



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD THROUGH THE ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM ON THURSDAY, 11th FEBRUARY 2021

In the Chair: Cllr M Smith (Town Mayor)

Present:

Cllr B Adams	Cllr C Adams	Cllr Mrs J Bloom
Cllr Mrs S Chapple	Cllr B Chapple	Cllr A Christensen
Cllr T Dixon	Cllr T Hussain	Cllr N Hussain [7.07]
Cllr A Huxley	Cllr T Hunter-Watts	Cllr S Lambert
Cllr R Lloyd	Cllr A Morgan	Cllr Mrs S Morgan
Cllr Mrs B Rusell	Cllr Mrs D Summers	Cllr Mrs R Takodra
Cllr Ms G Wadhwa	Cllr M Willis	Cllr M Winn

Officers in attendance: Mr K Gray (Town Clerk)
Mr M Broughton (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mrs J Priest (Senior Communities Officer)

Fifteen members of the public in attendance

The Town Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting of the Town Council and asked whether any of the members of the public present wished to take part in the public participation session and no indications to this effect were forthcoming.

The Town Mayor opened the meeting at 7.00 pm.

- 1. TO RECEIVE, NOTE AND AGREE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
RESOLVED: Apologies received from Cllr M White (work commitments) and Cllr W Raja (prior commitment).
- 2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Town Mayor reported he had undertaken no mayoral duties in the last month. He recognised the excellent feedback confirming a council officer who had volunteered at the Stoke Mandeville Vaccination centre and indeed he wished to publicly express his appreciation to all the volunteers at Stoke Mandeville who had given their time freely to assist the community in the vaccine roll-out.
- 3. LEADER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Lloyd echoed the sentiments of the Town Mayor regarding all volunteers at the Stoke Mandeville vaccination centre.

He advised members that the next Town Centre Regeneration meeting was scheduled for 18 February and this was an important part of the consultation process. The Town Clerk agreed to re-send his previous email on this meeting to all members.

Discussions over HS2 were continuing, especially in regard to issues such as traffic levels, noise and flooding.

The Leader offered his congratulations to Bucks Radio on their recent establishment as an independent radio station in Aylesbury.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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.

[Cllr N Hussain joined the meeting at 7.07 pm]

5. MINUTES

To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14th January 2021.

RESOLVED: That the draft minutes be duly received, accepted, and agreed for the Town Council meeting on 14th January 2021 and be signed as a true and accurate record.

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 had no matters to report.

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES AND CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

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

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

i) Planning Committee

To receive Minutes of 4th January 2021 (pages 10-16)

To receive Minutes of 18th January 2021 (pages 17-20)

To receive draft Minutes of 1st February 2021 (pages 21-27)

ii) Grants Committee

To receive draft Minutes of 27th January 2021 (pages 28-29)

iii) Policy Committee

To receive draft Minutes of 26th January 2021 (pages 30-34)

iv) Direct Services Committee

To receive draft Minutes of 20th January 2021 (pages 35-36)

v) Finance Committee

To note the next meeting will be held on 10th March 2021.

vi) Communities Committee

To receive any update from the Chairman following the meeting held on 9th February 2021.

8. TOWN AND PARISH CHARTER

To receive and agree the Town and Parish Charter (pages 37-60)

Members considered the new Town and Parish Charter, and there was a general recognition that this was a positive step forward in highlighting engagement between local councils and Buckinghamshire Council.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Lloyd and on being put to the vote the Town and Parish Charter was unanimously agreed by members.

9. FINANCIAL

a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 9 (December 2020) (Pages 61-76)

b) Cash Books for Month 9 (December 2020) (Pages 77-83)

Councillors are asked to send any questions to officers and/or Cllr M. Smith before the meeting so that any necessary information may be gathered.

