



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD THROUGH
THE ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM ON THURSDAY, 14th JANUARY
2020**

In the Chair: Cllr M Smith (Town Mayor)

Present:

Cllr B Adams	Cllr C Adams	Cllr Mrs J Bloom [7.09]
Cllr Mrs S Chapple	Cllr B Chapple	Cllr A Christensen
Cllr T Dixon	Cllr T Hussain	Cllr N Hussain [7.24]
Cllr A Huxley	Cllr T Hunter-Watts	Cllr S Lambert
Cllr R Lloyd	Cllr A Morgan	Cllr Mrs S Morgan
Cllr W Raja	Cllr Mrs D Summers	Cllr Mrs R Takodra
Cllr M White	Cllr M Willis	Cllr M Winn
Cllr Ms G Wadhwa [upon being Co-opted]		

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

Four 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: No apologies from Councillors for non-attendance at the meeting had been forthcoming.
- 2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Town Mayor reported that the Toy Appeal had resulted in some 4,000 toys being donated and these had been distributed within the community. He also referred to the Drive-in-Carols event which had evolved into a very popular online event. The Town Mayor also took this opportunity to formally thank Mr Graham Moore for his commitment, support and service to Aylesbury Town as a town councillor, before his recent resignation through ill-health. Cllr B Chapple similarly paid tribute to Cllr Moore for his work in public service in his role as a Town Councillor and all councillors were sorry to see him leave

the council but understood and appreciated his reasons for doing so. The Town Council wished Mr Moore all the very best for the future.

3. LEADER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Lloyd expressed his thanks to the Town Clerk, all council staff and the Councillors as a whole in adapting to the new Covid-19 Tier 4 regulations which had been introduced last month. He also extended his best wishes to Mr Graham Moore, who has been extremely supportive to the Town Council in his role as a member of the Planning Committee and wished him a speedy recovery. Cllr Lloyd advised members that Covid-19 vaccination would be rolled out from tomorrow at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and drew attention to the recently circulated News and Media Policy which he asked members to read and digest. The deadline for the next edition of Aylesbury Town Matters was 29 January and he asked that any articles for inclusion be submitted to the Marketing and Communications Officer. Finally, he reminded councillors that there was now a dedicated page on the Council's website for HS2 updates.

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.

A late-arriving member of the public indicated a wish to speak regarding a planning application and at the Town Mayor's direction and agreement of Council, Standing Orders withdrawn, the meeting was adjourned at 7.08 pm to allow public participation.

The speaker drew Council's attention specifically to a planning application, 20/01548/APP Ex-Services Club in Walton Street, Aylesbury. He asked whether the Town Council would support an appeal against granting of permission on the grounds of incompatibility with the Equality Act 2020 re access.

[Cllr Bloom joined the meeting at 7.09 pm]

Cllr Lloyd, chairman of the Planning and Licensing Committee, responded that the Council had previously stated an objection to the application on such grounds and had lodged this with Buckinghamshire Council. The Town Council was a statutory consultee, so the final decision was down to the planning authority. Nevertheless, the matter would be referred to the Planning and Licensing Committee for further consideration.

The meeting reconvened at 7.11 pm under Standing Orders.

5. MINUTES

To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10th December 2020.

Cllr Hunter-Watts drew attention to Minute 10 (ARLA Liaison Group) in which "Leko" was incorrect and the correct name was "Olleco".

RESOLVED: That subject to the minor point noted above the draft minutes be duly received, accepted, and agreed for the Town Council meeting on 10th December 2020 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 9th November 2020 (pages 10-17)

To receive Minutes of 23rd November 2020 (pages 18-23)

To receive any update from the Chairman following the meeting held on 7th December 2020

ii) Grants Committee

To receive draft Minutes of 16th November 2020 (pages 24-25)

iii) Policy Committee

To note the next meeting will be held on 26th January 2021

iv) Direct Services Committee

To note the next meeting will be held on 20th January 2021

v) Finance Committee

To receive draft Minutes of 11th November 2020 (pages 26-27)

8. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR - GATEHOUSE WARD

Members to consider nominations and vote to co-opt one member and fill the vacancy for Gatehouse Ward (pages 23 and 24) and the successful candidate to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Town Mayor referred to the two nominations which had been received, that of Mr Cole and Ms Wadhwa and indicated that candidates would be voted on in alphabetical order.

