

BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Banbury Town Council held on Tuesday, 14 May 2024 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Fiaz Ahmed (Town Mayor) and Michael Bishop (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillors: Beere, Biegel, Brant, Cherry, Creed, Crichton, Dhesi, Eaton, Elugwu, Harwood, Hodgson, Hussain, Mallon, Mears, Okeke, Richards, Strangwood, Thornhill, Tohill-Martin, Urwick, Vaitkus and Woodward.

Officers: Mark Hassall (Town Clerk & RFO)
Paul Almond (Director of Environment and Deputy Clerk)
Chris Green (Events Manager)
Simon Lewthwaite (Civic & Events Officer)
Mark Recchia (Committee Clerk Temp)

The Town Mayor, escorted by the Town Clerk processed into the Main Hall.

The Town Mayor briefly reviewed his year of office and thanked all those who had supported him during the year, especially his Deputy Town Mayor; Civic Cadets; fellow Members; the Town Clerk and Town Hall staff, particularly Simon Lewthwaite (Civic & Events Officer); and the people of Banbury.

C.1/24 Election of the Town Mayor for 2024/25

It was proposed by Councillor Hodgson, seconded by Councillor Mallon, and **WAS RESOLVED** that Councillor Cherry be elected Town Mayor of Banbury for the year 2024/25.

C.2/24 Election of a Deputy Town Mayor for 2024/25

It was proposed by Councillor Strangwood, seconded by Councillor Hussain, and **WAS RESOLVED** that Councillor Mallon be elected Deputy Town Mayor of Banbury for the year 2024/25.

C.3/24 Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Town Mayor

Councillor Cherry then made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Town Mayor of Banbury, which was duly accepted by the Council.

Councillor Mallon then proposed and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council express its thanks and sincere appreciation to Fiaz Ahmed for the conscientious and zealous manner in which he had discharged the arduous duties of Town Mayor during the past year.

Members of the Council then pledged themselves, as leaders and members of the community of Banbury, to work with all their hearts, minds, and strength for the good of its people and the well-being of its society.

C.4/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Clarke.

C.5/24 Declarations of Interest

None.

C.6/24 Minutes of the last Meeting

It was proposed by the Town Mayor, and **WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 9 April 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

C.7/24 Communications

The Town Clerk reported that whilst there were no formal communications, he had been made aware of the recent passing of Jan Justice, who as the Town Mayor in 1999 and served on the Planning Committee and had been a staunch supporter of the Sunshine Centre. He would convey the Council's condolences to her daughter Barbara.

C.8/24 Result of Elections

The Town Clerk reported the results of the Elections for the Town Council held on Thursday, 2 May 2024. The successful candidates were as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| (i) Calthorpe North | Cllr Dom Vaitkus (Lab) |
| (ii) Calthorpe South | Cllr Isabel Creed (Lab)
Cllr Ian Harwood (Con) |
| (iii) Easington North | Cllr Balbir Dhesi (Lab) |
| (iv) Easington South | Cllr Kieron Mallon (Con)
Cllr Wendy Woodward (Lab) |
| (v) Grimsbury | Cllr Andrew Beere (Lab)
Cllr Shaida Hussain (Lab)
Cllr Helen Mears (Lab) |
| (vi) Hardwick East | Cllr Kerrie Thornhill (Lab) |
| (vii) Hardwick West | Cllr Chris Brant (Lib Dem)
Cllr Andrew Crichton (Lab)
Cllr Henry Elugwu (Lab)
Cllr Jayne Strangwood (Con)
Cllr James Urwick (Lab) |
| (viii) Neithrop North | Cllr Matt Hodgson (Lab) |
| (ix) Neithrop South | Cllr Chuck Okeke (Lab) |
| (x) Park Road | Cllr Andrew Eaton (Lab) |
| (xi) Ruscote | Cllr Rebecca Biegel (Lab)
Cllr Mark Cherry (Lab)
Cllr Barry Richards (Lab)
Cllr Sian Tohill-Martin (Lab) |
| (xii) Town Centre | Cllr Rebecca Clarke (Lab) |

C.9/24 Declarations of Acceptance of Office

IT WAS AGREED that any declarations not signed by Members prior to the meeting would be completed at any time before Friday 31 May 2024.

C.10/24 Appointment of Standing Committees

It was proposed by Councillor Hussain, seconded by Councillor Mears, and **WAS RESOLVED** that the size and make-up of the Standing Committees as at **Appendix 1** be approved.

C.11/24 Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

It was proposed by Councillor Hussain, seconded by Councillor Mears, and **WAS RESOLVED** that the Appointments of Representatives to Outside Bodies as at **Appendix 2** be approved.

C.12/24 General Power of Competence

Members were informed that Banbury Town Council was one of the few Councils in Oxfordshire that held the General Power of Competence. Local councils in England were given a “general power of competence” (GPC) in the Localism Act 2011, sections 1 to 8. Councils with the GPC no longer needed to ask whether they had a specific power to act and had “the power to do anything that individuals generally may do” as long as they did not break other laws. It was a “power of first resort”.

The freedom of the GPC was available to local councils that met two criteria for eligibility. Councils had to decide at a full meeting of the Council that they met the criteria for eligibility at that particular point. Councils also had to have an electoral mandate (two thirds having stood for election) and a qualified clerk. Banbury Town Council met both criteria.

