



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting called for Thursday 12 January 2023,
in the Council Chamber, Aylesbury Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury,
HP20 2QP at 7pm**

Present

In the Chair: Cllr Tim Dixon (Mayor)

Councillors

M. Baldwin	S. Bateman	S. Chapple	A. Christensen
C. Hendren	N. Hussain	R. King	S. Lambert
R. Lloyd	N. Mehta	A. Morgan	S. Morgan
R. Waheed	A. Sherwell	D. Summers	G. Wadhwa

Officers: Keith Gray, JP (Town Clerk)
Judith Priest (Deputy Town Clerk)

Mayor Cllr T Dixon, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

1. Apologies of Absence

Cllr T Hussain (prior commitment), Cllr P Koya (prior commitment), Cllr T Hunter-Watts (work commitment), Cllr D Thompson (illness), Cllr M Winn (prior commitment), Cllr R Khan (family commitment), Cllr M Willis (illness)

Resolved: To unanimously agree that the above apologies be received and accepted.

2. Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor referred to the list of Mayoral Engagement previously circulated and highlighted in particular the busy run up to Christmas with visits to the unveiling of the Knife Angel at Stadium MK with TVP Action Against Violence and Aggression. He had the opportunity to speak with victims families about bleed packs and how they work and how this could be replicated and promoted in Aylesbury. The Mayor thanked councillors for attending the Mayor's Carol Service and thanked all the choirs and orchestra for the musical accompaniment.

In also visited Red Helix for the 10 tonnes challenge and attended the swearing in of Magistrates at the Crown Court in Aylesbury. The Crown Court and Judge have

since asked the Council to be custodians of the Court's pikes and Judge's javelins and to display them at the Town Hall.

The Mayor visited Stoke Mandeville Hospital Radio and had an interview with Radio Host Dez Kay.

Cllr W Raja arrived at 7:03pm

The main highlight during December was the St Mary's Christmas Community lunch, which was well attended and the Mayor passed on his thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers and supporters of the lunch.

3. Leader's Announcements

The Leader of the Council, Cllr R Lloyd, advised councillors of the significance traffic interruption that will be coming up due to HS2 works. The works are taking place between 23 January to Sunday 19 February with traffic management in place during the day and a full closure of the A418 on Sundays during this period.

IT provision change has started with migration work starting on Monday 16 January which should be completed by end of January. There will then be an incubation period with officers to ensure that everything is working as it should and thereafter councillors will be set-up with the aylesburytowncouncil.gov.uk emails. Training will be available and provided once this third phase is underway.

Cllr Lloyd had a successful site meeting with the consultancy for the community sports hub project to get the feasibility study under way.

Aylesbury United in will have a foodbank donation drive at their upcoming matches in Chesham.

Aylesbury Vale Dynamos have significant issues with flooding in their club house and on pitches and have applied for an emergency grant to the Town Council, which will be considered at the next Grants committee meeting in January.

Cllr Lloyd advised councillors that he has received lots of good comments from a variety of people and organisations on the Christmas Lights in 2022 and how much everyone enjoyed them.

4. Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensation

To declare and note any personal or prejudicial interests, and to declare and note any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests or requests for dispensation.

No declarations made.

Dispensation granted to each parish councillor by the Clerk, in accordance with legal guidance, policy and protocol in order to set the Precept for 2023/24.

5. Minutes

Resolved: To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 8 December 2022.

6. Matters arising on the Minutes

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

7. Committee Minutes and Chairmen's Reports

Resolved: Unanimously agreed, 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 on 5 December 2022
 - b) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2022
- ii) **Policy Committee - Cllr R Lloyd**
 - a) To note that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 8 February 2023.
- iii) **Direct Services - Cllr W Raja**
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2022.
- iv) **Communities Committee - Cllr T Dixon**
 - a) To receive the draft minutes held on Wednesday 14 December 2022.
- v) **Grants Committee - Cllr S Morgan**
 - a) To note that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 January 2023.
- vi) **Finance Committee - Cllr A Christensen**
 - a) To receive any important updates from the chairman following the meeting held on Wednesday 11 January 2023.