Discussion took place, with some councillors expressing their opinions, concerns and views on their preferences for the choice of co-opted councillor candidate as well as their views and feelings on whether co-option was necessary at this particular period in time.

After all councillors, who wished to do so, were given time to speak, Members then voted for Mr Cole who received 8 votes For and 12 votes Against with no abstentions. Members then voted for Ms Wadhwa who received 13 votes For, 6 votes Against and there were two abstentions.

Ms Wadhwa was therefore duly co-opted as a town councillor in Gatehouse Ward to serve for the remainder of the municipal year and she duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Town Clerk noted that three members were not present during the roll call for the vote, namely N Hussain, T Hussain and Mrs B Russel.

[Cllr N Hussain joined the meeting at 7.24 p.m.]

9. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Members to consider and elect nominees for vacant positions on the Planning and Licensing Committee - three vacancies

Two nominations were received:

Cllr N Hussain

Cllr Ms G Wadhwa

On being put to the vote, both nominees were duly elected to serve on the Planning and Licensing Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

10. FINANCIAL

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 8 (November 2020) (Pages 25-40)
- b) Cash Books for Month 8 (November 2020) (Pages 41-47)
- c) To receive and note the endorsement of the 2019/2020 audit by the External Auditor (KPJ Littlejohn) (Page 48)

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 there would be an impact on the programme of events that the Council undertook as a result of Covid-19 pandemic, and that General Reserves stood at 27.6% of operating expenditure.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Lambert and on being put to the vote duly agreed to accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report (November 2020), the Cash Books (November 2020) and endorsement of the 2019/2020 External Audit.

11. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES QUESTION TIME

Planning & Licensing Committee (Cllr Lloyd)

Cllr C Adams asked about the response given to the member of the public during the public participation session. Cllr Lloyd clarified that when the application came before the Planning and Licensing Committee they had

objected principally due to the proposed removal of a lift and had requested Buckinghamshire Council's equality policy be provided.

Policy Committee (Cllr Lloyd)

Cllr C Adams expressed his views on the procedures for co-option and asked that the Council consider adopting Cllr B Chapel's proposal earlier in the meeting on replacing candidates, at co-option, from the same political party. He asked that the Policy Committee of the Council discuss and consider this proposal at their next meeting. The Town Mayor advised that any such requests for agenda items for committees or the full council be put in writing, as per procedure, by members and sent to the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk would be required to give advice on the legal process for co-option before any decisions are made to change the procedures to meet any specifications for the Town Council.

Communities Committee (Cllr Dixon)

No questions.

Direct Services Committee (Cllr Raja)

Cllr Winn asked whether Covid-19 regulations could be enforced during funerals at the cemetery and whether mourners are reminded about these regulations. The Mayor referred to the Town Clerk, who advised that enforcement of Covid-19 Regulations is purely a matter for the police and Council staff have no power to disperse large gatherings. Furthermore, both funeral directors and families are routinely advised as to the regulations pertaining and the Council is thus fulfilling our legal duties. He also advised that any members of the public who are concerned about covid-19 regulation breaches should contact the police directly.

Cllr N Hussain thanked ATC cemetery staff and the outside maintenance team on their professional and dedicated service at this difficult time. He specifically mentioned a funeral he had attended, and he considered that staff were most helpful and professional. He also stated that he would remind the local leaders of the Mosque about the covid-19 regulations on funeral attendance.

Grants Committee (Cllr Willis)

No questions.

Finance Committee (Cllr Smith)

No questions

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.47 p.m.

Mayor _____ Date _____