



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Annual meeting, Monday 12 May 2025, 6.30pm

These are draft minutes, subject to the approval of the town council and they may therefore change.

Present:

Cllr Rawda Jehanli
Cllr Andrew Skinner
Cllr Elio Astone
Cllr Gabby Barody
Cllr Penny Clover
Cllr Oliver Forder
Cllr Mark Giddins
Cllr Tom Greenaway
Cllr Murali Gunarajah
Cllr Jim Halliday
Cllr Pat Lonergan
Cllr Leo Midwinter
Cllr Lorraine Oates
Cllr Victoria Walker

Mayor
Deputy Mayor

In attendance:

Cherie Carruthers
Andy Crick
Dr Hamid al Shejni

Town Clerk/Chief Executive
Democratic Services Officer (clerk to the meeting)
Imam and Leader of Abingdon Muslims Community

T1/25 **Election of Mayor**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Oates, **seconded** by Cllr Giddins and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Rawda Jehanli be elected as Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames for the civic year 2025-26.

T2/25 **Election of Deputy Mayor**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Lonergan, **seconded** by Cllr Gunarajah and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Andrew Skinner be elected as Deputy Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames for the civic year 2025-26.

T3/25 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Margaret Crick, Cllr Neil Fawcett, Cllr Gwyneth Lewis and Cllr Colin Sanderson. Cllr Cheryl Briggs did not attend the meeting.

T4/25 **Public participation**

None.

T5/25 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

T6/25 **Minutes**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Halliday, **seconded** by Cllr Lonergan and **RESOLVED** to adopt and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2025, as amended, as a correct record of the meeting.

T7/25 **Governance**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Halliday, **seconded** by Cllr Astone and **RESOLVED** to adopt the following governance documents, subject to tabled amendments:

- i. Scheme of delegation and terms of reference
- ii. Code of conduct
- iii. Financial regulations

It was agreed to defer consideration of the draft standing orders to the next meeting.

T8/25 **General Power of Competence**

The freedom of the General Power of Competence is available to local councils that meet two criteria for eligibility. The Localism Act 2011 s1 – s8 sets these out in a statutory instrument known as the *Parish Councils (General Power of*

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Competence) (*Prescribed Conditions*) Order 2012 that came into force in April 2012.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Halliday, **seconded** by Cllr Oates and **RESOLVED** that the town council meets the following criteria:

- (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.

T9/25 **Membership of council committees and representation on outside bodies**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Halliday, **seconded** by Cllr Oates and **RESOLVED** to appoint members to town council standing committees and sub-committees as set out in the report to the town council, with the vacant seat on the Community committee filled by Cllr Andrew Skinner.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Gunarajah, **seconded** by Cllr Giddins and **RESOLVED** to appoint the members to outside bodies as set out in the report to the committee.

T10/25 **Dates of future meetings**

25 June 2025
1 October 2025
14 January 2026
18 March 2026
18 May 2026 – Annual meeting
24 June 2026

T11/25 **Exclusion of the public, including the Press**

It was **proposed** by the Mayor, Cllr Jehanli, **seconded** by Cllr Forder and **RESOLVED** 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. The meeting moved into confidential session.

T12/25 **Freedom of Abingdon**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Halliday, **seconded** by Cllr Gunarajah and **RESOLVED** to grant the freedom of Abingdon to a resident. The individual would be invited to accept this award and if agreed it would then be confirmed at a future special meeting of the town council.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____