

BANBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Banbury Town Council held on Tuesday, 20 June 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, Phillips, Reeves, Richards, Strangwood and Tohill-Martin.

Officers: Mark Hassall (Town Clerk/RFO)
Paul Almond (Director of Environment)

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Dalton

C.1/23 Declarations of Interest

None.

C.2/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 May 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

C.3/23 Communications

C.4/23 Questions - Elected Members and Members of the Public

C.5/23 Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Bunce, seconded by Councillor Phillips, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 24 May 2023 be received.

C.6/23 General Services Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Phillips, seconded by Councillor Colegrave, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the General Services Committee meeting held on 06 June 2023 be received.

C.7/23 Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Mallon, seconded by Councillor Reeves, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Resources Committee meeting held on 13 June 2023 be received.

C.8/23 Resolutions Moved on Notice – Resolution No 63

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

“Banbury Town Council supports local, healthy food production and wishes to further promote the growth of herbs, fruits and vegetables. Banbury in Bloom would present an excellent opportunity to do this.

This council resolves to instruct Officers to bring forward a report to all members on expanding Banbury in Bloom to promote local healthy food production by residents”

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** by majority that the motion be adopted.

C.9/23 Resolutions Moved on Notice – Resolution No 64

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

“In 2022 this council passed a motion which resolved to undertake a new pro-active anti-litter campaign across Banbury to educate and discourage more people from dropping litter in the first place.

This Council still believes that the minimisation of litter around Banbury is desirable for all residents and visitors. It has been observed that excess litter is being dropped in streets along ‘school runs’ where there are fewer bins available on the pavement.

This council resolves to survey some of these areas, working alongside Cherwell District Council officers, so the appropriate recycling/general/smart bins may be purchased and installed.”

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** by majority that the motion be adopted.

C.10/23 Resolutions Moved on Notice – Resolution No 65

It was proposed by Councillor Hodgson, seconded by Councillor Cherry that:

“Following the letter to the Banbury Guardian from Caleb and Dylan Thompson of Orchard Way asking if the central reservation of their road could be planted with wildflowers, this council notes the Council’s commitment to biodiversity in green spaces across the town and the hard work the Council has already done in encouraging and maintaining biodiversity on its own land. It should also note the hard work that has already been done following the boys’ letter, as reported in the recent meeting of the General Services Committee.

It also notes that in terms of Orchard way, if the boys’ letter were to result in the positive action they have asked for, the options are to rewild and/or to plant wildflowers, although there are some hurdles to jump over as the land is owned by Oxfordshire County Council, managed by Cherwell District Council and the work carried out by Banbury Town Council. There are other areas of land and road verges across Banbury that are in a similar position and that could be similarly used to encourage increased biodiversity, as Caleb and Dylan have asked, and a noble, socially and environmentally conscious request it is too. They should be proud and are to be commended.

This council, therefore, moves that it will carry out a review to identify suitable sites across Banbury for further biodiversification through rewilding or planting of wildflowers, including central reservations and road verges, and it will liaise with Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council where required to ensure that that goal is realised wherever possible.”

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Mallon and seconded by Councillor Reeves as follows:

“Biodiversity Motion Amendments in the name of Kieron Mallon

Following the letter to the Banbury Guardian from Caleb and Dylan Thompson of Orchard Way asking if the central reservation of their road could be planted with wildflowers, this council notes the Council’s commitment to biodiversity in green spaces across the town and the hard work the Council has already done in encouraging and maintaining biodiversity on its own land.

Banbury Town Council sites already maintained for enhanced biodiversity are:

*Spiceball Park
Hanwell Fields
Peoples Park
Browning Road
Mineral Railway
Crouch Hill Open Space
Hastings Park*

It also notes that in terms of Orchard way, if the boys’ letter were to result in the positive action they have asked for, the options are to rewild and/or to plant wildflowers. It is understood that Cherwell District Council who manage and maintain the land owned by Oxfordshire County Council, are looking at the opportunities for less intense maintenance, for the benefit of biodiversity. Banbury Town Council makes a financial contribution of £50,000 per year to Cherwell District Council to help them cover the costs of maintaining highway grass verges in Banbury.

There are other areas of land and road verges across Banbury that are in a similar position and that could be similarly used to encourage increased biodiversity, as Caleb and Dylan have asked, and a noble, socially and environmentally conscious request it is too. They should be proud and are to be commended.

As discussed at the General Services Committee 6th June 2023, this council, moves that it will carry out a review to identify suitable sites across Banbury for further biodiversification through rewilding or planting of wildflowers on land owned by the Town Council to complement any work carried out on central reservations and road verges, by Oxfordshire County Council and/or Cherwell District Council, to ensure that a Town wide biodiversity enhancement is realised wherever possible.”

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

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

C.11/23

Internal Audit

The Council considered the Annual Internal Audit Report (page 3 of the Annual Return).

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report.

C.12/23 Annual Return

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk where
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 on the Annual Return, where questions 1 to 9 are answered yes, and signed on behalf of the Council by the Leader of the Council and the Town Clerk.

C.13/23 Accounting Statement

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk & RFO where
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements (Section 2 on the Annual Return – for the year ended 31 March 2023 be approved and be signed on behalf of the Council by the Leader of the Council and the RFO.

C.14/23 Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2021 (unaudited)

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk & RFO where
IT WAS RESOLVED that the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (unaudited) be approved and signed on behalf of the Council by the Leader of the Council and the RFO.

C.15/23 Notice of Electors Rights

The Council considered a copy of the Notice of Electors Rights

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Notice of Electors Rights be approved.

C.16/23 Financial Regulations

The Council reviewed a copy of Banbury Town Councils Financial Regulations.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations be approved.

C.17/23 Standing Orders (2018)

The Council reviewed a copy of Banbury Town Councils Standing Orders (2018)

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Standing Orders (2018) be approved.

The Meeting ended at 7.27pm.