

BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Banbury Town Council held on Tuesday, 18 June 2024 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillors Mark Cherry (Town Mayor) and Kieron Mallon (Deputy Town Mayor)

Councillors: Beere, Biegel, Clarke, Dhesi, Eaton, Harwood, Hussain, Mears, Okeke, Strangwood, Tohill-Martin, and Woodward.

Officers: Mark Hassall (Town Clerk & RFO)
Paul Almond (Director of Environment and Deputy Clerk)
James Smith (Media & Communications Officer)

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Brant, Creed, Crighton, Vaitkus, Elugwu, Hodgson, Richards, Thornhill

C.13/24 Declarations of Interest

None.

C.14/24 Minutes of the Last Meeting

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 May 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

C.15/24 Communications

The Town Mayor's communications had been circulated to those present.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Communications be noted.

C.16/24 Questions - Elected Members

There was a question from a Cllr Biegel, noting that in February the council had a presentation from officers from CDC on the 'public realm' which basically is looking at the public spaces between and around buildings in the town to improve the gateways into and walkways around the centre with signage, greenery etc. The Leader of the Council is asked if the Council can start working in collaboration with the District Council on a plan for some measures which this Council can take to contribute to this.

The Leader of the Council responded by confirming that she has been approached to join the Banbury 2050 Vision board as a representative of Banbury Town Council, which she would undertake to join in order to ensure the Town Council has the opportunity to contribute to improvements in the public realm.

There was a question from a Cllr Tohill Martin, who would like to propose that the Council explore the possibility of implementing an e-bike hire scheme in Banbury. Charlbury Town Council has successfully launched a similar scheme, providing residents with e-bikes for direct loan. Additionally, Frome Town Council's initiatives have shown promising results in terms of sustainability and community engagement.

Could the Town Council consider investigating the feasibility and potential benefits of introducing an e-bike hire scheme in Banbury, as such a program could contribute to our sustainability goals, enhance local transportation options, and promote healthy living among our residents.

The Leader of the Council responded to confirm that this could be investigated.

C.17/24 Questions - Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

C.18/24 Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Beere, seconded by Councillor Harwood, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on both the 27 March 2024 and 15 May 2024 be received.

C.19/24 General Services Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Biegel, seconded by Councillor Eaton, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the General Services Committee meeting held on 04 June 2024 be received.

C.20/24 Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Hussain, seconded by Councillor Mears, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 11 June 2024 be received.

C.21/24 Resolutions Moved on Notice

None

C.22/24 Internal Audit

The Council considered the Annual Internal Audit Report (page 3 of the Annual Return).

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report.

C.23/24 Annual Return

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk where **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 on the Annual Return, where questions 1 to 9 are answered yes, and signed on behalf of the Council by the Leader of the Council and the Town Clerk.

C.24/24 Accounting Statement

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk & RFO where **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Accounting Statements (Section 2 on the Annual Return – for the year ended 31 March 2024 be approved and be signed on behalf of the Council by the Leader of the Council and the RFO.

C.25/24 Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (unaudited)

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk & RFO where **IT WAS RESOLVED that** the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (unaudited) be approved and signed on behalf of the Council by the Leader of the Council and the RFO.

C.26/24 Notice of Electors Rights

The Council considered a copy of the Notice of Electors Rights

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Notice of Electors Rights be approved.

C.27/24 Financial Regulations

The Council reviewed a copy of Banbury Town Councils Financial Regulations.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations be approved.

C.28/24 Standing Orders

The Council reviewed a copy of Banbury Town Councils Standing Orders

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Standing Orders be approved.

C.29/24 Age Friendly Banbury

The Council received a presentation from Sir Tony Baldry and Bee Myson, reiterating the invitation to all Councillors to meet the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire at the Town Hall on 10th July 2024.

A short introduction into the work of Age Friendly Banbury was provided, alongside an invitation to Councillors who may be interested in the work of both the strategic board, and the partnership board. This latter encourages partnership working to shape service provision that considers the needs of older people, e.g. access, toilet provision, hard copy information etc. The Age Friendly network of locations across the town will be highlighted with stickers to signify age friendly locations. The Town Council was invited to light the Town Hall purple on 1st October 2024 to recognise International Day of Older People.

The Town Mayor thanked Age Friendly Banbury for the presentation.

The Meeting ended at 6.51pm.