



Wallingford Town Council

**MINUTES
of a meeting of the
FULL COUNCIL
held on
Monday, 31 March 2025 at 7.00 pm
in Wallingford Town Hall**

Present

Members

Cllr Mike Acreman
Cllr Dan Beauchamp (Chairman/The Mayor)
Cllr Marcus Harris
Cllr Susan Hendrie
Cllr Jacki Hoskins
Cllr Katherine Keats Rohan
Cllr Mark Hoskins
Cllr Nigel Hughes
Cllr Mahmood Ebrahimjee
Cllr Ros Lester
Cllr Diana Margarido
Cllr Len Pannett
Cllr Christine Sandall

Officers: Karen Crowhurst, Locum Clerk
Sam Shepherd – Assistant to the Clerk

Others: 0 members of the public
0 members of the press

James Barlow, District Council

525/25 Meeting protocol

The Mayor reminded Members about the meeting protocols.

526/25 Apologies

Apologies were sent by Cllr Holford and Cllr Pete Sudbury, Oxfordshire Country Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Sandall, and seconded by Cllr Akerman , and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the apologies be accepted.

527/25 **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interests were received.

528/25 **Minutes**

The Council received the minutes of the last meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr Sandall seconded by Cllr Hoskins and **RESOLVED** unanimously that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Full Council on 24 February 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to a couple of typographical corrections. The chair signed the minutes.

529/25 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

530/25 **Actions from Previous Meetings [public]**

There were no actions.

531/25 **Mayor's Communications**

The mayor noted that Michelle Taylor had handed in her notice due to unforeseen circumstances. The Council would like to wish her the very best and thank her for all she has done for Wallingford Town Council over the years.

532/25 **Town Clerk's Report**

Council noted and accepted the Locum Town Clerk's report.

The Mayor thanked Vicki Baker for all her hard work in the community. Members were pleased to hear of that Vicki Baker had been nominated for all her hard work and will be attending tea at Buckingham Palace.

Proposed by Cllr Acreman seconded Cllr Hendrie and accepted unanimously.

533/25 **County and District Councillors' Reports**

No questions for Cllr present

TRANSACTIONS OF COUNCIL BUSINESS-DECISION MAKING

534/25 **Finance**

(a) Council received the Bill Schedule for February 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, and seconded by Cllr Sandall, and **RESOLVED** unanimously that Council accept the Bill Schedule for January 2025.

(b) Council received the Cost Centre Report for February 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, and seconded by Cllr Ebrahimjee, and **RESOLVED** unanimously that Council accepts the Cost Centre report for February as the budget position at that time.

(c) Council received and accepted the Bank Reconciliations for the month of February 2025.

Cllr Ebrahimjee that he has signed all the bank statements and all is in order. Cllr Hughes advised checked bank statements and accounts tally and proposed that to accept the bank reconciliations for the month of February 2025 – Cllr Hendrie Seconded. Resolved unanimously.

(d) Council considered whether to dispose of the following Town Council assets:

- Epson Project £4,500
- Epson Lense £880
- Celexon Screen £840

There was much discussion around the sale of the assets and potentially using the money recouped towards the upkeep of the Agatha Christie statue.

It was proposed by Cllr Harris, and seconded by Cllr Hoskins, and **RESOLVED** to seek disposal and a reasonable financial return on the sale of the equipment.

535/25

Committee Recommendations for Council approval

19:35 Cllr Harris left the meeting – Cllr Harris returned at 19:37

Considerable discussion regarding partners attending this year's Civic Dinner. It was suggested to revisit this issue in June. This year's meal to carry on as per usual, with partners being paid for by the Councillors.

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Margarido and resolved unanimously.

536/25

Mayor for the municipal year 2025-2026

Town Council will support production of badges should previous mayors wish to buy them; however, the cost will be footed by the mayor.

After much discussion Cllr Pannett proposed that the proposal be dropped. Seconded by Keats-Rohan. A vote was held with a 7/6 result in favour of no longer pursuing the proposal.

Vote for Mayor

Cllr Harris proposed that advice be ignored and move to a paper vote. Seconded by Cllr Margarido – Resolved unanimously.

