



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DIRECT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, 5 CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY, ON TUESDAY 15th MARCH 2022 AT 7 P.M.

Present: Cllr W Raja (Chairman)
Cllr M Azam
Cllr C Hendren
Cllr N Hussain (from 7.10 pm)
Cllr R King
Cllr R Lloyd
Cllr A Morgan
Cllr M Winn

Officers in attendance: Mr K Gray (Town Clerk)

No members of the public were in attendance.

Owing to the absence of the Chairman, the meeting was chaired by the Vice Chairman, who formally opened the meeting at 7.00 pm and welcomed everyone present.

Cllr Lambert in the Chair

1. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: To note and agree apologies for absence.

Cllr Winn due to prior commitments, Cllr Raja due to family commitments, Cllr Hussain for late arrival.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES

To receive, accept and sign the Minutes of 8 September 2021 and 5 October 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be duly agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

To receive any matters arising from the Minutes/report from the Clerk
The Town Clerk advised there were no matters arising.

5. JONATHAN PAGE PLAY CENTRE

To receive a report from the Senior Communities Officer (SCO)

The Senior Communities Officer's report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There were no points or questions raised and thus the report was noted.

6. DEVOLVED SERVICES

To receive, consider and take decisions as appropriate regarding the Devolved Services uplift in 2022/23. Town Clerk to report.

The Town Clerk gave a brief verbal update and advised members that Bucks Council had proposed an uplift of 3% in finances for the coming 2022/23 financial year. From 2023 onwards a new multi-year agreement would be sought, and a revised funding scheme would need to be agreed. This new agreement would need comprehensive examination before being adopted. Members noted the report.

7. CEMETERY

7a) To receive an update on cemetery matters.

The Chairman introduced Mr Vaughan Ladyman, the new Cemetery Manager, who had been in post for nearly a month. Members welcomed Mr Ladyman to the Council. Mr Ladyman gave a brief run-down of his past career in funeral management and reported that he was settling-in well to his new role.

7b) To receive, consider and decide whether any changes be made to the schedule of fees and charges levied by the Council.

The existing schedule of fees and charges for the Cemetery had been circulated in advance of the meeting. These had last been reviewed in July 2019. The Town Council advised that the current fee structure enabled the Council to do all it needed to do in the cemetery, covered the costs and there was no especial reason presently to seek any changes. Members noted and agreed with the comments of the Town Clerk and agreed that no changes be effected at the present time.

[Cllr Hussain joined the meeting at 7.17 pm]

8. ALLOTMENTS

To receive a quarterly update on allotment availability.

The report of the Allotments and Devolved Services Officer had been circulated in advance of the meeting which included information on occupancy rates, letting trends and plot availability per site. The Committee noted the report.

A member asked whether the Bedgrove replacement fencing had now been undertaken? The Town Clerk confirmed that the fencing and associated hedging works at Beaufort Close had been completed and the feedback from residents was overall very positive. A member referred to information received from the Allotment Society relating to provision of compostable toilets on allotments and whether such facilities could be provided on one or more of the Council's allotments sites? The Town Clerk responded that by all means this could be investigated, and a report duly submitted to a future meeting.

9. HEDGEHOGS R US HIGHWAY PROJECT

To consider taking part in the Hedgehogs R Us Highway Project to help conservation of hedgehog populations, and take appropriate decisions, as required.

The Deputy Town Clerk outlined the initiative received from Hedgehogs R Us, details of which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Hedgehog numbers were in decline and the project was intended to help conserve local populations through use of "Hedgehog Highways" which as part of a modest outlay would help raise awareness of hedgehops plight. A short discussion ensued, and members were supportive of the project which would involve

community activism at the ward level. **RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Morgan and on being put to the vote duly passed unanimously that one box of Hedgehog Highway surrounds be purchased and subsequently disseminated to interested parties.

10. DOG AND LITTER BINS

To receive a verbal update regarding bin provision. The Deputy Town Clerk indicated that funds remained for purchase of replacement bins and it was anticipated that these works would be undertaken within the following two months. Members were asked to highlight any locations where replacement bins were required however to be aware that new bin locations could be problematic as we were dependent on Bucks Council to agree such locations and under the agreement to empty and maintain the bins this would inevitably add to Town Council costs. It was agreed that an email be sent to all members asking to notify any bin replacements required in their respective wards within a period of two weeks.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 15 March 2022 (7 pm).

12. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To pass a motion that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (section 2) (and as extended by section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

13. TOWN HALL

Town Hall rental of office space.

Decisions to be made regarding future leases and rental of office space.

The Town Clerk advised the Committee of the background to this matter and the need for office space for staff, especially during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic when distanced working was imperative. Also, additional members of staff had been appointed and thus there was now a defined need to utilise offices on the second floor of the Town Hall.

Members noted the needs of the organisation and were cognisant of the position regarding leaseholders. The priority had to be the organisation's needs and functionality taking priority.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Hussain, seconded by Cllr Lloyd and on being put to the vote duly carried unanimously that both tenants existing leases be not renewed after 1 April 2022 and informed accordingly.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.42 p.m.

Chairman _____

Date _____