

BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Banbury Town Council held on Tuesday, 15 March 2022 at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillor Hussain (Town Mayor)
Councillors: Ahmed, Ayres, Biegel, Bunce, Cherry, Colegrave, Dalton, Garrett, Illott, Kilsby, Mears, Phillips, Richards, Strangwood

Officers: Martyn Surfleet (Executive Officer)
Mark Recchia (Town Clerk) Via Zoom
Mark Hassall (Deputy Town Clerk) Via Zoom

C.62/21 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Beere, Hodgson, Mallon and Powell.

C.63/21 Declarations of Interest

None.

C.64/21 Questions

None.

C.65/21 Resolutions Moved on Notice

Resolution No 58

A Notice of Motion had been submitted by Councillor Mallon, in accordance with Standing Order (SO) 4(a), in the following terms:

"The unlawful invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation represents a direct threat to peace and security in Europe.

At the time of drafting, the potential for military conflict and civil unrest to escalate presents a real threat to peace on the European continent.

Residents of our proud town should expect to face adverse economic consequences in the short-term, including higher energy prices. Regrettably, our residents may be more profoundly affected in the medium to long-term, if the situation on the ground continues to deteriorate.

This Council unequivocally denounces the naked aggression of the Russian Federation against a neighbouring, sovereign democracy and resolves to actively consider requests from HM Government, public sector partners and civil society groups, such as the British Red Cross, to provide practical support to the people of Ukraine, including notably to any refugees who lawfully resettle here pursuant to international agreement(s) and/or domestic statute(s)."

This had initially been due for consideration at the next ordinary Council Meeting to be held on 12 April 2022. However, given the worsening situation in the Ukraine, the Town Mayor had agreed (under SO 17(a)) to call an Extraordinary Council Meeting to consider the motion.

As Councillor Mallon was not in attendance at the meeting, the motion was moved by Councillor Colegrave, seconded by Cllr Richards.

It was then moved by Councillor Colegrave and seconded by Councillor Richards, that the original motion be amended to read as follows:

"This council sees the unlawful invasion of Ukraine as an act of naked aggression by Russia, and as such is a direct threat to peace and security in Europe.

There will be a direct adverse effect on the economic wellbeing of the people of Banbury, and we ask that both national government and relevant local authorities ensure that this burden is ameliorated as much as possible.

BTC welcomes the government's recent changes to the immigration system, and urges it to do whatever is needed to ensure that this country offers a true safe haven, free of burdensome bureaucracy for those seeking refuge from this conflict.

We also ask that officers and members work with all relevant govt. and non-govt. organisations to ensure that this town can offer a welcome to all those escaping this conflict."

Prior to the amendment being put to the vote the proposer and seconder of the amendment were asked if they were willing to accept a further amendment to the effect that the word "welcomes" in paragraph three be deleted and replaced with the word "notes". This was accepted by the mover and seconder of the amendment, which was then put to the vote and carried **unanimously**. This then became the substantive motion.

A discussion ensued, during which various Members expressed support for Ukraine, and conveyed their hope that the UK would do all in its power to allow refugees fleeing the crisis to find safety and that should refugees find their way to Banbury they would be sure to be welcomed.

There being no further amendments, a vote was then taken upon the substantive motion and it was **RESOLVED unanimously** that:

"This council sees the unlawful invasion of Ukraine as an act of naked aggression by Russia, and as such is a direct threat to peace and security in Europe.

There will be a direct adverse effect on the economic wellbeing of the people of Banbury, and we ask that both national government and relevant local authorities ensure that this burden is ameliorated as much as possible.

BTC notes the government's recent changes to the immigration system, and urges it to do whatever is needed to ensure that this country offers a true safe haven, free of burdensome bureaucracy for those seeking refuge from this conflict.

We also ask that officers and members work with all relevant govt. and non-govt. organisations to ensure that this town can offer a welcome to all those escaping this conflict."

It was then proposed by Councillor Kilsby and further **RESOLVED** that a letter be sent to the MP to update her on the results of the meeting and highlight Banbury Town Council's stance on the situation in Ukraine.

The Meeting ended at 6.45pm.