It was proposed by Councillor Hussain, seconded by Councillor Mears, and **WAS RESOLVED** that the Council, having satisfied the eligibility criteria set out in Statutory Instrument (965): Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 (electoral mandate and qualified clerk), takes upon itself the General Power of Competence as set out in Sections 1-8 of the Localism Act 2011.

The Meeting ended at 7.10pm

**Standing Committee Membership
2024 – 2025**

Appendix 1

1. Resources Committee

(Seats allocated: Conservative/LD 1, Labour 5)

Conservative/Lib Dem

1. Mallon

Labour

1. Hussain
2. Biegel
3. Vaitkus
4. Eaton
5. Mears

[Alternate Members]

Conservative

1. Strangwood
2. Harwood

Labour

1. Clarke
2. Beere
3. Critchton
4. Richards
5. Hodgson
6. Tohill Martin
7. Urwick

Labour

8. Elugwa
9. Dhesi
10. Thornhill
11. Creed
12. Woodward
13. Cherry
14. Okeke

2. General Services Committee

(Seats allocated: Conservative/LD 1, Labour 5)

Conservative/Lib Dem

1. Strangwood

Labour

1. Richards
2. Hodgson
3. Tohill Martin
4. Urwick
5. Elugwa

[Alternate Members]

Conservative

1. Harwood
2. Mallon

Labour

1. Hussain
2. Biegel
3. Vaitkus
4. Eaton
5. Mears
6. Clarke
7. Beere

Labour

8. Critchton
9. Woodward
10. Dhesi
11. Thornhill
12. Creed
13. Cherry
14. Okeke

3. Planning Committee

(Seats Allocated: Conservative/LD 1, Labour 5)

Conservative/Lib Dem

1. Harwood

Labour

1. Beere
2. Woodward
3. Dhesi
4. Thornhill
5. Elugwu

[Alternate Members]

Conservative

1. Strangwood
2. Mallon

Labour

1. Hussain
2. Biegel
3. Vaitkus
4. Eaton
5. Mears
6. Clarke
7. Critchton

Labour

8. Woodward
9. Richards
10. Hodgson
11. Tohill Martin
12. Urwick
13. Cherry
14. Okeke

4. Appeals Panel

(Seats Allocated: Conservative/LD 1, Labour 5)

Conservative/Lib Dem

1. Strangwood

Labour

1. Richards
2. Crichton
3. Tohill Martin
4. Okeke
5. Creed

[Note: Appeals Panel members cannot be members of Resources Cttee]

Appendix 2

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Organisation	Category	No	Appointment 2023/24	Nominations 2024/25
Banbury & District Air Training Corps	B	1	Cllr Donaldson (C)	Cllr Elugwu (L)
Banbury & District Samaritans	A	1	Cllr Ahmed (C)	Cllr Crichton (L)
Banbury & District Twinning Association	A	1	Cllr Hussain (L)	Cllr Woodward (L)
Banbury Bluecoat Foundation	B	1	Cllr Bunce (C)	VACANT
Banbury Borough Bowling Club	B	1	Cllr Mallon (C)	VACANT
Banbury Canal Partnership	P	1	Cllr Powell (C) Cllr Hodgson (L)	Cllr Hodgson (L) Cllr Mallon (C)
Banbury Citizen's Advice Bureau	A	1	Cllr Reeves (C)	Cllr Crichton (L)
Banbury Civic Society	B	1	Cllr Mallon (C)	Cllr Eaton (L)
Banbury Sea Cadets	B	1	Cllr Phillips (C)	Cllr Mallon (C)
Banbury Traffic Advisory Committee	P	3	Cllr Ahmed (C) Cllr Biegel (L) Cllr Ilott (C)	Cllr Biegel (L) Cllr Mears (L) Cllr Harwood (C)
BARKS	B	1	Cllr Ilott (C)	VACANT
Borough of Banbury Trust 2 (plus TM and DTM)	P	2	Cllr Mallon (C) Cllr Hussain (L)	Cllr Hussain (L) Cllr Harwood (C)
Chamber of Commerce	A	1	Cllr Mallon (C)	Cllr Thornhill (L)
Cherwell Climate Change Partnership	P	1	Cllr Dalton (C)	Cllr Vaitkus (L)
Cherwell Community & Voluntary Service	A	1	Cllr Donaldson (C)	Cllr Urwick (L)
Cherwell Crime Partnership: Banbury	P	1	Cllr Bunce (C)	Cllr Okeke (L)
Community Partnership Network	P	1	Cllr Mallon (C) Cllr Hussain (L) (sub)	Cllr Hussain (L) Cllr Mallon (C) (sub)
The Glebe Charity (Cricket Club)	B	1	Cllr Ahmed (C)	Cllr Beere (L)
The Hill	A	1	Cllr Cherry (L)	Cllr Cherry (L)
Sunshine Centre	B	1	Cllr Strangwood (C) Cllr Richards (L)	Cllr Richards (L)
Town Centre Partnership (3)	P	3	Cllr Mallon (C) Cllr Ilott (C) Cllr Hussain (L)	Cllr Hussain(L) Cllr Richards (L) Cllr Mallon (C)