Cllr Smith, Chairman of Finance Committee, indicated that he had received no questions from members in advance of the meeting. No specific matters were raised. Cllr Smith noted that whilst several cost centres would likely result in an under-spend by the end of the financial year it was anticipated there would be a significant overspend on the JPPC budget centre because of the impacts due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Overall, however, a corporate underspend was still expected.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, to accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report (December 2020) and the Cash Books (December 2020).

10. EAST WEST RAIL

Motion proposed by Cllrs Willis and Winn

Aylesbury Town Council welcomes the £760M that the Government has announced it is investing in East-West Rail and the 1,500 jobs it will create, we are though concerned that the recent funding announcement do not commit to the completion of the proposed spur between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes, which was originally conceived as part of this project.

Aylesbury Town Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to express their belief that Aylesbury's economy will benefit from a major rail investment in the area and to highlight that without it, it will be difficult for Aylesbury to achieve sustainable growth in its population and economy.

The Mayor reminded members that the following amendment to the proposal had been circulated to all members since the agenda had been published.

Amendment to the Proposal

Proposed by Cllr Anders Christensen & Seconded by Cllr Steven Lambert

- *To change the wording of the proposal with the following:*

Aylesbury Town Council is looking forward to the completion of the East West rail spur to our town. It is an important and much needed investment in transport infrastructure to help deal with significant housing growth. However, this council is concerned that the commitment to bring East West rail to Aylesbury is being renege upon by the Government. The recent funding announcement did not commit the required funding for the spur between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes. Local taxpayers have already contributed millions of pounds to East West rail on the understanding that it would link to our town. This council resolves to raise our concerns to the Secretary of State and call upon the Secretary of State to commit to providing a timeline for the Aylesbury Spur of the East West rail project.

Aylesbury Town Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to express their belief that Aylesbury's economy will benefit from a major rail investment in the area and to highlight that without it, it will be difficult for Aylesbury to achieve sustainable growth in its population and economy. The letter to the Secretary of State to be composed by the Leader of the Council with any assistance needed from the Town Clerk, and to be signed by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk for and on behalf of the Town Council.

The Mayor invited the movers and seconders of the original proposal and of the amendment to contextualise the motions.

Discussion then took place on both the original motion and the amendment. A member felt that the amendment significantly changed the emphasis of the motion and he could not support it. Other members expressed similar views. The seconder of the amendment added further clarity to the motivation behind the amendment and acceded to a request that party group leaders each sign the proposed letter to the Secretary of State.

A member formally asked for a recorded vote.

RESOLVED: That the amendment as proposed by Cllr Christensen and seconded by Cllr Lambert subject to the letter to the Secretary of State being signed by party group leaders was put to the vote with For 13 votes, Against 0 and Abstentions 9 votes and thus duly Carried.

Councillors voting for: Christensen, Dixon, Hunter-Watts, T Hussain, N Hussain, Lambert, Lloyd, S Morgan, A Morgan, Smith, Takodra, Wadhwa, Willis.

Councillors abstaining: B Adams, C Adams, Bloom, S Chapple, B Chapple, Huxley, Russel, Summers, Winn.

Cllr B Chapple then proposed a substantive amendment: That the Town Council reaffirms its total objection to HS2 as it does nothing for the county town of Aylesbury or Buckinghamshire. [Seconder: Cllr M Winn]

On being put to the vote it was RESOLVED: That proposal received For 9 Votes, Against 11 votes and 2 Abstentions and was duly lost.

Councillors voting For: B Adams, C Adams, Bloom, S Chapple, B Chapple, Huxley, Russel, Summers, Winn

Councillors voting Against: Christensen, Dixon, Hunter-Watts, T Hussain, N Hussain, Lambert, S Morgan, A Morgan, Smith, Takodra, Wadhwa

Councillors Abstaining: Lloyd, Willis

The substantiated motion was then voted on.

