

BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Banbury Town Council held on Tuesday, 07 November 2023 at 6.30pm at the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillor Ahmed (Town Mayor)
Councillors: Ayers, Beere, Biegel, Bishop, Bunce, Cherry, Colegrave, Donaldson, Garrett, Hodgson, Hussain, Ilott, Kilsby, Mallon, Mears and Reeves.

Officers: Mark Hassall (Town Clerk/RFO)
Paul Almond (Director of Environment)
Martyn Surfleet (Executive Officer)

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Hussain, Cllr Phillips

C.25/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

C.26/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

C.27/23 Communications

It was proposed by Councillor Ahmed and agreed by all members that the content of the communications be discussed at the end of the meeting within a confidential session.

C.28/23 Questions - Elected Members and Members of the Public

Questions from Mr Peter Monk – Banbury Civic Society to the Leader of the Council
Cllr Kieron Mallon:

Question 1

Will the Town Council please use its best offices with the District & County Councils for a Civic Amenities Site to be established in of nearer Banbury?

It is not #Green' for residents to make the 15 / 16-mile round trip to Alkerton in order to dispose of material which is recyclable or destined for landfill?

The leader of the Council responded by stating that waste and refuse is handled by Cherwell District Council and that officers and members can engage with the District Council on the matter of a more local waste amenity site to Banbury. Councillor Mallon also highlighted that the refuse site in Farthinghoe is also a convenient resource for residents of Banbury.

Question 2

Following the provision of defibrillators at sports grounds etc, will the Town Council please consider additional units, and appropriate direction signage, in the Town Centre for the protection of shippers and night visitors?

The Leader of the Council responded by highlighting that Banbury Town Council are not able to install defibrillators on non-Council owned buildings or land. Banbury Town Council on the request of its elected members have installed defibrillator units on all of its sports pavilions and playing fields, and based on this experience can

work with local businesses and organisations to encourage the installation of more units throughout the town.

Question 3

Being concerned at the apparent slow response by the District Council to bring forward proposals for revitalising the heart of Banbury, a group of like-minded residents from various town organisations have been meeting ad hoc to consider the provision of better direction signage, in lieu of the not very visible existing finger signs, for the benefit of visitors, tourists and residents.

Will the Council please give its support to this effort and, subject to consideration such signage proposals being brought forward, promote these either directly or via the County Council as appropriate?

The Leader of the Council responded by highlighting that town signage is the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council Highways and Cherwell District Council. But is aware that there is a working group of BTC members that are working with the relevant authorities and local businesses on road and tourist signage throughout the town centre, as well as the Banbury BiD and their Town Trail.

C.29/23 Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Ilott, seconded by Councillor Ayers, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 13 September 2023 be received. It was also proposed by Councillor Ilott and seconded by Councillor Ahmed, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18 October be received.

C.30/23 General Services Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Ilott, seconded by Councillor Ahmed, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the General Services Committee meeting held on 17 October 2023 be received.

C.31/23 Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Mallon, seconded by Councillor Colegrave, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 31 October 2023 be received.

C.32/23 Annual Return

Members were invited to review the report of the external auditor.

It was RESOLVED to receive and note the External Audit report as set out in **Appendix A** to the minutes.

C.33/23 Internal Audit Report 2023-24 (First Interim)

Members were invited to review the report of the internal auditor.

It was RESOLVED to receive and note the Internal Audit report as set out in **Appendix B** to the minutes.

C.34/23 Resolutions Moved on Notice Resolution No 66 – Period Poverty

It was proposed by Councillor Biegel, seconded by Councillor Mallon that:

“We have seen the cost of living crisis affect many of our residents, particularly since the Autumn of 2022, which has left them with an unacceptable choice between heating or eating.

I wish to bring this Council's attention to a further specific and real issue arising from the cost of living crisis, that of period poverty. Many women and girls now do not have access to sanitary products due to the rising cost.

The effects of not being able to comfortably leave home for several days every month due to lack of suitable sanitary products is unbearable for the individuals and unacceptable in our town and society.

To combat period poverty, this Council resolves to provide free sanitary products in Banbury Town Council owned or managed female and gender-neutral toilet rooms or cubicles.”

There then ensued a discussion on the motion, with all speakers in favour of the proposals.

A vote was taken upon the motion which It was then **RESOLVED** unanimously that the motion be adopted.

C.35/23 Confidential Business Exclusion

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items set out below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The Meeting ended at 7.36pm.