



AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 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:

M. Baldwin	S. Bateman	T. Dixon
C. Hendren	T. Hussain	N. Hussain
T. Hunter-Watts	R. Khan	R. King
P. Koya	S. Lambert	R. Lloyd
N. Mehta	S. Morgan	A. Morgan
A. Sherwell	D. Summers	D. Thompson
G. Wadwha	M. Winn	

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DISPENSATIONS

To receive and accept apologies of absence from Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies from Cllr M Azam (family commitment), Cllr Chapple (family commitment), Cllr Raja (work commitment) and Cllr Willis (prior commitment).

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor referred to the list of Mayoral Engagements previously circulated and highlighted in particular the Opening of the Quad at Turnfurlong School and the Opening of the new J Sainsbury supermarket.

3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader announced that some 34kg of food products had been donated to the Food Bank and thanked all who had contributed to this worthy cause. He also thanked all members and staff for the unstinting service they had given over the previous year. The Leader advised that a meeting with representatives from the Environment Agency regarding HS2 had been scheduled. Further discussions with Buckinghamshire Council on devolving the Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre were planned and Bucks Council were also undertaking a live survey online into the Bucks Plan and members were urged to engage with the survey. Cllr Khan had been presented with his BEM medal earlier today, Cllr Lambert had been made

an Honorary Freeman of Coldharbour and members showed their respective congratulations. In addition, Cllr Willis was not able to attend the meeting as his son, Joe, had returned from an arduous nine month tour of duty on HMS Diamond. The Leader commended all residents who had served in HM Forces and members again showed their appreciation with a round of applause. Finally, Ellen White - an Honorary Freewoman of the Town - had recently gained her 100th cap for the England Women's Football Team and set a new all-time goalscoring record of 48 goals. Members were agreeable to the Leader's suggestion that he write formally to Ellen White to congratulate her on these achievements.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest
None received.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 14 October 2021 (Pages 6-10).

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 held on 11 October 2021 (pages 11-16)
- b) To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2021 (pages 17-23)
- c) To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2021 (pages 24-29)
- d) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2021 (pages 30-37)
- e) To receive any urgent updates from the Chairman following the meeting held on 6 December 2021.

ii) Policy Committee - Cllr R Lloyd

- a) To note that the next meeting will be held on 26 January 2022.

iii) Direct Services - Cllr W Raja

- a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2021 (pages 38-40)

iv) Communities Committee - Cllr T Dixon

- a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2021 (pages 41-44)

v) Grants Committee - Cllr S Morgan

- a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021 (pages 45-47)

- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 13 December 2021

8. FINANCIAL

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 7 (October 2021) (Pages 48-63)
- b) Cash Books for Month 7 (October 2021) (Pages 64-73)

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.

A member drew attention to Cost Centre 701 (page 48 of the agenda papers) and queried the figure shown in the % of budget column. The Town Clerk responded that this was plainly an error and would be corrected accordingly. Members agreed Item 8a subject to amendment, and Item 8b as submitted.

- c) To receive and endorse the first interim internal audit report 2021/22. (Pages 74-80)

Cllr Sherwell congratulated the Council's Finance Team on the work undertaken and in ensuring that such a positive report was received from the Internal Auditor. The Mayor echoed this observation, and the report clearly represented a clean bill of health. Members endorsed and noted Item 8c.

9. APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS (X2)

The Leader of the Council apprised members to the background to his proposal as there was value in seeking to maximise opportunities to the town and residents in terms of potential projects. Undertaking projects was necessarily time-consuming and there was insufficient capacity in the present staff establishment which would support the recruitment of two Community Liaison Officers. Wide-ranging possible projects included the environment, devolved services due diligence, town centre business liaison, IT support for members as well as new projects such as the Stadium and allotment management, along with perceived benefits of partnership working with Aylesbury Garden Town and others. There were sufficient funds available in the current budget to recruit two Community Liaison Officers now with their full cost added to next year's budget. The Leader thanked Cllr Winn for the collaborative approach with the Aylesbury Community Board.

Cllr S Morgan, Deputy Chairman of the Aylesbury Community Board, commented that the ACB needed partners for delivery of projects and the Town Council could act as enabler. There was likely to be a wide scope over the following twelve months and initial projects being looked at included roads safety near schools, school-run parking conflict resolution through enforcement. In addition, working with The Wombles group to achieve charity status, utilising "green vehicles", bee corridors and green tops on bus stops were all potential projects which would benefit residents. In summary, the ACB was keen to work collaboratively with the Council. Cllr Winn, as Chairman of the ACB endorsed the comments made by Cllr Morgan.

Members then discussed the merits of the proposal and there was agreement that this approach, if properly targeted and managed, could provide many benefits to the town and its residents.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Lloyd, seconded by Cllr S Morgan and on being put to the vote carried unanimously that two Community Liaison Officers be added to the permanent staff establishment and undertake a range of community based projects.

10. OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS

To receive verbal reports from Outside Body representatives

Aylesbury Community Board

Cllr Sherwell reported briefly on the last meeting when accessibility and zero carbon were two fundamental matters discussed. Bucks Business First was highlighted as a dynamic organisation and it was to be hoped that improved relationships between the Town Council and BBF would result as there was a good fit in the mutual approach taken.

William Harding Trust

Cllr Bateman advised that online application forms were now available. She thanked the Council for including publicity on the work of the Trust in the Aylesbury Town Matters. It was expected that a new approach would be taken to assessing applicants.

Elizabeth Eman Charity

Cllr Mehta reported that there was currently a vacancy on the Charity board, there were many applications from people who were finding it problematic to survive on the social care packages issued by central government.

Aylesbury Multicultural Centre

Cllr Summers reported that the 2019/20 accounts had finally been audited and the prior difficulties had been largely resolved. A review of the constitution would be undertaken.

Town Centre Regeneration

Cllr Lloyd reported that he and the Town Clerk had attended the recent meeting. Attention was being given to the shopping centre and the bus station and it was anticipated that a local consultation would be forthcoming in February next.

11. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES QUESTION TIME

Planning and Licensing - No questions

Policy - No questions

Communities Committee - No questions

Direct Services

Cllr Winn enquired about the progress in relation to establishing a Community Speedwatch in the town. The Town Clerk responded that members should lead on this matter and that Cllr Willis had been in liaison with the Police. Cllr Willis would

be asked to discuss this matter directly with Cllr Winn so that some progress could be forthcoming.

Grants - No questions

Finance - No questions

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the next meeting will be held on Thursday 13 January 2022 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP

The meeting closed at 7.37 pm