outgoing Mayor's cadets:

- (i) Army Cadets: Corporal Megan Brooks
- (ii) Air Cadets: Cadet Warrant Officer Andrew Forbes-Forsyth
- (iii) Girl Guides: Ruby Moore
- (iv) Scouts: Timothy Cole

(iii) **The Mayor's charities**

The Mayor raised a total of £2,060 for her nominated charity, Reducing the Risk.

(iv) **Mayor's Chaplain**

The Mayor will thank the Mayor's Chaplain.

3. **Election of Mayor**

To receive nominations for the position of Mayor for the civic year 2024-25 and to elect the Mayor.

The Mayor will then:

- (i) Receive the Mayoral robes and chain of office.
- (ii) Make and sign the Statutory Declaration of Office.
- (iii) Make a short speech and announce their Escort for the year.
- (iv) The Mayor's Escort will receive the Mayor's Escort badge.

4. **Election of Deputy Mayor**

To receive nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2024-25 and to elect the Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor will then:

- (i) Receive their badge of office.
- (ii) Make and sign the Statutory Declaration of Office.

- (iii) Make a short speech and announce their Escort for the year.
- (iv) The Deputy Mayor's Escort will receive the Deputy Mayor's Escort badge.

5. **Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor**

A vote of thanks will be made to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Gwyneth Lewis. The retiring Mayor will receive a Past Mayor's badge from the incoming Mayor.

6. **Announcements by the Mayor**

The Mayor will announce:

(a) The Mayor's Escorts for 2024-25:

- Bryan Evans
- Veronika Joy
- Siân Lavers
- Deborah Slade

(b) the Mayor's Chaplains for 2024-25:

- Deacon Selina Nisbett - Methodist
- Father Jamie – Roman Catholic
- Dr Hamid Al-Shejani – Imam
- Ms Pat Winslow – Humanist

(c) the Mayor's Cadets for 2024-25:

- (i) Army Cadet: Corporal Thomas Banyard
- (ii) Air Cadet: Sgt Sebastian Robey
- (iii) Girl guides: Hannah Biggs
- (iv) Scouts: Alex Wakefield

(d) the Mayor's Charities for 2024-25:

- One Planet Abingdon/Climate Emergency Centre
- Abingdon Voluntary Services

7. **Closing Prayers**

Closing prayers will be said by the Mayor's Chaplain.

8. **The National Anthem**

Abbey Brass Band will play the National Anthem and all those present are encouraged to stand, if possible and sing:

God save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King

Members of the public are requested to remain standing, if possible, as the Mayor and Councillors process out of the meeting.

The Mayor and their party will stop at the entrance to the south aisle to greet councillors and guests.

All those present are invited to remain after the ceremony to greet the Mayor and share light refreshments with the Mayor and town councillors.