Cllr A Christensen asked that councillors send any finance questions they may have to his @rocketmail email address rather than @buckinghamshire.gov.uk to ensure he can answer them in a timely manner.

8. Financial

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 8 (November 2022)
- b) Cash Books for Month 8 (November 2022)

Resolved: Councillors unanimously accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Reports November (month 8) and Cash Books for month 8 (November 2022).

9. Budget and Precept 2023/2024

To receive, consider and approve the 2023/24 budget and precept.

Cllr A Christensen, as Chairman of the Finance committee, gave a brief introduction to the proposed precept and budget.

The proposed budget does not take into account yet any possible transfer of assets from Buckinghamshire Council to the Town Council as this is an ongoing discussion.

The budget has been prepared being cognisant of inflationary pressures on the council, such as utilities, national insurance, pension and rising material costs and financial pressures on residents. An increase of 3.99% is being proposed which equates to 8p per week on a Band D property.

With the proposed budget Aylesbury Town Matters magazine will be reduced from 4 issues per year to 3 issues due to the unpredictable and ever rising costs of paper.

The Mayor opened the floor for discussions on the original proposal.

Cllr R King asked what the increase in staff costs includes.

Cllr R Lloyd explained that the increase includes cost of living increase, rising pension costs and additional staffing costs and future staffing for any devolved services the town council takes on

Cllr D Summers congratulated the finance committee on preparing a budget that keeps the increase to residents low. There is a concern though that the low increase could mean that future budget increases could be considerably higher.

Cllr Christensen explained that the budget has been very carefully considered and reserve levels and previous changes to budgets have been taken into account to ensure that the budget is at the right level without placing even further financial pressures on residents.

Cllr A Sherwell voiced concerns about Special Expenses currently raised by Buckinghamshire Council. He explained the legality when and why a local authority can raise special expenses and when it cannot. It is imperative that BC only raise special expenses to residents within the parish which are then spend within the legal requirement and not used by the authority for other expenditure.

Cllr N Hussain, reiterated that any discussion on taking on devolved assets from Buckinghamshire Council must ensure that the assets are in a good state of repair as many have been neglected over the years and fallen into disrepair or require a substantial investment so the community can continue using them.

Cllr Christensen proposed, Cllr Lloyd seconded that the proposed budget and precept for 2023/2024 be agreed by the council.

Resolved: On being put to the vote councillors unanimously agreed to approve the proposed budget and precept for the financial year 2023-24 and confirm a precept of £1,969,920 and a Band D Rate of £103.99 per household per annum.

10. Outside Bodies Report

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

Aylesbury Multicultural Community Centre

Cllr D Summer reported that the AMCC committee has set itself a target to review the building and what repairs and updates are required within the building. From the initial assessment there is considerable repair required at a significant cost. She also advised that there are questions over the ownership of the car park. Cllr Summers has a meeting with the chairman of the committee coming up to discuss the extend of repairs required and she will give further feedback at the next council meeting.

Armed Forces Covenant

Cllr Summer advised that there is nothing further to report since the last meeting in December.

William Harding Charity Trust

Cllr S Bateman advised that the new website is live, and the trust has received positive feedback that the grant forms are now available on the website for anyone to access and complete to apply for a grant. Cllr Bateman will provide a link to the website to be sent out to all councillors.

11. Chairs Of Committees Question Time

- i) **Planning & Licensing Committee** - Cllr M Willis
No questions
- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
No questions
- iii) **Direct Services** - Cllr W Raja
No questions
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
No questions
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr S Morgan
No questions
- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
No questions

12. Date Of Next Meeting

To note the next meeting of the Council, will be held on Thursday 9 February 2023 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP.

The meeting closed at 7:42pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Town Mayor