



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 13 January 2022, in the Council Chamber, Aylesbury Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP at 7pm

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7.00 pm.

In the Chair: Cllr Anders Christiansen (Town Mayor)

Present:

M. Azam	S. Bateman	S. Chapple
T. Dixon	C. Hendren	T. Hunter-Watts
N. Hussain	T. Hussain	R. Khan
R. Kings	P. Koya	S. Lambert
R. Lloyd	N. Mehta	A. Morgan
S. Morgan	W. Raja	A. Sherwell
D. Thompson	G. Wadhwa	M. Willis
M. Winn		

Officers: Mr Keith Gray, JP (Town Clerk)
Mrs Judith Priest (Business and Operations Manager)

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and accept apologies of absence from Town Councillors.

Resolved: To accept apologies from Cllr M. Baldwin (illness), Cllr D. Summers (illness)

2. Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor referred to the list of Mayoral Engagements previously circulated and highlighted in particular the busy run up to Christmas with carol services in Aylesbury and neighbouring towns. The visit to the Aylesbury Foodbank and HM Young Offenders Institution in Aylesbury were highly informative.

3. Leader's Announcements

The Leader sent his best wishes to the Deputy Town Clerk, M Broughton from all the councillors and staff and passed his congratulations on to staff member J Priest for passing her CiLCA qualification.

7:02pm Cllr Aazam arrived

The leader advised the council that he had a meeting with Daniel Clancy, EA, HS2 flood risk team for whole route, Matthew Wales, EA flood risk team PM for Phase 1, James Lester, Strategic Flood Management team at Bucks Council and Toni Chapman, HS2 Buckinghamshire Council Liaison.

During the meeting his main focus were questions about Stoke Road and the flood risks, given recent events, the PRA, relief road and their modelling. The following information was provided in the meeting.

- a) The Stoke Brook doesn't have any gauges in it and so there's no formal calibration for that area however assurance was given that historical events - including the recent ones are taken into account by the Environment Agency (EA).
- b) The EA said that they won't issue a consent if they aren't satisfied and further assured that unlike a Section 17 which can be implemented legally by virtue of the HS2 Act the EA are not under the same restriction with regards to sign off. Their consent has to be given where a main watercourse is interfered with and will ensure that the modelling is fit for purpose.
- c) The EA view is that - pending designs - the Relief Road will help mitigate the dam effect being removed by the underpass on the Princes Risborough line.
- d) EA acknowledged that historically there hasn't been enough joined up thinking on their part with regards to HS2, AGT2, BC and the Willows/Coldharbour flood risk but that has been recognised and is being dealt with as part of the Section 33 consents.
- e) Cllr Lloyd noted the amount of debris removed from the drains/watercourse by EKFB and EA noted that it was the landowners responsibility to ensure that this happens regularly not theirs.

Aylesbury Town Council will continue to work with Coldharbour Parish Council to scrutinise the HS2 project.

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.

Dispensation is granted to all councillors discussing and voting on the council precept.

5. Minutes

Resolved: To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 9 December 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 6 December 2021 (pages 11-16)
 - b) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2021 (pages 17-24)
- 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 note that the next meeting will be held on 15 March 2022.
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
 - a) To note that the next meeting will be held on 8 February 2022.
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr S Morgan
 - a) To note that the next meeting will be held on 19 January 2022.
- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
 - a) To receive draft Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2022 (pages 25-27)

8. Financial

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 8 (November 2021) (Pages 28-43)
- b) Cash Books for Month 8 (November 2021) (Pages 44-52)

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

Cllr Christensen, Chairman of Finance Committee, indicated that he had received no questions from members in advance of the meeting. No specific matters were raised.

Cllr D Thompson requested that an opening balance be included in the bank reconciliation reports for the main ATC account, like it is shown on the JPPC report otherwise the bank reconciliation report is meaningless.

Resolved: It was proposed by Cllr Dixon, seconded by Cllr Lambert and on being put to the vote agreed unanimously to accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report (November 2021) and the Cash Books (November 2021)

9. Budget and Precept 2022/23

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

Cllr Lloyd, as Leader of the Council provided further insight into the proposed budget and precept. National Government decisions such as national insurance, pension and the rising costs of utilities, materials etc. all had an impact on the budget.

In addition, under the Localism Agenda, the council needs to take on more services and assets from Buckinghamshire Council for the betterment of the town.

Cllr Lloyd proposed and Cllr Dixon seconded that the proposed budget and precept for 2022 be agreed by the council.

The Mayor opened the floor for discussion.

Cllr Winn proposed and Cllr Thompson seconded an amendment to the budget - that £247,000 to be taken out of the proposed budget to lower the increase.

Resolved: The revised proposal was discussed by councillors and on being put to the vote councillors voted 4 For, 19 Against, No Abstentions. The revised proposal was Lost.

The Mayor opened the floor for discussions on the original proposal, which was discussed by councillors in length.

Resolved: On being put to the vote councillors voted 19 For, 4 Against and no abstentions to approve the proposed budget and precept for the financial year 2022-2023 and confirm a precept of £1,874,849 and a Band D rate of £100 per household per annum.

10. Community Speed watch

Cllr Willis provided an update on Community Speed watch. He has completed the relevant qualification to run the speed watch project in the East of Aylesbury and is liaising with community officers who oversee speed watch. Locations for the speed watch have still to be decided and agreed by the police and volunteers have to be recruited and trained. Once the project is up and running in the east of the town Cllr Willis will be supporting other councillors who would like to set-up the scheme in their wards.

Cllr A Morgan left the room at 8:12pm, returned at 8:14pm

Cllr Winn asked that he and Cllr Thompson be consulted and updated on the progress regarding speed watch locations in the east of the town.

11. Outside Body Reports

To receive verbal reports from representatives on Outside Bodies.

- a) Arla Liaison Group - No reports
- b) Armed Forces Covenant - No reports
- c) Aylesbury Garden Town Board - No reports
- d) Aylesbury Town Twinning Association - No reports
- e) Aylesbury Vale Multi-Cultural Centre - No reports
- f) Buckinghamshire Council Freight Strategy Group - No reports
- g) The Emans Trust - No reports
- h) Town Centre Partnership - No reports
- i) William Harding Charity Trust - No reports

12. Chairs of the committees' question time

- a) Planning and Licensing - No questions
- b) Policy - No questions
- c) Communities Committee - No questions
- d) Direct Services - No questions
- e) Grants - No questions
- f) Finance - No questions

13. Date of the next meeting

To note the next meeting will be held on Thursday 10 February 2022 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP

The meeting closed at 8:18pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman