



Wallingford Town Council

**MINUTES  
of a meeting of the  
FULL COUNCIL  
held on  
Monday, 22 July 2024 at 7.00 pm  
in Wallingford Town Hall**

**Present**

**Members**

Cllr Mike Acreman  
Cllr Dan Beauchamp (The Mayor/Chairman)  
Cllr Mahmood Ebrahimjee  
Cllr Marcus Harris  
Cllr Susan Hendrie  
Cllr Stephen Holder (The Deputy Mayor) (up to and including Minute 173/24)  
Cllr Jacki Hoskins  
Cllr Mark Hoskins  
Cllr Nigel Hughes  
Cllr Ros Lester  
Cllr Diana Margarido  
Cllr Len Pannett  
Cllr Christine Sandall

**Officers:**

Michelle Taylor, Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer  
Karen Crowhurst, Locum Clerk  
Luke Whitcomb, Meetings Officer  
Arthur Hodsdon, Head of Parks and Estates

**Others:**

Cllr Pete Sudbury, Oxfordshire County Council  
1 member of the public  
0 members of the press

**164/24**

**MEETING PROTOCOL**

The Mayor welcomed members of the public and outlined the protocols that needed to be followed in the conduct of the meeting.

**165/24**

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were tabled from Town Councillors Charter, Holford and Keats-Rohan, and Town Councillor Holder had indicated that he would need to leave the meeting after Item 10.

It was proposed by Councillor Acreman, and seconded by Councillor Lester, and  
**RESOLVED** that these apologies be received and accepted

**166/24**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

**167/24**      **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Ebrahimjee, and seconded by Councillor Sandall, and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held on 24 June 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the replacement of the word ‘challenging’ with ‘channelling’ in Minute 94/24

**168/24**      **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Council reviewed progress on each of the ‘open’ actions agreed by previous meetings of the Full Council.

**Action:**

**Action Logs to indicate next milestone (if possible) rather than the current use of the phrase ‘in progress’ which is considered too vague**

**169/24**      **MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor reported on his recent activity, including supporting the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rainbow. He thanked the leadership of St Mary-le-More for arranging and hosting the General Election hustings. He explained that Wallingford Sports Park were currently holding consultation meetings to gain feedback on their ambitious plans. Their consultation had now finished.

**170/24**      **TOWN CLERK’S REPORT**

The Council received the Town Clerk’s Report which contained updates on the following projects and initiatives: Heritage Watch, the Town Hall Conservation Project, the Wallingford School Awareness Campaign, Britain in Bloom 2024, the replacement of the stair lift at the Town Hall, the community transport scheme, consultation on 20 mph speed limits, the development of a comprehensive list of current Town Council projects, climate action, and the new working group focussed on younger people.

171/24

**COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

The Council received written reports from County Councillor Pete Sudbury and District Councillor James Barlow.

**Action:**

**Written reports to be requested in future from the County and District Councillors to be circulated as part of the agenda pack**

172/24

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A director of the Bunkfest updated the Council on plans for the 2024 event particularly the extension of the festival's space using the Bull Croft.

The use of the Bull Croft had been driven by the high numbers and capacity of the Kinecroft the previous year. The festival's presence in the Bull Croft would be focussed on families and younger people.

Given that the Bull Croft was a Scheduled Monument, the appropriate consent had been given by Historic England and various safeguarding measures were being put in place to protect the site.

The High Street would be partially closed to assist with safe pedestrian crossing and an agreement had been reached with Waitrose to allow the delivery of goods to their store.

The use of the site had been agreed by the Bull Croft Trust as a one-year trial.

173/24

**VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THAMES WATER**

The Council considered a proposed vote of no confidence in Thames Water in the light of their record of sewage releases into the River Thames, including the effect of sewage releases on the stretch of the river passing through Wallingford.

Similar action had been taken by some Town Councils elsewhere in Oxfordshire.

County Councillor Sudbury encouraged the Town Council not to take action that would lead to the abuse of local Thames Water operatives.

Newly-elected Member of Parliament for Didcot and Wantage, Olly Glover, was campaigning for the non-payment of bonuses to the company's senior executives and had signed an Early Day Motion (EDM) in Parliament that called for this.

There were misgivings with some aspects of the paper that had been tabled, particularly the reference to nationalisation.

It was proposed by Councillor Holder, and seconded by Councillor Hughes, and

**RESOLVED** that the Town Council expresses that it has no confidence in the competence of the senior executives of Thames Water following the unacceptable releases of sewage into the River Thames and the impact of this on the natural environment and users of the river

Councillor Harris requested that his vote against this motion be recorded.

