



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Thursday 9 May 2024, in the Council Chamber, Aylesbury Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP at 7pm

In the Chair: Cllr S Lambert (Town Mayor)

Present:

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| S. Bateman | S. Chapple | A. Christensen | T. Dixon |
| C. Hendren | T. Hunter-Watts | N. Hussain | T. Hussain |
| R. Khan | P. Koya | R. Lloyd | N. Mehta |
| A. Morgan | S. Morgan | W. Raja | A. Sherwell |
| D. Summers | D. Thompson | G. Wadhwa | M. Willis |
| M. Winn | | | |

Officers: Mr Keith Gray, JP (Town Clerk)
Mrs Judith Priest (Deputy Town Clerk)

7 members of the public

The Town Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and welcomed members of the public and guest speakers.

Officers from Buckinghamshire Council's Economic Development team presented the regeneration plans for Aylesbury, to the council and answered questions raised.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for their support in the last year. He had greatly enjoyed his year in office, meeting and representing the people of Aylesbury as Mayor.

Cllr M Winn arrived at 7:22pm

Cllr T Hussain left the room at 7:37pm and did not return

Cllr R Kahn left the room at 7:44pm and returned at 7:47pm

The Mayor allowed a short break at 8:07pm and council returned under standing orders at 8:17pm.

1. Election of Town Mayor (Chairman of the Council)

To elect the Town Mayor for 2024/25.

Cllr Gurinder Wadhwa proposed, Cllr N Hussain seconded that Cllr Alan Sherwell be elected as Town Mayor for Aylesbury for the term of one year. No further nominations were forthcoming and on being put to the vote this proposal was carried unanimously.

Resolved: That Cllr Alan Sherwell be duly elected Town Mayor for the municipal year 2024/25.

Cllr Alan Sherwell in the Chair.

Resolved: The Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the Town Clerk and Proper Officer of the Council.

The Town Mayor thanked his proposer, seconder and all members for electing him. Cllr Sherwell announced that he chose PACE as his charity of the year.

2. Apologies

To receive and accept apologies of absence from Town Councillors.

Apologies received from Cllr M Baldwin (Illness), Cllr R King (prior commitment)

Resolved: Council unanimously agreed that the above apologies be received and accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

a) To receive any pecuniary and non-pecuniary declarations of interest.

Resolved: No declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest made.

b) That Council delegate to the Clerk to grant dispensations.

Resolved: That the Town Clerk be delegated the power to grant dispensations (under s101 of the Local Government Act 1972).

c) To receive and grant any applications for dispensation

Resolved: No requests for dispensations made.

4. Election of Deputy Mayor

To elect the Deputy Town Mayor for 2024/25.

Proposed by Cllr S Morgan, seconded by Cllr P Koya that Cllr Nidhi Mehta be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for a term of one year. No further nominations were forthcoming and on being put to the vote the proposal was carried unanimously.

Resolved: That Cllr Nidhi Mehta be duly elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the municipal year 2024/25.

Resolved: The Deputy Town Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the Town Clerk and Proper Officer of the Council.

5. Minutes

Resolved: To unanimously agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 11 April 2024.

6. Committee Minutes and Reports

Resolved: Unanimously agreed, to take Minutes “as read” and to note/accept Minutes listed below.

Planning & Licensing Committee - Cllr M Willis

- a) To receive the draft minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2024.
- b) To receive any important updates from the chairman following the meeting held on Tuesday 7 May 2024.

7. Appointment of Leader of the Council (Political Appointment)

To elect the Leader of the Council.

It was proposed by Cllr M Willis, seconded by Cllr S Bateman, that Cllr Richard Lloyd be Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2024/25. On being put to the vote the proposal was carried unanimously.

Resolved: That Cllr Lloyd be duly elected Leader of the Council for 2024/25.

8. Committee Structure

To agree the following Committee structure for 2024/25. To agree the membership of each committee according to Council’s Standing Orders.

The Town Clerk indicated that prior discussions had been held with the respective group leaders and proposed that the existing Committee Structure be retained as follows, politically balanced.

Resolved: The following committees shall be the Standing Committees of the Town Council, and the proposed Terms of Reference are agreed, subject to amendments as appropriate in Standing Orders to reflect size of committees.

- a) Policy Committee - 13 members: all Chairs and Vice Chairs of the other five standing committees plus the Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Leader of the Council.
- b) Finance Committee - 7 members: 6 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative,
- c) Planning Committee - 9 members: 7 Liberal Democrat, 2 Conservative
- d) Direct Services Committee - 9 members: 7 Liberal Democrat, 2 Conservative
- e) Communities Committee - 9 members: 7 Liberal Democrat, 2 Conservative
- f) Grants Committee - 7 members: 6 Liberal Democrat, 1 Conservative.

Resolved: The following committee membership was confirmed by the group leaders prior to the meeting and unanimously accepted by the council.

