



## **ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Council summons and agenda for annual Mayor-Making Monday 18 May 2026, 7.30pm St. Helen's Church**

Date of agenda: Wednesday 13 May 2026

#### **To All Members of the Council**

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend the annual Mayor-Making of the town council of Abingdon-on-Thames, to be held on **Monday 18 May 2026 at 7.30pm** for the transaction of the business stated below.

Councillors will robe (including hats) at the Roysse Room, Guildhall, then process to St Helen's Church. At the church, councillors are asked to proceed independently to seats at the front of the church.

Please send any queries on the agenda to [democratic@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto: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. Abingdon Town 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 The Revd Dr Jennifer Brown

### 2. Outgoing Mayor's speech including Mayor's Awards

The outgoing Mayor, Cllr Rawda Jehanli, will make her announcements:

- (i) **Mayor's speech**
- (ii) **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:

Business & Community Awards:

- Crown & Thistle Hotel
- Hilton Garden Inn
- Philip Bingham                      Manager, Abingdon Food Bank
- Martin Richards                      Scouts
- Holly Freeland                      The Abingdon Bridge

(iii) **Certificates for Mayor’s cadets**

To award certificates to the outgoing Mayor’s cadets for the Army, Air Force, Girl Guides and Scouts.

(iv) **The Mayor’s charities**

The Mayor raised a total of £6302.26 for her nominated charity, Occtopus – Oxford Colon Cancer Trust (figure as of 13 May 2026).

(v) **Mayor’s Chaplain**

The Mayor will thank the Mayor’s Chaplains.

3. **Election of Mayor**

To receive nominations for the position of Mayor for the civic year 2026-27 and to elect the Mayor.

The newly elected Mayor will:

- (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 2026-27 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 Rawda Jehanli. The retiring Mayor will receive a Past Mayor's badge from the incoming Mayor.

6. **Announcements by the Mayor**

The Mayor will announce:

(i) **The Mayor's Chaplain for 2026-27**

Revd Dr Jennifer Brown

(ii) **The Mayor's Cadets for 2026-27**

Army, Air Force, Girl Guides, Scouts and TV Police

(iii) **The Mayor's Charity for 2026-27**

7. **Closing Prayers**

Closing prayers will be said by Revd Dr Jennifer Brown

8. **The National Anthem**

Abingdon Town 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.