



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

## **Council Summons and Agenda for annual meeting Monday 18 May 2026, 6.30pm Royse Room**

Date of agenda: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026

To all members of the council

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend the annual meeting of the town council to be held on **Monday 18 May 2026 at 6.30pm** in the **Royse Room** for the transaction of the business stated below.

At each open agenda item there are links to the relevant documents which open the document from the town council website. Should you require a separate pdf version of individual documents please e-mail [democratic@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@abingdon.gov.uk).

Any queries on the agenda should also be directed 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.

## PROCEDURAL NOTE

Under the Local Government Act 1972 the council must hold an annual meeting in May each year. By convention, the town council styles this meeting as its 'Annual Meeting and Mayor-Making'. The first business of the meeting - and the only business which the council must by law transact - is the election of the Chair of the council, which in a town may be styled the Town Mayor. The election of the new Mayor is chaired by the Mayor in post for the past year.

The new council year then commences.

### 1. Election of Mayor

**In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 the first business of the Annual Meeting is the election of the Mayor, which marks the start of the new council year.**

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

### 2. 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.

3. **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. **Public participation**

It is council policy that the council sets aside a total of 15 minutes prior to the commencement of business in council meetings for residents or owners/managers of businesses in Abingdon-on-Thames to ask questions of the council or to express views by way of making a statement with regards to agenda items in this meeting. In order to ask questions or make a statement written notice of questions or statements, served by way of letter or e-mail ([democratic@abingdon.gov.uk](mailto:democratic@abingdon.gov.uk)), must be given to the Town Clerk by **5pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026**.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of interest from Members in relation to any items to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the Local Code of Conduct.

6. **Minutes**

To adopt and sign as a correct record the draft minutes of the meeting held on [18<sup>th</sup> March 2026](#).

7. **Governance**

The town council is asked to review and adopt the following governance documents:

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

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

The town council is asked to resolve that it 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.

9. **Membership of council committees and representation on outside bodies**

- a. To appoint members of the existing standing committees for 2026-27 and to ask the appointed members of each committee and sub-committee to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair.
- b. To appoint town council representatives to outside bodies.

A [report](#) is provided.

10. **Motions to Council**

- i) To receive the following motion proposed by Cllr Jim Halliday: -

Under Section 85(1) Local Government Act 1972; Cllr Jim Halliday wishes the Council to consider whether the waiving the requirements of S85(1) of the Act for Cllr Margaret Crick for the period from 15th June 2026 to 15th December 2026 inclusive on the grounds of ill-health.

- ii) To receive the following motion proposed by Cllr Jim Halliday: -

The Town Council notes that;

- Christ's Hospital of Abingdon has applied to the Charity Commission to change their governing status. They propose to change from an unincorporated charity to a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). They state that this will reduce the liability of Governors in any legal proceedings that may be brought against the Charity.
- The company will be composed of two ex officio governors, namely the Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames and the Rector of Abingdon-on-Thames, one nominative governor from the Town Council with the rest being co-optative governors recruited from the community.
- If this change takes place, then the Council's nominative Governors will reduce in number from three to one.

- iii) To receive the following motion proposed by Cllr Rawda Jehanli: -

Abingdon-on-Thames is a town that welcomes and values the diversity of all who live and work here. The Town Council is concerned by reports of incidents of racial abuse affecting members of our community.

We strongly condemn all forms of discrimination and stand in solidarity with those affected. We urge Thames Valley police to ensure that sufficient resources are made available to investigate thoroughly all race crime incidents reported to them and to take appropriate action to bring perpetrators to justice so that minority communities can continue to have confidence in the police.

To ensure meaningful and constructive action, the Council resolves to:

**1. Establish a Community Safety & Inclusion Working Party**

Establish a Working Party, comprising councillors and, where appropriate, community representatives and partner organisations, to:

- Review concerns raised by residents
- Gather evidence and community feedback
- Identify practical and proportionate actions within the Council's remit

**2. Engagement and Partnership**

The Working Party will engage with relevant organisations and authorities, including policing and community partners, to better understand concerns and explore appropriate responses.

**3. Awareness and Reporting**

The Working Party will consider how best to improve awareness for residents on:

- How to report incidents
- What support is available locally

**4. Community Listening**

The Working Party will explore opportunities to hold a community listening forum, providing a safe and respectful space for residents to share experiences and build trust.

**5. Reporting and Recommendations**

The Working Party will report back to Full Council with clear, practical, and deliverable recommendations.

**11. Dates of future meetings**

17 June 2026

7 October 2026

20 January 2027

24 March 2027

17 May 2027 – Annual Town Council Meeting

23 June 2027