

BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillor Ahmed (Town Mayor)
Councillors: Ayers, Beere, Biegel, Bunce, Cherry, Colegrave, Donaldson, Garrett, Hussain, Ilott, Kilsby, Mallon, Mears, Phillips, Richards, Strangwood and Tohill-Martin.

Officers: Mark Hassall (Town Clerk/RFO)
Paul Almond (Director of Environment)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors: Reeves, Hodgson

C.45/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

C.46/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 06 February 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

C.47/23 Communications

Cllr Mallon – remarked to recognise the final meeting of the current term for the Council prior to elections, thanking fellow Councillors and staff for the collegiate work undertaken on behalf of, and for the benefit of, the town.

C.48/23 Questions - Elected Members and Members of the Public

Cllr Beere raised a question for the Leader of the Council regarding flood alleviation measures survey undertaken by the Environment Agency. Noting the River Cherwell has risen above the normal High Range this year along the Thames Basin. Cllr Mallon responded to confirm he would lobby the Environment Agency to undertake such works that were advisable and feasible.

C.49/23 Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Bunce, seconded by Councillor Ayers, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 28 February and 27 March 2024 be received.

C.50/23 General Services Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Bunce, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the General Services Committee meeting held on 19 March 2024 be received.

C.51/23 Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Mallon, seconded by Councillor Colegrave, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 26 March 2024 be received.

C.52/23 Resolutions Moved on Notice No. 67 – Spiceball Amphitheatre

It was proposed by Councillor Kilsby, seconded by Councillor Garrett that:

“The town of Banbury has many glorious natural assets and this Town Council stands as custodian for many of them. One which can easily be

overlooked is a fabulous natural (it is believed) amphitheatre in Spiceball Park, on the south east bank of the river Cherwell, opposite the leisure centre.

As this would make a fabulous open-air performance space, and there is some interest in the town in developing it as such, officers are asked to investigate the viability of this, and to report back to the Council with details of the costs etc. involved in using this space in this way. It is believed that the space, being apparently natural, may not require big investment in order to be made suitable for performances.

It is thought that, initially, amateur summer musical performances could be put on there, but professional performances could follow once the space has proven viable."

There then ensued a discussion on the motion, with all speakers including Cllrs Bunce, Phillips, Mears, Biegel and Cllr Mallon in favour of the proposals, whilst noting the challenges of the site which include access, environmental protection and traffic noise mitigation.

A vote was taken upon the motion which It was then **RESOLVED** unanimously that the motion be adopted.

The Meeting ended at 7.08pm.