Cllr Holder, Cllr Lester, Cllr Hughes stood for election – an indicative paper vote was cast.

Cllr Lester won a majority vote to stand and be elected as mayor.

537/25

Youth Council

To accept and adopt the Youth Council constitution.

Cllr Beauchamp thanked those involved with setting up a Youth Council on behalf of Wallingford Town Council

Cllr Beauchamp proposed to accept the Youth Council constitution and Code of conduct by Cllr Beauchamp, seconded by Cllr Margarido and was RESOLVED unanimously.

538/25

Frequency of Committee and Council Meetings from June 2025

It was proposed to defer this until the next meeting by Cllr Beauchamp and seconded by Cllr Pannett and **RESOLVED** to defer.

539/25

Arts Funding

Proposed by Cllr Beauchamp to discuss in the Closed Session. Seconded by Cllr Sandall. **RESOLVED** to discuss in the Closed Session.

540/25

Tree Working Group

Proposing that we have a new tree working group effectively dissolving the current group.

Proposed by Cllr Akerman, seconded by Cllr Hendrie. **RESOLVED** unanimously to dissolve the working group.

541/25

Curfew Bell

Cllr Harris spoke at length about the Curfew Bell and that it be considered a Civic Event. After lengthy discussion, Cllr Harris proposed that an element of the event be civic this was seconded by Cllr Hoskins.

After a vote – For: 6 Against: 7 – **the motion was not carried.**

542/25 **To agree when by elections are called to request or not to request polling cards**

Proposed by Cllr Akerman that poll cards are not used, but to invest in an alternative communication method – that targets every house in town. This was seconded by Cllr Sandall and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

It was further agreed to ensure that there is a good communication strategy if the is to be a by election or co-option.

543/25 **Future Agenda Items**

No items were discussed

21:02 Cllr Holder left meeting.

21:03 Cllr Hoskins left meeting.

21:04 Cllr Holder and Cllr Hoskins returned to the meeting.

544/25 **CLOSED SESSION**

Exclusion of the press and public

Proposed by Cllr Pannett, seconded by Cllr Keats-Rohan. **RESOLVED** to exclude members of the public.

545/25 **Actions from previous meetings**

Actions were noted

546/25 **Quotation for additional verge cutting**

Cllr Akerman proposed that quote be accepted, seconded by Keats-Rohan. **RESOLVED** unanimously to proceed.

It was agreed that at the next meeting, the approach to the 2026 Verge Cutting will be added to the agenda.

547/25 **Maintenance provision closed churchyards**

It was proposed that SODC/OCC be informed that they are to take on the maintenance of church yards. It has been decided to defer until next meeting. Report requested by Cllr Hughes on costs of maintenance.

Proposed by Cllr Beauchamp and seconded by Cllr Margarido that All Hallows be continued. **RESOLVED** unanimously.

548/25 **10b St Martins**

Widening user clause

Sub-let to bookshop/walkway

It was Proposed by Cllr Beauchamp, seconded by Cllr Keats-Rohan. **RESOLVED** unanimously to defer this item until the April Council Meeting

549/25 IT Quotations and briefing paper from the locum clerk

It was proposed by Cllr Keats-Rohan to continue with the current supplier, seconded by Cllr Hendry – **RESOLVED** unanimously.

550/25 Arts Funding

Item bought forward from earlier in the meeting. It was proposed that nothing else was to be done with Rest Garden, but instead, focus on other smaller projects. It was also decided that no working group was required at present. Proposed by Cllr Hendrie, seconded by Cllr Sandall . **RESOLVED** unanimously.

Town Clerk left the room at 21:36

551/25 Locum Town Clerk Contract

It was decided to extent the Town Clerk's contract for a further 3 months – until end of July.

Proposed by Cllr Lester, seconded by Cllr J Hoskins – **RESOLVED** unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at pm

The next ordinary meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 28 April 2025. The summons and agenda papers will be issued by email on Tuesday, 22 April 2025. Items and papers for the agenda need to have been received by the Locum Clerk at townclerk2@wallingfordtowncouncil.gov.uk no later than Thursday, 17 April 2025. Items and documents received after this date will not be included or circulated.

2025-03-31 FC minutes CONFIDENTIAL

Signed by the chair:

Date: