

BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Banbury Town Council held on Tuesday, 09 January 2024 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillor Bishop (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillors: Ayers, Beere, Biegel, Bunce, Cherry, Colegrave, Garrett, Hodgson, Hussain, Ilott, Kilsby, Mallon, Mears, Phillips, Reeves, Strangwood, Tohill-Martin.

Officers: Mark Hassall (Town Clerk/RFO)
Paul Almond (Director of Environment)
Jackie Chacha (Marketing & Communications Manager)
Martyn Surfleet (Executive Officer)

Andrew Bowe (Cherwell District Council)
Ian Boll (Cherwell District Council)
Geraint Hughes (NEW Master Planning)

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Ahmed, Cllr Donaldson, Cllr Richards

C.37/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

C.38/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 07 November 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

C.39/23 Communications

Members considered the communications set forward by the Civic Officer.

C.40/23 Change of Council Membership

The Town Clerk informed members that due to lack of attendance following his period of dispensation expiring on the 10th October 2023 that Ben Dalton no longer qualifies as an elected member of Banbury Town Council. And that due to the change in membership falling within six months of the local elections that no by-election will be held.

C.41/23 Questions - Elected Members and Members of the Public

None

C.42/23 Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Bunce, seconded by Councillor Ayers, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 08 November 2023 be received. It was also proposed by Councillor Bunce and seconded by Councillor Colegrave, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 December 2023 be received.

C.43/23 General Services Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Colegrave, seconded by Councillor Bunce, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the General Services Committee meeting held on 12 December 2023 be received.

C.44/23 Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Mallon, seconded by Councillor Colegrave, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 02 January 2024 be received.

- i) That further to Minute R.34/23 **it was AGREED** the Estimates as recommended by the Grants and Budget Sub Committee on 28 November and the General Services Committee on 12 December 2023 be approved.
- ii) That further to Minute R.37/23 **it was AGREED** to the Council that it approve the 2024/25 Calendar of Meetings.

C.45/23 Confidential Business Exclusion

It was RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items set out below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

SUMMARY of items discussed during confidential session

Members posed a series of questions to the Chairman of the Resources Committee regarding the financial implications of the proposals set out in the Town Hall usage report. Councillor Mallon responded by highlighting that Officers had performed extensive market research and that the proposals set out in the report reflect a fair and competitive offer to the County Council and that further negotiations on the details of the agreement will occur in subsequent meetings between interested parties.

It was requested and **AGREED** that follow up reports be brought to members to update on the progress of negotiations with Oxfordshire County Council on the usage of the Town Hall by the Registrars Office.

C.46/23 To set the precept for 2024-2025:

The Leader of the Council expressed thanks to Officers and Councillors that had been a part of the Budget process, particularly those that attended the Grants & Budgets Sub Committee. He then outlined the budget highlights, which included a 2% increase in Banbury Town Council's share of the Council Tax bill, meaning the levy would increase from £127.05 to £129.59 for a D band home.

Following further discussion, it was moved by Councillor Mallon, seconded by Councillor Colegrave and **RESOLVED** with 17 for and 1 against that the Town Council set a precept of £2,230,520, being an increase of 2%.

C.47/23 Banbury Vision 2050

Members were invited to review a presentation on the Banbury 2050 Vision by Officers from Cherwell District Council and NEW Master Planning.

A lively discussion commenced with several questions posed by members to the officers from Cherwell District Council. Members were then advised of the closing date of the survey and encouraged to provide feedback.

It was RESOLVED to receive and note the Banbury 2050 Vision presentation.

The Meeting ended at 8.06pm.