



AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2021, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, AYLESBURY TOWN HALL, 5 CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY, HP20 2QP AT 7.00 pm

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7.00 pm.

In the Chair: Cllr Anders Christiansen (Town Mayor)

Present:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| S. Bateman | M. Baldwin | T. Dixon |
| S. Chapple | C. Hendren | T. Hussain |
| N. Hussain (from 7.02pm) | R. Khan BEM | R. King |
| S. Lambert | R. Lloyd | S. Morgan |
| A. Morgan | N. Mehta | W. Raja |
| A. Sherwell | D. Summers | D. Thompson |
| G. Wadhwa | M. Willis | M. Winn |

Officers: Mr Keith Gray, JP (Town Clerk)
Mr Mark Broughton (Deputy Town Clerk)

Six members of the public

The Town Mayor opened the meeting at 7p.m. and welcomed all present.

1 APOLOGIES

To receive and accept apologies of absence from Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies from Cllr Koya (illness) and Cllr Hunter-Watts (illness).

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor indicated that over the summer months Mayoral activities and visits had increased. The Mayor thanked all those who had worked tirelessly at the vaccination centre and the re-starting of Park Run was a particular highlight in July.

[Cllr N Hussain joined the meeting at 7.02 pm]

3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader firstly paid thanks to Town Council staff for facilitating a return to the Council Chamber for meetings and also welcomed the new Town Hall caretaker, Brian Sladen. The Park Life event had been a huge success with an admirable turnout. Regarding HS2 he reported that the line realignment at Princes Risborough

would be undertaken next month and night works involving transportation of materials would need to be closely monitored to ensure noise levels were mitigated. The Leader reminded Council that Heritage Open Day was fast approaching, and he was greatly looking forward to this and it was noted that the Town Hall would be open on the day from 11 am.

In commemoration and remembrance of recently deceased former long-standing Cllr Freda Roberts a one-minute silence was observed.

Public Speaking

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders at 7.08 pm and invited members of the public to address the Council.

A member of the public explained her and her group's ethical concerns regarding the use of mRNA vaccines and the principle of vaccine passports in relation to the Covid-19 virus, as it was felt that such a national and local approach was discriminatory. Certain statistics obtained by the speaker suggested that the incidence of side effects as a result of being vaccinated were more widespread from that generally reported by the government and the media as indicated in the Yellow Card reporting system used in the UK. The potential roll-out of inoculations to children was a further concern, given that the JCVI had not recommended such a course of action. Two further speakers drew attention to the use of widespread advertising in Aylesbury to promote vaccine take-up and asked if the Council was responsible and in general wished to understand what position the Council took on the vaccination programme.

Members commented individually on the issues raised and confirmed that the vaccination programme was well outside the scope of the Town Council as it was primarily the concern of national UK government (in England) and the local health authority/Bucks Council. The Mayor advised that the Town Council were not responsible for any of the street adverts in Aylesbury promoting inoculation and had no official corporate position regarding this or the wider matter at hand. He thanked the public for attending and bringing this issue to the Council's attention.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.23 pm

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest
Cllr Summers declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 14.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 10 June 2021 (Pages 7-14).

6. MATTERS ARISING ON THE MINUTES

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

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES AND CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

RESOLVED: To take Minutes "as read" and to note/accept Minutes accordingly

- i) **Planning & Licensing Committee - Cllr M Willis**

- a) To receive the Minutes of the meeting on 21 June 2021 (Pages 15-22)
 - b) To receive the Minutes of the meeting on 5 July 2021 (Pages 23-28)
 - c) To receive the Minutes of the meeting on 19 July 2021 (Pages 29-35)
 - d) To receive the Minutes of the meeting on 2 August 2021 (Pages 36-41)
 - e) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting on 16 August 2021 (Pages 42-47)
- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting on 14 July 2021 (Pages 48-51)
 - iii) **Direct Services** - Cllr W Raja
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting on 9 June 2021 (Pages 52-55)
 - b) To receive any important updates from the Chairman following the meeting held on 8 September 2021
 - iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2021 (Pages 56-60)
 - v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr Mrs S Morgan
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting on 23 June 2021 (Pages 61-63)
 - vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting on 16 June 2021 (Pages 64-65)

8. FINANCIAL

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 4 (July 2021) (Pages 66-81)
- b) Cash Books for Month 4 (July 2021) (Pages 82-91)

Councillors are asked to send any questions to officers and/or Cllr Christensen, Chairman of the Finance Committee before the meeting so that any necessary information may be gathered.

Members agreed and noted the above two reports.

9. ALL COUNCILS CHARTER

To note and formally approve the All Councils Charter (circulated to members prior to the meeting).

Council agreed to note and approve the All Councils Charter.

10. MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

To formally receive, accept and abide by the Code of Conduct adopted by Buckinghamshire Council, as adapted. (Pages 92-110)

Council agreed to receive, accept and abide by the Code of Conduct adopted by Buckinghamshire Council, as adapted.

11. LONG STANDING COMMITMENT - Cllr Raj Khan

Council is asked to formally support and approve the following statement:

This council recognises the long-standing commitment and community leadership of Cllr Raj Khan and congratulates him on the well-deserved award of a British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his 25 years work, especially, during the pandemic.

Members paid fulsome personal tribute to Cllr Khan on the award of his British Empire Medal.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Lambert, seconded by Cllr Wadwha and on being put to the vote agreed unanimously that this Council recognises the long-standing commitment and community leadership of Cllr Raj Khan and congratulates him on the well-deserved award of a British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his 25 years work, especially, during the pandemic.

12. MRS FREDA ROBERTS MBE, JP

The Council is asked to formally support and approve the following statement:

This council notes with sadness, and deepest sympathy, the passing of Honorary Freewoman of the Parish of Aylesbury Mrs Freda Roberts MBE, JP. We give thanks and recognise Freda for her 52 years of service to the community of Aylesbury and for her work in bringing about the restoration of Aylesbury Town Council in 2001.

The Mayor invited members to make comment in support and recognition of the extensive public role undertaken by Mrs Freda Roberts. Members gave many positive recollections of the inspirational community and council work undertaken by Mrs Roberts over many years, stressing her resilience, dedication and devotion to the town and its residents. Several members felt that Mrs Roberts legacy should be marked in some appropriate way such as in the naming of infrastructure in the town or by an annual award. The Mayor concurred that this ought to be explored further.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Sherwell, seconded by Cllr Summers and on being put to the vote agreed unanimously that this council notes with sadness, and deepest sympathy, the passing of Honorary Freewoman of the Parish of Aylesbury Mrs Freda Roberts MBE, JP. We give thanks and recognise Freda for her 52 years of service to the community of Aylesbury and for her work in bringing about the restoration of Aylesbury Town Council in 2001.

13. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

Council is asked to formally support and approve the following statement:

This Council notes the significant achievements of those residents of Aylesbury who have competed in the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. This council extends our sincere congratulations to these outstanding local heroes in their

remarkable achievement representing Great Britain and Northern Ireland in their chosen sporting endeavours.

The Mayor invited members to make comment on the proposed statement and mentioned that he was particularly proud to have attended the Paralympic Flame lighting ceremony as mayor. Members stressed the importance of the Olympic /Paralympic ideals and recognised the determination and perseverance in athletes in sporting excellence and dedication. Aylesbury's place as the birthplace of the Paralympics was recognised as was the excellent performance this year by town-based athletes such as Ellen White, and Jessica and Jennifer Gadirova.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Lambert, seconded by Cllr Willis and on being put to the vote carried unanimously that this Council notes the significant achievements of those residents of Aylesbury who have competed in the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo. This council extends our sincere congratulations to these outstanding local heroes in their remarkable achievement representing Great Britain and Northern Ireland in their chosen sporting endeavours.

14. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

To note and comment, if considered necessary, on the Buckinghamshire Council Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for improving bus services.
Information copied to all councilors by email.

Councilors may consider sending any comments they wish to make to the Town Clerk (by close of business on 17/9/21), and a formal response will be made on behalf of the Town Council, to Buckinghamshire Council.

It was agreed that any ward representative comments on local bus routes be sent direct to the Town Clerk in order that a corporate response could then be compiled and submitted to Buckinghamshire Council. If no comments are received from town councillors then the town council will "note" the consultation document without sending comments.

15. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES QUESTION TIME

Planning and Licensing - No questions

Policy - No questions

Communities Committee

Cllr Willis drew attention to the recent Park Life event and wished to send his thanks and appreciation to the team for organising this very successful event. Cllr Dixon agreed to pass on this positive feedback and he himself also praised the team for the hard work put in, especially in the light of the uncertainties in the run-up concerning the virus.

Direct Services

Cllr Khan expressed his appreciation to Cllr Raja and the Cemetery Manager in ensuring that the facilitation of community burials had run so well and smoothly during the pandemic especially.

Cllr Winn drew attention to the lack of landscaping at Friarage Road and asked whether there were any plans to address this. The Town Clerk indicated that there were initially discussions over sewing wildflowers at this location but the cost was prohibitive as it would necessarily entail digger hire and road closure orders. Alternative sites for wildflowers were currently being considered with Aylesbury Garden Town.

Grants - No questions

Finance - No questions

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 October 2021 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP

The meeting closed at 8.29 pm

Mayor _____ Date _____

