



**AYLESBURY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 10 March 2022, in the Council Chamber, Aylesbury Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP at 7pm**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7pm.

**In the Chair:** Cllr Anders Christensen (Town Mayor)

**Present:**

M. Azam	M. Baldwin	S. Bateman	S. Chapple
C. Hendren	T. Hunter-Watts	N. Hussain	T. Hussain
R. Khan	R. King	P. Koya	S. Lambert
R. Lloyd	N. Mehta	A. Morgan	S. Morgan
W. Raja	A. Sherwell	D. Summers	D. Thompson

**Officers:** Mr Keith Gray, JP (Town Clerk)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive and accept apologies of absence from Town Councillors.

**Resolved:** To accept apologies from Cllr T Dixon (illness), Cllr M. Willis (illness), Cllr G Wadhwa (illness).

**2. Mayor's Announcements**

The Town Mayor referred to the list of Mayoral Engagements previously circulated and in addition highlighted that he recently attended the Youth Town Council and was impressed with the discussions taking place. He also attended the Aylesbury Society and spoke on local matters. He spoke highly of the work carried out by Dan Blaze in relation to SEND and the regular discos arranged and he recommended that something should be done to accommodate this group at the Live in the Park events. He also attended the Paralympic Flame Lighting event at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

**3. Leader's Announcements**

The leader of the council announced that he continues to attend HS2 meetings, along with the Town Clerk as well as councillors from Coldharbour Parish Council. The meetings are important so that the town is represented. He highlighted matters relating to the freight transport consultation. He also thanked councillors who took pictures in

relation to the International Women's Day event. He thanked the town council's outside maintenance team for the partnership with Bucks Council in dealing with dangerous trees due to the bad weather and high winds and also the work they continue to do. He also encouraged Members to spread the word to vote for the Live in the Park event nomination for best event in the town which is being arranged by Little Ankle Biters.

#### 4. **Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation**

To declare and note any personal or prejudicial interests, and to declare and note any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests

There were no declarations of interest made and no dispensations requested.

*Cllr N Hussain arrived at 7.09pm*

#### 5. **Minutes**

**Resolved:** To agree, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 13 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

#### 6. **Matters arising on the Minutes**

To receive any reports 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 listed below.

- i) **Planning & Licensing Committee** - Cllr M Willis
  - a) To receive the Minutes of the meeting held 14 February 2022
  - b) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2022
- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
  - a) To note that the meeting on 26 January 2022 was cancelled and that the next meeting will be held on 13 April 2022.
- iii) **Direct Services** - Cllr W Raja
  - a) To note that the next meeting will be held on 15 March 2022
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
  - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr S Morgan
  - a) To note that the next meeting will be held on 30 March 2022.
- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
  - a) To receive any important update from the Chairman following the meeting held on 9 March 2022.

## 8. Financial

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 10 (January 2022)
- b) Cash Books for Month 10 (January 2022)

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.

No questions received or asked on matters relating to the council's finances.

**Resolved:** Unanimously, to accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report and Cash Books for Month 10 (January 2022).

## 9. Internal Audit Report: Interim Update Report 2021/22

To receive and endorse the Internal audit: interim update report 2021/22.

Proposed by Cllr Lambert and Seconded by Cllr Khan that the Internal Interim Audit Update Report 2021/22 be received and accepted.

**Resolved:** Unanimously, that the above report be received, noted and accepted by the Town Council. The Town Clerk and staff were thanked again by the Council for the work they do in ensuring that the Town Council's finances meet with government guidelines and regulations.

## 10. Draft Calendar of Meetings 2022-23

To receive and endorse the draft calendar of meetings in municipal year 2022-23.

**Resolved:** Unanimously, to accept the proposed dates for meetings.

## 11. Christmas Lights

Council to consider to take on, in principle, the provision of Christmas Lights in the Town Centre of Aylesbury including the organisation and running of a Christmas Lights Switch On Event. To consider necessary budget.

Discussion took place, with all councillors sharing their views and thoughts on this proposal. It was unanimously supported that the town needed good Christmas lighting to both benefit the town, its businesses and visitor experience. For too long, the town has not looked as good as it should have and it was agreed by all town councillors that the Town Council should manage the installation of the town's Christmas lighting. Matters highlighted in the discussion centred on the need for proper infrastructure which is the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council. Councillors noted the need for partnership working with Buckinghamshire Council on these specific matters relating to their responsibility and also the significant costs which will be made by the town council in providing the new Christmas lighting along with new designs and the Christmas tree. It was also noted that Market Square and Kingsbury will be significantly affected by works most likely to last 18 months and this will affect any Christmas lighting in the town, so it may have to be installed in stages and in specific areas of the town due to the upheaval of major town centre works that are proposed.

**Resolved:** Unanimously, that the Town Council agree in principle, to take on the provision of Christmas Lights in the Town Centre of Aylesbury including the organisation and running of a Christmas Lights Switch On Event.

**Resolved:** Unanimously, that the Town Clerk continue discussion and planning with Bucks Council offices for the handover of Christmas Lighting and the Christmas Lights Switch-on Event.

**Resolved:** Unanimously, that the Town Clerk seeks tenders for contractors to provide an all-round service of providing Christmas lighting, installation and removal, switch-on service and storage for three years. That the tenders received will be reviewed by the Town Clerk and 3 Members of the Communities Committee.

**Resolved:** Unanimously, that the budget for the Christmas Lights provision be in the region of £90,000.

**Resolved:** Unanimously, that the Town Council take responsibility for the Christmas Lights Switch-on Event and that this event be combined with the current town council Christmas event with the town council's budget of £10,000 added to the initial one-off payment of approximately £8,500 from Bucks Council. The town council will review all future budgets for these events.

## 12. Outside Body Reports

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

- i) **Arla Liaison Group** - Cllr T Hunter-Watts  
No report
- ii) **Armed Forces Covenant** - Cllr D Summers  
No report
- iii) **Aylesbury Community Board** - Cllr A Sherwell  
Cllr Sherwell raised concerns over the current frustration, felt by not only local councillors but also members of the community who are involved with the Aylesbury Community Board, in relation to the lack of information of the amounts of funding available and the constant changes made to the boards overall funding. He highlighted this was in no way a slight on the Boards current Chairman and Vice-Chairman who he knows agrees with the general concerns raised by many on this matter. Cllr Winn acknowledged that he too shares the frustrations expressed by many and hopes that the matter will be clearer as the Bucks Council budgets are agreed and the Board can agree its programme of activity in line with the overall finances available to the Board for 2022 onwards.
- iv) **Aylesbury Garden Town Board** - Cllr R Lloyd  
No report
- v) **Aylesbury Town Twinning Association** - Cllr C Hendren, Cllr G Wadhwa  
No report
- vi) **Aylesbury Vale Multi-Cultural Centre** - Cllr D Summers  
No report
- vii) **Buckinghamshire Council Freight Strategy Group** - Cllr M Willis  
No report

- viii) **The Emans Trust - Cllr N Mehta**  
No report
- ix) **Town Centre Partnership - Cllr S Bateman**  
No report
- x) **William Harding Charity Trust - Cllr S Bateman**  
Cllr Bateman updated the Council on the work of the charity and highlights the following changes: Work on the charities website, application processes and the plans for the unveiling of the statue. The charity is now over 300 years old and a small celebration involving the installation of the statue, is arranged for April in the museum.

### 13. **Chairs Of Committees Question Time**

- i) **Planning & Licensing Committee - Cllr M Willis**
- ii) **Policy Committee - Cllr R Lloyd**
- iii) **Direct Services - Cllr W Raja**  
Cllr King asked for an update on the repair of the fencing between the cemetery and allotments. This is in hand and quotes are being sought for the replacement fence.
- iv) **Communities Committee - Cllr T Dixon**
- v) **Grants Committee - Cllr S Morgan**
- vi) **Finance Committee - Cllr A Christensen**

### 14. **Date Of Next Meeting**

To note the next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 April 2022 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP

*The meeting closed at 7.38pm*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Mayor