**Action:**

**Meeting protocol, including any disquiet that Members may have, to be discussed at dedicated meeting to be convened by Locum Clerk**

**174/24**

**END OF SECOND WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIVE EVENT**

The Council considered a recommendation of the Civic and Ceremonial Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Lester, and seconded by Councillor Margarido, and

**RESOLVED** that a single 'civic' event be held in 2025 to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War, a suitable date to be determined

**175/24**

**MINI-GOLF PROPOSAL**

The Council considered a request from an external party to run a pop-up mini-golf amenity on the Bull Croft.

It was proposed by Councillor Harris, and seconded by Councillor Hughes, and

**RESOLVED** that the request be approved as a one-off trial on the Bull Croft, provided that the Town Council received a fee and subject to the usual conditions required of hirers, for example a risk assessment and evidence of insurance

Councillors Hendrie and Lester asked that their votes against the motion be recorded.

**176/24**

**HERITAGE DECLARES**

The Council considered a proposal from Councillors Acreman and Keats-Rohan for the Town Council to sign up to an initiative named 'Heritage Declares' that

called for the integration of environmental conservation and the conservation of historic assets.

It was proposed by Councillor Acreman, and seconded by Councillor Pannett, and

**RESOLVED** that the Town Council signs up to the 'Heritage Declares' initiative

**Action:**

**Documentation to be completed**

**177/24      COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) APPLICATION – ST MARY-LE-MORE**

This item was deferred to the August meeting of the Full Council pending further guidance.

**178/24      CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU**

The Council considered a request from the Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens' Advice Bureau for an increase of £200 in their annual grant.

It was proposed by Councillor Lester, and seconded by Councillor Acreman, and

**RESOLVED** that the grant to CAB for 2024-25 be maintained at the budgeted level of £2k and that this be explained to the applicants who should be told that requests for additional amounts should be received by 1 November of the previous year.

**Action:**

**Respond to the applicants in line with the resolution**

**179/24      BILL SCHEDULE**

The Council reviewed a bill schedule.

It was proposed by Councillor Sandall, and proposed by Councillor Hughes, and

**RESOLVED** that the bill schedule for June 2024 be approved

**180/24      PARKS TEAM**

The Council considered the addition of an apprentice role for the Parks Team.

It was hoped that some external funding would be able to be found through the Grants Officer

It was proposed by Councillor Harris, and seconded by Councillor Lester, and

**RESOLVED** that an apprenticeship role be created in the Parks Team

**Action:**

**Grants Officer to explore potential of external funding**

**181/24**

**DATA**

This item was deferred to the August meeting of the Full Council to enable updates to the documentation.

**182/24**

**COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

The Chairman informed Members that the Council's use of Working Groups was being reviewed and that new guidelines would be issued by the Locum Clerk the following day (23 July 2024)

Specific queries should be sent to the Locum Clerk.

**Action:**

**Guidance to be issued to Members and officers, and the operation of working groups to be discussed at dedicated meeting to be convened by Locum Clerk**

**183/24**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following items were identified for future meetings:

- Pedestrianisation of front area of Town Hall (Town Clerk and staff team leading)
- Governance cycle (Cllr Charter has volunteered to lead) (Bandstand being used as a case study)
- Community emergency plan (The Mayor is leading, and this would be a priority once the D-Day commemoration had taken place)
- The Regal (recurring item) (current stage: feasibility review of options) (Town Clerk and staff team leading)
- IT contract, including training and policy regarding document repository (Town Clerk and staff team leading)
- Bandstand – outcome of scoping (Cllrs J Hoskins and Charter co-leading) (see also above)
- Honorary Freeman (proposed by Cllr Pannett)
- Rental property portfolio management (Town Clerk and team leading)
- Working Group review (Locum Clerk leading)
- Data (Locum Clerk leading)

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) application to the District Council by St Mary-le-More (Town Clerk and Grants Officer leading)
- Kinecroft, triangle of land – acceptance of proposed lease from the County Council (Cllr Holder leading, with input from Cty Cllr Sudbury)

**184/24      EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Lester, and seconded by Councillor Acreman, and

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

The meeting ended at 9.08 pm.

Minutes of the meeting of the  
Full Council held on  
22 July 2024,  
signed as a correct record

Chairman

2024-07-22 FC minutes DRAFT PUBLIC