



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting called for Thursday 13 July 2023,
in the Council Chamber, Aylesbury Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury,
HP20 2QP at 7pm**

Present

In the Chair: Cllr Steven Lambert (Mayor)

Councillors

M. Baldwin	S. Bateman	S. Chapple	A. Christensen
T. Dixon	C. Hendren	T. Hunter-Watts	T. Hussain
R. Khan	P. Koya	R. Lloyd	W. Raja
A. Sherwell	D. Summers	M. Willis	M. Winn

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

20 Members of the public in attendance

The Town Mayor invited members of the public to speak in the 15 minutes open session.

Three members of the public spoke on behalf of Tring Road allotment holders who are concerned about the letter they have received regarding the proposal to reclaim the remaining portion of land for cemetery use.

Questions were asked for clarification on termination notices, historical agreement compliance as well as concerns over lack of allotment space and the impact this would have on current tenants.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and explained the decision is yet to be made by Full Council as this proposal comes from both the Council's Policy and Direct Services Committee as well as being discussed by the Council's Finance Committee. He invited all residents to attend the drop-in session on 25 July between 3pm-7pm at the Town Hall and to the extraordinary meeting of the Council on Thursday 27 July 2023 at 7pm when this will be discussed in more detail and a decision be made.

18 members of the public left the council chamber at this point.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:16pm.

1. Apologies of Absence

Cllr M Azam (prior commitment), Cllr R King (family commitment), Cllr N Mehta (family commitment), Cllr A Morgan (prior commitment), Cllr S Morgan (prior commitment), Cllr D Thompson (illness), Cllr G Wadhwa (prior commitment)

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

2. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported on his engagements during the last month.

He attended the Mayor Making at Buckingham Town Council, Soapbox Derby, Freedom of Wendover for RAF Halton and found out where the Aylesbury Duck comes from during a visit to businesses at Duck Farm Court. He also attended various school Fetes in the Parish.

Cllr Lambert thanked the Deputy Mayor for stepping in and attending some of the events in June.

3. Leader's Announcements

Cllr R Lloyd reminded councillors that a team of staff members will be taking part in Relay for Life Aylesbury this weekend and that donations are still gratefully received by the team who are raising funds for Cancer Research UK.

He is awaiting the next date for Aylesbury Garden Town Board, but he noted that he had read in the report from Cllr P Strachan at Buckinghamshire Council that there is no more capacity funding for Aylesbury Garden Town.

Cllr Lloyd reported from the Parish Liaison Meeting which took place in June. He had submitted two questions in advance, which were not answered on the night, but he received a written response to one of his questions from the Leader of Buckinghamshire Council, which he read out.

Cllr Lloyd advised that he is trying to arrange a meeting with the Cabinet member for Communities at Buckinghamshire Council, Cllr A Hussain to discuss the future of devolution and relationships with Town & Parish Councils.

Cllr Lambert voiced his disappointment in the response received from Buckinghamshire Council in reply to the question submitted by Cllr Lloyd. Cllr Christensen and Cllr Willis echoed their sentiment and disappointment too.

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 and no dispensations requested.

5. Minutes

Resolved: To unanimously agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on 8 June 2023.

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 June 2023.
 - b) To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2023.
 - c) To receive the draft minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2023.

- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
 - a) To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2023.
 - b) To receive any important updates from the meeting held on Wednesday 5 July 2023.

- iii) **Direct Services** - Cllr W Raja
 - a) To receive the draft minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2023.

- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
 - a) To receive the draft minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2023.

- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr S Morgan
 - a) To receive the draft minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2023.

- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
 - a) To receive the draft minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2023

8. Financial

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 2 (May 2023)
- b) Cash Books for Month 2 (May 2023)

No questions were asked, and comments made regarding the financial report councillors received in advance of the meeting.

Resolved: The council unanimously accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Reports May 2023 (month 2) and Cash Books for May 2023 (month 2).

9. Outside Bodies Report

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

Cllr S Bateman, William Harding Trust

Attended the launch of the new facilities which UK Astronomy offer.

The Trust is currently working with six schools and the college to inform about the grants available. The Trust is trying to reach different groups of the community to inform about the grants available and how community groups can apply.

Cllr D Summers, Armed Forces Champion

Will be attending the ACF Visitors Day in Bicester on 30 July 2023.

