



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting called for Thursday 8 December 2022,
in the Council Chamber, Aylesbury Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury,
HP20 2QP at 7pm**

Present

In the Chair: Cllr Tim Dixon (Mayor)

Councillors

M. Azam	M. Baldwin	S. Bateman	T. Hunter-Watts
N. Hussain	R. Khan BEM	R. King	P. Koya
S. Lambert	R. Lloyd	N. Mehta	A. Sherwell
D. Summers	D. Thompson	G. Wadhwa	M. Winn

Officers: Keith Gray, JP (Town Clerk)
Jane Eden (Planning and Grants Committee Clerk)

Two members of the public present.

Mr S Mitchell addressed the council about open spaces in the town centre and their characters and the proposed changes to Kingsbury and Market Square. Buckinghamshire Council is leading on these changes after considerable consultation with local residents, businesses and relevant stakeholders.

Cllr D Summers arrived at 7:02pm

Cllr N Hussain arrived at 7:03pm

Mayor Cllr T Dixon, called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

1. Apologies of Absence

Cllr A Christensen (work commitment), Cllr S Chapple (prior commitment), Cllr C Hendren (work commitment), Cllr T Hussain (prior commitment), Cllr A Morgan (work commitment), Cllr S Morgan (work commitment), Cllr W Raja (illness), Cllr M Willis (illness)

Resolved: To unanimously agree that the above apologies be received and accepted.

2. Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor referred to the list of mayoral engagements previously circulated.

The Mayor highlighted his visit to Respect Martial Arts Club, the Mayor's Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church and Christmas on the Cobbles.

3. Leader's Announcements

The Leader of the Council, Cllr R Lloyd, highlighted a number of activities.

He had a meeting with HS2 at which they discussed that many HS2 contractor lorries are using Town Centre roads rather than the designated routes. This has led to HS2 sanctioning companies. Cllr Lloyd asked that should any councillors receive any concerns from residents, or they have any concerns that they report back to him and if they see any lorries, provide the registration number, so the details can be reported to HS2.

During a recent site visit of HS2 Cllr Lloyd and other attendees were shown the HS2 route, had a demonstration of machinery, which are loud, and councillors received complaints from residents. A paper copy of section 17 showing the design around the Coldharbour area will be made available shortly.

Cllr Lloyd mentioned the many positive comments he has received from businesses and residents about the new Christmas Lights. Ron Butler MP also congratulated the Town Council on the Christmas lights.

4. Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensation

To declare and note any personal or prejudicial interests, and to declare and note any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests or requests for dispensation.

No declarations were made, and no dispensations requested.

5. Minutes

Resolved: To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 13 October 2022.

6. Matters arising on the Minutes

To receive a report from the Clerk on additional matters not on the agenda, if applicable. The Clerk raised no further matters.

Cllr D Thompson referred to the Town Council minutes from 13 October and the resolution of agenda point 10, which states that the council unanimously agreed, that the Mayor and or Leader of the Council to write a strongly worded letter to the Buckinghamshire Council Planning department highlighting the concern of all town councillors in respect of the planning department at Buckinghamshire Council. As he did not attend the last meeting, he felt that the letter should not state "the concerns of all town councillors" but rather state "the council".

The Town Clerk confirmed that letters are usually written on behalf of "The Council" and not "all councillors".

7. Committee Minutes and Chairmen's Reports

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

- i) **Planning & Licensing Committee** - Cllr M Willis
 - a) To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2022
 - b) To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2022
 - c) To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2022
 - d) To receive any important updates from the chairman following the meeting held on 5 December 2022.
- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2022
 - b) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2022
- iii) **Direct Services** - Cllr W Raja
 - a) To receive any important updates from the chairman following the meeting held on 7 December 2022
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
 - a) To note the next meeting will be taking place on Wednesday 14 December 2022
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr S Morgan
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2022
- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
 - a) To note that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 January 2023

8. Financial

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 6 (September 2022)
- b) Cash Books for Month 6 (September 2022)
- c) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 7 (October 2022)
- d) Cash Books for Month 7 (October 2022)

Resolved: On being put to the vote with 16 For and 1 Abstention to accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Reports September (month 6), October 2022 (month 7) and Cash Books for month 6 (September 2022), month 7 (October 2022).

- e) To receive, note and approve the Internal Audit Interim 2022/23 report
Unanimously agreed

Resolved: To unanimously receive, note and approve the Internal Audit Interim report 2022/23.

Cllr Thompson wished to ask a number of questions relating to the accounts. Cllr Sherwell, as Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee, offered to take these questions and speak to the Town Clerk and Finance Officer for a reply to Cllr Thompson in due course.