Aylesbury Town Council is looking forward to the completion of the East West rail spur to our town. It is an important and much needed investment in transport infrastructure to help deal with significant housing growth. However, this council is concerned that the commitment to bring East West rail to Aylesbury is being reneged upon by the Government. The recent funding announcement did not commit the required funding for the spur between Aylesbury and Milton Keynes. Local taxpayers have already contributed millions of pounds to East West rail on the understanding that it would link to our town. This council resolves to raise our concerns to the Secretary of State and call upon the Secretary of State to commit to providing a timeline for the Aylesbury Spur of the East West rail project

Aylesbury Town Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to express their belief that Aylesbury's economy will benefit from a major rail investment in the area and to highlight that without it, it will be difficult for Aylesbury to achieve sustainable growth in its population and economy. The letter to the Secretary of State to be composed by the Leader of the Council with any assistance needed from the Town Clerk, and to be signed by the Group Leaders, Town Mayor and Town Clerk for and on behalf of the Town Council.

RESOLVED: On being put to the vote there were For 13 votes, Against 1 vote and 8 Abstentions, and the motion was duly carried.

Councillors voting For: Christensen, Dixon, Hunter-Watts, T Hussain, N Hussain, Lambert, Lloyd, S Morgan, A Morgan, Smith, Takodra, Wadhwa, Willis

Councillors voting Against: Huxley.

Councillors Abstaining: B Adams, C Adams, Bloom, S Chapple, B Chapple, Russel, Summers, Winn

11. OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS

To receive verbal reports from representatives on Outside Bodies

*Aylesbury Town Twinning Association
No report*

*Aylesbury Multi-Cultural Centre
Cllrs Mrs Summers briefly reported that there were unresolved issues at the Centre and it was likely that Buckinghamshire Council would be involved in helping to resolve these.*

*Aylesbury Resilience Group (Town Centre Partnership)
The Town Clerk reported that the Group met weekly with officers from Buckinghamshire Council on management of Covid-19 issues locally.*

*Elizabeth Eman Trust
Cllr Mrs Summers reported that despite the ongoing pandemic the Trust's work was continuing positively.*

*William Harding Charity Trust
Cllr Mrs Takodra indicated that the Trust had last met last week but the number of applications was historically low, due to the pandemic.*

*ARLA Liaison Group
Cllr Hunter-Watts indicated that despite opposition in some quarters, an application by Olleco for a cooking oil processing facility had been approved by the Bucks Council Planning Committee.*

*Aylesbury Garden Town Board
Cllr Lloyd reported that the next meeting of the Board would be held on 1 March. He thanked members and the general public who had engaged in the "Gardenway" project.*

*Bucks Council Freight Strategy Group
Cllr Huxley advised that no meetings had been held lately.*

*Aylesbury Community Board
Cllr Willis reported that the next Board meeting would be held in March and that the Board is currently developing its role.*

[Cllr N Hussain left the meeting at 8.34 pm]

12. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES QUESTION TIME

Planning & Licensing Committee (Cllr Lloyd)
No questions.

Policy Committee (Cllr Lloyd)

No questions

Communities Committee (Cllr Dixon)

No questions.

Direct Services Committee (Cllr Raja)

Cllr Mrs Summers stated that the following question had been asked before but asked again in relation to excess numbers of mourners at burials whether the Council engaged with the Police to ensure management of the situation in line with Covid-19 regulations and could be enforced during funerals at the cemetery and whether mourners are reminded about these regulations.

The Town Clerk advised that enforcement of Covid-19 Regulations is purely a matter for the police and Town Council staff have no powers to disperse large gatherings. Furthermore, the police have been contacted for advice on these matters and both funeral directors and families are routinely advised as to the regulations pertaining and the Council is thus fulfilling our legal duties. Any members of the public who are concerned about covid-19 regulation breaches should contact the police directly.

Grants Committee (Cllr Willis)

No questions.

Finance Committee (Cllr Smith)

No questions

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 11th March 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

Mayor _____ Date _____