Cllr T Hunter-Watts, Arla Liaison Group

This year is 10 years since Arla was opened on the outskirts of Aylesbury. Over 50% of the UK's milk consumption is produced at the local Arla plant.

10. Committees Question Time

i) **Planning & Licensing Committee**

No questions

ii) **Policy Committee - Cllr R Lloyd**

Cllr M Winn asked if the decision regarding Tring Road allotments was made at Policy as there seems to be a lot of confusion.

Cllr S Chapple had read the letter, which was sent to Tring Road allotment holders and felt that some of the wording in the letter sounded like an eviction. She asked that the council works with the allotment holders and queried if the decision could be deferred for one year?

Cllr R Lloyd, responded by reiterating that the letter was not an eviction notice but an information letter and that it was always the aim to work as much with the allotment holders as possible, hence the drop-in session prior to the extraordinary meeting of the council at the end of July. He also stated that the proposal was to give tenants 18 months before leaving the site.

iii) **Direct Services**

No questions

iv) **Communities Committee - Cllr T Dixon**

No questions

Cllr Lambert thanked the Events Team and councillors for putting on Aylesbury on Sea with WhizzFizzFest and highlighted what a great event it has been and that he heard lots of good feedback from the public.

Cllr T Dixon asked councillors if they can consider attending and assisting at community events and to respond to request for assistance from the Senior Events and Communities Officer, even if they are unable to assist.

v) **Grants Committee - Cllr S Bateman**

No questions

- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
No questions

11. **Chiltern Railways Ticket Office Closure**

Cllr R Lloyd gave an introduction to the item and advised that the consultation is not just exclusive to Chiltern Railways as it is a nationwide consultation.

He highlighted a recent example of where he saw a family card deal online, which wasn't available on the ticket machine at the local station, but he was able to purchase the family card on the ticket counter at the station.

Cllr R Lloyd proposed that the Council submits a response to the consultation.

Cllr M Willis highlighted his experience with Chiltern Railways and the deterioration of the service he has been experiencing over the last few years. Closing the ticket offices will have an impact on members of the public who find the ticket purchase process difficult. He reiterated that the ticket options available would need to be simplified so all options available on the internet would also be available on ticket machines.

Cllr M Baldwin stated that nearly 19% of the population of Buckinghamshire is over 65 years of age, some of whom have visible and non-visible disabilities. She queried if Chiltern Railways have done an equality assessment to see the impact on that demographic group.

Cllr A Christensen stated that there are two particular points causing a problem. Fares available on the ticketing machine are different to what is available on the internet. Secondly the touch screen ticketing machines often don't work in particular during cold weather, which will cause issues during the winter months as at Aylesbury station only one machine is located inside.

Cllr A Sherwell, experienced that he paid for a ticket on the machine by credit card, but the machine then didn't issue a ticket as it had run out of ticket paper. He was lucky enough that someone was available at the ticket counter who could assist him.

Cllr D Summers stated that as someone who is disabled and has mobility issues. Ticket staff help arrange assistance to embargo the train safely at the disabled user's destination and asked how these arrangements would be made in the future and who would make them.

Cllr R Lloyd proposed, Cllr S Lambert seconded

Resolved: Council unanimously agreed that the Town Mayor, Leader of the Council and Town Clerk write and submit a response to the consultation on behalf of the council to the consultation, voicing that the council does not agree with the closure of the ticket offices.

12. Date Of Next Meeting

To note the next meeting of the Council, will be held on Thursday 14 September 2023 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP.

To note that an extraordinary meeting has been called for Thursday 27 July 2023 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP.

13. Reserved Items

Cllr S Lambert proposed, Cllr R Lloyd seconded

Resolved: Councillors unanimously agreed that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (section 2) (and as extended by section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

2 members of the public left the room

14. Community Sports Hub

The Leader of the Council reminded councillors that the council had commissioned a feasibility study and that the report has been received which has been provided to councillors in advance of the meeting.

The headline outcome is that there is a clear need for sports facilities in Aylesbury. The report includes clear evidence from Sports England and other governing sports bodies.

Cllr M Winn stated that he is in support of this project but wanted to know how it would be funded.

Cllr R Lloyd explained that certain criteria need to be ticked off first and so far, the council has achieved most criteria. Once these have all been fulfilled the council can apply for funding from governing sports bodies and HS2, which is available.

No further questions were asked.

The meeting closed at 8:14pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Town Mayor