9. Asset/Services Transfers - Community Centres

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk on the transfer of assets from Buckinghamshire Council under the Localism Agenda, namely Quarrendon & Meadowcroft, Haydon Hill and the Multi-Cultural Centre Community Centres.

The Town Clerk provided an update on the discussions he is having with officers from Buckinghamshire Council (BC) regarding the proposed transfer of three community centres, namely Quarrendon & Meadowcroft, Haydon Hill and the Multi-Cultural Centre Community Centres.

Other community centres will become part of the discussion in 2023 as their proposed transfer will be more complex.

A draft offer will be made from BC in due course and the town council will consider the proposal.

Cllr A Sherwell asked what the position is on the transfer of St Mary's closed churchyard. The Town Clerk advised that at present this is not part of the initial transfer but that the churchyard is on the list for possible future discussion should the town council wish to take on the responsibility.

Cllr D Thompson asked that the council ensures any assets that are being transferred are in a good state of repair to ensure that the Town Council does not end up footing the bill for disrepair.

10. Aylesbury Stadium Proposal

Council to formally approve The Sports Consultancy, as contractor to carry out a feasibility study for the proposed Aylesbury Community Football Stadium, and the associated costs for the study, in order to take the stadium proposal to the next level of discussion.

Cllr R Lloyd gave an overview why a feasibility study is required and the progress that has been made in terms of identifying possible land.

The Policy committee reviewed in detail, proposals and quotes received from three consultancy companies at their last meeting.

Councillors discussed the need for a feasibility study to move the project forward.

Cllr R Lloyd proposed, and Cllr S Lambert seconded, that The Sports Consultancy be appointed as contractor to carry out a feasibility study.

Resolved: Council unanimously agreed to approve The Sports Consultancy as a contractor to carry out a feasibility study for the proposed Aylesbury Community Football Stadium and to cover the associated costs for the study.

11. Councillor Officer Protocol

To agree and adopt the revised ATC POL14 Officer Member Protocol, which has been updated in line with the Model Councillor Officer Protocol under the Civility & Respect Project, which is supported by NALC, SLCC and OVW.

Cllr A Sherwell noted that certain paragraphs have been removed under the revision which give opposition councillors the right to engage with the Town Clerk, and he wanted assurance that opposition councillors would still get support and access to the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk assured councillors that as an officer, who is neutral and answers to the council as a corporate body and not a particular political group, any councillors can contact the Clerk for information and advice at any time. He also explained that some of the wording in the previous Councillor Officer protocol was based on protocol used by local authorities who operate differently to local parish and town councils.

Cllr N Hussain proposed, and Cllr M Baldwin seconded to approve and adopt the revised ATC POL14 Officer Member Protocol.

Resolved: Councillors unanimously agreed to accept the revisions made to ATC POL14 Officer Member Protocol, in line with the Model Councillor Officer Protocol under the Civility and Respect Project.

12. Outside Bodies Report

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

Aylesbury Multicultural Community Centre

Cllr D Summer reported that their Annual General Meeting has taken place and that a new chairman and secretary have been elected. The committee itself is smaller than in previous years. Cllr A Waite is the representative for Buckinghamshire Council.

Armed Forces Covenant

Cllr Summer attended the Buckinghamshire Civil Armed Forces committee meeting. Their focus is on homelessness of veterans and assisting in their employment. Breakfast meetings are taking place once a month which anyone who wishes to, is welcome to attend. Across the county work is taking place to unify the service committee and consolidate how they can help veterans.

Cllr Summers also advised that the RAF Halton closure has been delayed until 2027.

Arla Liaison Group

Cllr T Hunter-Watts advised that the next Arla meeting is in February 2023. He has asked councillor to forward any concerns they have regarding Arla lorries going through Bedgrove.

Buckinghamshire Council are in the process of carrying out a vibration study on Tring Road to see what impact lorries have on houses.

William Harding Charity Trust

Cllr S Bateman informed councillors that the new website of the trust has gone live today, which allows people to complete grant applications online. The trust will be linking to schools, so schools can refer families to the trust if they have any hardship.

13. Chairs Of Committees Question Time

- i) **Planning & Licensing Committee** - Cllr M Willis
No questions
- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
Cllr M Winn, asked for more information on the employment of another events officer. Cllr Lloyd explained that with the community events being so successful and growing in size, more meticulous planning and organising is required in the run up to the events to ensure that the events are of the highest standard and safe. The current events officers are already at capacity, and as the events expand a third events officer will ensure the continuation of a successful events programme and the possibility of providing smaller activities in the town centre.
- iii) **Direct Services** - Cllr W Raja
No questions
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
No questions
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr S Morgan
No questions
- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
No questions

14. Date Of Next Meeting

To note the next meeting of the Council, will be held on Thursday 12 January 2022 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP

The meeting closed at 7:59pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Town Mayor