



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD THROUGH THE ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM ON THURSDAY, 11th MARCH 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 A Christensen	Cllr T Dixon
Cllr T Hussain	Cllr A Huxley	Cllr T Hunter-Watts
Cllr S Lambert	Cllr R Lloyd	Cllr A Morgan
Cllr Mrs S Morgan	Cllr Mrs B Russel	Cllr Mrs D Summer
Cllr Mrs R Takodra	Cllr Ms G Wadhwa	Cllr M Willis
Cllr M Winn		

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

6 members of the public in attendance

The Town Mayor opened the meeting at 7.00 pm.

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 at the beginning of council business.

Resident asked for an update on the Town Twinning with Bourg-en-Bresse. The Mayor asked the Town Clerk to reply, who gave an update on the Town Councils part in civic protocol and current engagement with the Bourg-en-Bresse Mayor's Office. He also explained the difficulties in getting volunteers to join the committee and this was also explained further by Cllr Denise Summers who is the current Chairman of the Town Twinning Committee. There have been twinning visits taking place both community, schools and private visits but there have been no civic visits since the last time. The Twinning Committee still exists and if there are people wishing to assist in helping, they should contact Cllr Summers or the Town Hall for further information.

There were no further questions from the public and the Town Mayor, under Standing Orders, started the Town Council business.

1. **TO RECEIVE, NOTE AND AGREE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
RESOLVED: Apologies received, and accepted, from Cllr M White (family commitment) and Cllr B Chapple (Buckinghamshire Council commitment).

2. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Town Mayor reported he had attended a virtual meeting with The Aylesbury Society and gave a speech. He had also spoken with Hannah Asquith (CEO of Youth Concern) expressing the town council's congratulations on her recent award in connection with Women in Charity. The Mayor expressed his and the town council's appreciation for the work of the charity in helping so many young people in the community especially during the coronavirus pandemic.

3. **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Cllr Lloyd congratulated town council staff and especially Mrs B Lasoye in the work around the Dementia Friendly status and that the town had, again, received its 5th Accreditation. He also mentioned the new food charity being established in the county and that they were seeking initial trustees, should councilors be interested in volunteering. He also drew attention to the reply from the Minister for Rail/Secretary of State to the town councils' letter regarding East West Rail. He also gave an update on the HS2 meetings he and the Town Clerk attend, representing the town on concerns relating to flooding, noise and traffic. He reminded councilors of the discussions around the proposal for a sports facility the town council is leading on and reminded committee chairman that reports were needed for the Annual Town Meeting which will take place before the April town council meeting (the last meeting before the elections and a new town council).

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 made or dispensations requested.

5. **MINUTES**
To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11th February 2021.
Cllr Summers suggested that further wording should be added to the minutes which she thought would show better what had been said by councilors during the meeting and would give members of the public a better understanding of how the decisions had been reached. She also asked whether the word "Substantial" should have been used regarding Cllr Chapple's' amendment. The Mayor asked the Town Clerk to give advice on the recording of council minutes before any vote was taken on the accuracy of the minutes. The Town Clerk stated that he was personally content with the wording of the minutes, but that it is the responsibility of the Council to decide whether the minutes are an accurate recording of their decisions. He was also content that sufficient wording was in place to give some idea of how the Council had reached its decisions. He also advised councilors that, should he have wished to do so, he could have removed all wording and only recorded the decisions of the council, which adheres to policy and practice and is in

accordance with the Local Government Act 1972. The Town Clerk decided to add some wording as he was aware that some Members would want to see this recorded but was mindful not to record verbatim minutes and especially statements that individual councilors had made, as there had been a lot of discussion and emotion expressed in the relevant agenda items. The Town Clerk explained the legislation, and importance of not recording verbatim minutes and the legal need to only record the decisions of the Council. The Town Clerk advised the Mayor that he should ask for a proposer and a seconder and a vote should be taken for accepting the accuracy of the recorded decisions of the Council in these minutes.

Cllr Smith proposed, and Cllr Lloyd seconded that the minutes, as written, were correct and should be accepted accordingly. On putting to the vote, it was 13 For, No one Against and 8 Abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the draft minutes be duly received, accepted, and agreed for the Town Council meeting on 14th February 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 or additional statements to make.

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 the following Minutes accordingly:

i) Planning Committee

To receive Minutes of 1st February 2021 (pages 13-19)

To receive Minutes of 15th February 2021 (pages 20-23)

To receive draft Minutes of 1st March (pages 24-28)

ii) Grants Committee

To note the next meeting will be held on 24th March 2021.

iii) Policy Committee

To note the next meeting will be held on 14th April 2021.

iv) Direct Services Committee

To note the next meeting will be held on 17th March 2021.

v) Finance Committee

To receive any update from the Chairman following the meeting held on 10th March 2021. The Chairman had nothing to report.

vi) Communities Committee

To receive draft minutes of 9th February 2021.

8. FINANCIAL

a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 10 (January 2021) (Pages 32-47).

b) Cash Books for Month 10 (December 2021) (Pages 48-53)

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.

c) Internal Audit Report - Second Interim 2020/21

To receive and endorse the second interim 2020/21 Internal Audit Report (pages 54-60).

Cllr Smith, Chairman of Finance Committee, indicated that neither he, nor the Town Clerk, had received any questions from members in advance of the meeting. No specific matters were raised.

Proposed by Cllr Smith and Seconded by Cllr Christensen that the council accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to month 10 and also the Cash Books for month 10 as well as the Internal Audit Report - Second Interim 2020/21.

RESOLVED: Unanimously, to accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report (January 2021) and the Cash Books (January 2021).

RESOLVED: Unanimously, to receive and accept the Second Interim Audit Report.

9. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEE QUESTION TIME.

Planning & Licensing Committee (Cllr Lloyd)

No questions.

Policy Committee (Cllr Lloyd)

Cllr Winn asked the council to consider the recording of all meetings and have these made available to the public. At the moment the meetings are managed by Zoom and Teams - once back in the chamber, the council would have to consider cameras and other equipment to make this viable.

The Mayor suggested that this was something the new elected council might want to consider.

Communities Committee (Cllr Dixon)

No questions.

Direct Services Committee (Cllr Raja)

Cllr Winn thanked Cllr Raja for taking his telephone call earlier in the day to discuss the matter of the proposed installation of security fencing at the Bedgrove Allotment site. Some residents had expressed concerns to Cllr Winn

about the proposal and need for security fencing, and they may attend the next Direct Services committee meeting. Cllr Raja stated that the committee would most probably make a decision on this matter at the Direct Services Committee meeting scheduled for 17th March 2021.

Grants Committee (Cllr Willis)

No questions.

Finance Committee (Cllr Smith)

No questions

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 8th April 2021 and would start after the Annual Parish Meeting which would be scheduled to start at 6.30pm.

There being no further business of the Council, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.30pm

Mayor_____ Date_____