



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy Committee of Aylesbury Town Council held at
the Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury on Wednesday 23 November 2022
at 7pm**

Present: Cllr R Lloyd (Chairman)
Cllr A Christensen
Cllr S Lambert
Cllr S Morgan
Cllr W Raja
Cllr A Sherwell
Cllr M Willis

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

No members of the public were in attendance.

The Chairman, Cllr R Lloyd, called the meeting to order at 7pm.

1. Apologies

To note and agree apologies for absence.

Resolved: To unanimously receive and accept apologies for absence from, Cllr T Dixon (illness), Cllr D Summers (prior commitment), Cllr S Bateman (prior commitment), Cllr C Hendren (work commitment)

2. Declarations of Interest & Dispensations Requested

To declare and note any personal or prejudicial interests.

No declarations of Interest were made, and no dispensations were requested.

3. Minutes

To receive, accept and sign the draft minutes of 5 October 2022

Resolved: To unanimously receive, accept and sign the minutes of 5 October 2022 as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

To receive any matters arising from the Minutes.

No matters raised by the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk or members.

5. Asset/Services Transfer - Community Centres

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk on the transfer of assets from Buckinghamshire Council under the Localism Agenda.

The Town Clerk updated committee members on meetings taken place with Buckinghamshire Council (BC) officers regarding the transfer of assets. The first tranche of asset transfers proposed will include Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Centre, Haydon Hill Community Centre and the Multi-Cultural Community Centre as these centres are managed by associations and charities. Talks with officers include the state of the buildings, current works programme, special expenses and money that may come over to the council from BC with the transfer of these assets. BC are currently putting together a draft offer for the council, which is expected in mid-December, together with a request for business plans for all three centres.

6. Update from Community Liaison Officers

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk on the work of the Community Liaison Officers.

Councillors received an update from the Town Clerk on the work carried out by the Community Liaison Officers at present and during the last few months.

A list of works and projects being looked at and actioned was given to members. This includes supporting local businesses, arranging the successful installation of the Christmas lights, profiling and promoting local businesses, working on partnership projects with Fairhive and schools to enhance the environment in Aylesbury, by planting flowers and painting junction boxes, assisting residents and groups with litter picks, exploring funding options to install more benches in Aylesbury and arranging the Aylesbury in Bloom competition.

Councillors were appreciative of the works and projects being actioned and thanked the Community Liaison Officers for their work.

Cllr S Morgan advised that the BC Community Boards Micro Grant level has been increased to £5,000 from £1,000.

Cllr A Sherwell, complemented Emma El Badaoui, Community Liaison Officer (Environment) about how she moved forward with finding artists for the painting of the cable boxes.

Cllr S Lambert complemented Diane Harrison, Community Liaison Officer (Town) on her work. He recently attended a business networking event and received lots of compliments and praise on the work undertaken by the Town Council since the Town Centre Partnership ceased to exist.

Cllr S Lambert thanked all staff and volunteers for their hard work at Christmas on the Cobbles and the successful light switch on.

Cllr W Raja asked that before benches are being installed that the locations are carefully considered to avoid anti-social behaviour. The Clerk assured the committee that any sites for benches would need to be carefully considered and it was not the case that benches would automatically be installed at the request of councillors or members of the public. The committee agreed with this approach.

7. Update on Healthy Living Centre

To receive an update from the Town Clerk and Leader of the Council on the planned Healthy Living Centre (HLC) closure.

The Town Clerk gave an update on his discussion with Fairhive on the future of the community building.

Cllr S Morgan reiterated the importance of this community facility and how important it is to ensure that it continues to run as centre for the community and that the council should explore the possibility to take on the facility and manage it as community centre.

Cllr S Lambert proposed, Cllr S Morgan seconded that the Town Clerk continues to raise the possibility that the town council take responsibility for the community centre and speak with Fairhive to see if this is possible.

Resolved: Councillors unanimously agreed for the Town Clerk to follow-up with Fairhive as proposed above.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 7pm at the Town Hall.

Apologies received for 8 February 2023 from Cllr M Willis due to work commitment.

9. Reserved Items

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.

Cllr R Lloyd proposed, Cllr S Lambert seconded to close the meeting to the public and press.

Resolved: Councillors unanimously agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

10. Stadium Feasibility Study

To review proposals received from potential suppliers and to agree the supplier to be put forward to full council for progression with a feasibility study for the proposed Aylesbury Community Football stadium.

Committee members discussed the three proposals received in detail.

Cllr M Willis proposed, Cllr W Raja seconded, to recommend to full council The Sports Consultancy.

Resolved: Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to full council The Sports Consultancy for progression with a feasibility study for the proposed Aylesbury Community Football stadium.

11. Local Pay Scale Review

To review the proposed changes to the Local Pay Scales, which will ensure that all grades and spinal column points are at least at National Living Wage or above.

Councillors discussed the proposed changes and the shortage in the labour market and that it is important for the council to offer competitive salaries to attract a qualified and skilled workforce.

Cllr M Willis proposed, Cllr S Morgan seconded to change the Local Pay Scale as outlined in the Briefing Paper.

Resolved: Councillors unanimously agreed to change the Local Pay Scale as proposed in the Briefing Paper, from December 2022, to ensure that all grades and spinal are at least at National Living Wage or above and for staff members to be informed of their new grade and spinal point.

12. Employment and Health & Safety Advisors renewal

To review the renewal proposal received from the Council's current Employment and Health & Safety Advisors, Worknest.

To agree to the renewal of the contract for a further 60 months with Worknest.

The committee discussed the received proposal in detail and the work Worknest carries out for the council under the contract.

Cllr S Lambert proposed, Cllr A Christensen seconded to renew the contract with Worknest for a further 60 months.

Resolved: Committee unanimously agreed to sign a contract with Worknest for Employment and Health & Safety advise for a further 60 months.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:38pm

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____