Finance Committee

Cllrs A. Christensen, A. Sherwell, P. Koya, R. Lloyd, T. Dixon, N. Mehta, R. King

Planning and Licensing Committee

Cllrs M. Willis, C. Hendren, G. Wadhwa, A. Sherwell, T. Hunter-Watts, M. Azam, N. Hussain

Grants Committee

Cllrs S. Morgan, M. Baldwin, C. Hendren, T. Hussain, S. Bateman, A. Morgan, S. Chapple

Communities Committee

Cllrs T. Dixon, S. Bateman, M. Baldwin, T. Hunter-Watts, N. Mehta, A. Sherwell, M. Willis, D. Summers, D. Thompson

Direct Services

Cllrs W. Raja, S. Lambert, P. Koya, A. Morgan, R. Lloyd, N. Hussain, M. Azam, M. Winn, R. King

9. Appointment of Committee Chairs

Resolved: Unanimously agreed that the following councillors named shall be Chairman of the following Standing Committees of the Town Council:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| a) Chairman of the Policy Committee | Cllr R. Lloyd |
| b) Chairman of the Finance Committee | Cllr A. Christensen |
| c) Chairman of the Planning and Licensing Committee | Cllr M. Willis |
| d) Chairman of the Direct Services Committee | Cllr W. Raja |
| e) Chairman of the Communities Committee | Cllr T. Dixon |
| f) Chairman of the Grants Committee | Cllr S. Morgan |

10. Signatories for cheques

The Town Clerk advised that four cheque signatories are required and that the current cheque signatories are happy to remain in situ.

Resolved: Council unanimously agreed that Cllrs M Baldwin, D Summers, T Hunter-Watts, S Lambert, the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk be signatories for 2024/25 to sign cheques on behalf of the Council.

11. Appointment of Internal Auditors

Proposal that the Council continues with, and appoints, the firm of Auditing Solutions Ltd as Internal Auditors to the Town Council for 2024/25.

Resolved: The council unanimously agreed that Auditing Solutions Ltd remain appointed as the Council's Internal Auditors.

12. General Power of Competence

To resolve to take the General Power of Competence and to agree that the Town Council meets the criteria for eligibility relating to its Electoral mandate and qualified Clerk.

The Town Clerk reminded members of the benefit of adopting the General Power of Competence and advised Council to so adopt the Power.

Resolved: Council unanimously agreed to take the powers of the General Power of Competence and acknowledge and agree that the Council meets the criteria for eligibility to its electoral mandate and qualified clerk.

13. Councillor Representatives on Outside Bodies

Nominations were sought for Outside Body representatives.

Resolved: To nominate and unanimously agree the following Councillors as representatives of the Town Council on Outside Bodies in 2024/25.

- a) Arla Liaison Group - Cllr T. Hunter-Watts
- b) Armed Forces Covenant - Cllr D. Summers
- c) Aylesbury Community Board - Cllr A. Sherwell
- d) Aylesbury Garden Town Board - Cllr R. Lloyd
- e) Aylesbury Multi-Cultural Community Centre - Cllr D. Summers
- f) The Emans Trust - Cllr N. Mehta
- g) William Harding Charity Trust - Cllr S. Bateman

14. Reports from Representatives to Outside Bodies

To receive, if any, verbal reports from Outside Body representatives

Buckinghamshire Council Parish Liaison Meeting, Cllr R Lloyd

Cllr Lloyd gave an update on the meeting, which covered the proposed Street Trading Licence consultation, which has been extended until 26 May 2024. Attendees also raised questions about FixMyStreet.

Arla Liaison Group, Cllr T Hunter-Watts

Cllr Hunter-Watts advised that the next meeting is taking place on 12 June. The meeting also incorporates Oleco and Rexel.

Armed Forces Covenant, Cllr D Summers

Cllr Summers advised that Poplar Grove surgery has signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant.

D-Day celebrations will be taking place on 6 June, in and around the area of Aylesbury.

The Armed Forces of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire will be holding a conference in September and more details will be provided nearer the time.

15. Council Meetings Schedule 2024/25

To agree the dates for meetings for the municipal year 2024/25.

Resolved: That the Council and Committee meeting schedule for 2024/25 as attached to the agenda be duly endorsed.

16. Councillor Allowances

To formally approve Councillor Allowances as detailed in the Council's budget/precept for 2024/25.

Resolved: Council formally and unanimously approved the agreed scheme of allowances for 2024/25 as detailed in the council's budget/precept for 2024/25.
£1,023 per annum - Councillor allowance
£3,100 per annum - Town Mayor allowance

17. Review of Council Policies and Procedures

Resolved: Council unanimously agreed and accepted its current policies and procedures but delegates to the Policy Committee to review these in depth and bring to full council any amendments or policy proposal changes for ratification.

18. Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Resolved: Council formally and unanimously agreed to continue with the current Town Council Standing Orders without any amendments or changes until such time as the Town Clerk or Council wishes to make changes or changes are required by legislation.

19. Devolved Assets from Buckinghamshire Council

That the Council reaffirms its commitment to taking on devolved services and assets and continue to engage with Buckinghamshire Council concerning the devolvement of assets and services.

Resolved: The council unanimously reaffirms its commitment to taking on devolved assets and continues to engage with Buckinghamshire Council regarding devolving assets such as community centres, recreation grounds, parks, open spaces and the Market to the Town Council.

There being no further business of the Council, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8:40pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Town Mayor