

BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Banbury Town Council held on Tuesday, 24 September 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, Creed, Crichton, Dhesi, Eaton, Elugwu, Harwood, Hodgson, Hussain, Mears, Richards, 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 Okeke, Thornhill and Vaitkus.

C.30/24 Declarations of Interest

None.

C.31/24 Minutes of the Last Meeting

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 June 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

C.32/24 Communications

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

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Communications be noted.

C.33/24 Rosemarie Higham

The Council's attention was drawn to the recent passing of Honorary Burgess and former Town Mayor Rosemarie Higham. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Kieron Mallon, and Leader of the Council, Councillor Shaida Hussain, paid tribute to Rosemarie, following which a minute's silence was observed.

C.34/24 Questions – Elected Members and Members of the Public

There were no questions from Elected Members or members of the public.

C.35/24 Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Beere, seconded by Councillor Woodward, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 12 June, 24 July, 14 August and 11 September 2024, be received.

C.36/24 General Services Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Richards, seconded by Councillor Hodgson, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the General Services Committee meeting held on 27 August 2024, be received.

C.37/24 Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Hussain, seconded by Councillor Biegel, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 03 September 2024 be received.

It was further **RESOLVED** that the Employee Handbook and policy documents referred to in Minute R.13/24, (the Time Off For Dependants and Close Relatives Policy which was to be withdrawn; and the Grievance Procedure; Disciplinary

Policy & Procedure; Parental Leave Scheme; Maternity Leave Policy; Flexible Working Policy; and Model Employment Contract) be adopted, without any changes.

C.38/24 Annual Return

The Council received the report of the External Auditor (Section 3 of the Annual Return) for the year ended 31 March 2024, noting that it was the opinion of the External Auditor that the Return had been completed in accordance with proper practices and that there were no other matters identified giving rise to concern.

C.39/24 Resolutions Moved on Notice - Resolution No 67

It was moved by Councillor Strangwood, seconded by Councillor Hussain, and following a lengthy discussion, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that:

“Banbury Town Council, as a group of elected representatives who are selected by the voters of Banbury, voice their concerns regarding the current services available at our Banbury Horton Hospital.

We call upon the commissioners of our NHS services in Banbury (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire west BOB), to review services being delivered via the Oxfordshire University Hospital Trust (OUHFT), and to revisit the need for a full Maternity service at our Horton Hospital. (Regarding Obstetrics etc)

A recent document has been released by the Keep The Horton Group, (Birth Trauma Dossier) and widely distributed.

This dossier contained 50 cases and examples of many problems, and the unacceptable service that was left in place following the removal of our full Obstetric service in October 2016. The 50 example cases documented are only a few examples from many brave mothers, who have come forward to speak up and illustrate what they have suffered since 2016.

A second dossier (part 2) is currently being compiled.

Banbury Town Council calls upon the BOB Integrated Care Board, to revisit the need for the return of a full Maternity service at the Banbury Horton Hospital, to once again offer an adequate and humane service to mothers in the Horton Hospital catchment area.”

(Note: during the debate the Deputy Mayor presented to the Mayor a photograph, celebrating the outcome of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel inquiry into the future of Consultant led maternity services at the Horton hospital, in the grounds of the Horton Hospital).

The Meeting ended at 7.20pm.