



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 14 July 2022, in the Council Chamber, Aylesbury Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP at 7pm

Mayor Cllr T Dixon, called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Public Session:

Heather Joy Garrett from Aylesbury Foodbank gave a presentation to the committee highlighting the services of the Aylesbury Foodbank.

Cllr M Baldwin addressed the committee to comment that the trailer will be a great benefit to those that will use it and fully supports the proposal.

Present:

In the Chair: Cllr Tim Dixon (Mayor)

M. Azam	M. Baldwin	S. Bateman	S. Chapple
A. Christensen	C. Hendren	C. Hendren	T. Hussain
R. Khan	R. King	P. Koya	N. Mehta
A Morgan	W. Raja	A. Sherwell	D. Thompson
G. Wadhwa	M. Wills	M. Winn	

Officers: Keith Gray, JP (Town Clerk)
Jane Eden (Grants and Planning Committee Officer)

Public: Heather Joy Garrett, Aylesbury Foodbank

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and accept apologies of absence from Town Councillors.

Resolved: To unanimously accept apologies from Cllr D Summers (illness), Cllr S Lambert (illness), Cllr R Lloyd (Work Commitment), Cllr T Hunter Watts (Family Commitment), Cllr S Morgan (illness), Cllr N Hussain (Family commitment).

2. Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor referred to the list of mayoral engagements previously circulated and in addition thanked Linda Beatty for her 9 years of service to the Town Council, and Mr Neil Murray has replaced Linda.

3. Leader's Announcements

In the absence of the Leader of the Council, Cllr R Lloyd, Cllr T Dixon read a report received from Cllr Lloyd. This started by thanking Linda Beatty for her years of service to the Council and wished her well for her retirement.

The report noted that the previous difficulties of getting permission for the HS2 engagement team had been unblocked and the HS2 engagement team would be in Market Square on 28th July between 10am and 3pm.

The leader reported that the Buckinghamshire Council Task and Finish Group continue to meet and they have allocated more resources into it which is a positive sign.

Cllr R Khan left the meeting at 7.38pm and did not return.

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

Cllr D Thompson declared an interest in item 9, the Flood and Event Trailer funding as he is Chair of the Community Board.

Cllr M Baldwin, Cllr C Anderson, Cllr M Winn, Cllr G Wadhwa, Cllr S Chapple, Cllr T Dixon and Cllr W Raja all declared an interest in Item 9 as they are Unitary Councillors and part of the decision making for community board grants.

Cllr Winn declared an interest in Agenda item 14, Christmas lights as he is a cabinet member for Buckinghamshire Council.

5. Minutes

Resolved: To agree, and sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting of the held on 9 June 2022.

6. Matters arising on the Minutes

To receive any reports 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: 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 6 June 2022
 - b) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2022
 - c) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2022

- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
 - a) To receive any important update from the chairman following the meeting held on 6 July 2022.
- iii) **Direct Services** - Cllr W Raja
 - a) To receive draft minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2022.
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2022.
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr S Morgan
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2022.
- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2022.

8. Financial

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 1 (April 2022)
- b) Cash Books for Month 1 (April 2022)
- c) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 2 (May 2022)
- d) Cash Books for Month 2 (May 2022)

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

No questions received or asked on matters relating to the council's finances.

Resolved: Unanimously, to accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report (Month 1) and Cash Books for Month 1 (April 2022) and Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report (Month 2) and Cash Books for Month 2 (May 2022)

9. Flood and Event Trailer Funding

To agree to contribute a further £3,500 towards the purchase of a wellbeing trailer, which will be utilized at Town Council Community Events and during any deployment of the Willow Flood Defences.

7.50pm Cllr M Baldwin, Cllr C Anderson, Cllr M Winn, Cllr G Wadhwa, Cllr S Chapple, Cllr T Dixon and Cllr W Raja left the council chamber at this point.

Councillors discussed the merits of having a trailer and shared experiences of attending both flood management situations as well as participating/assisting at council community events. They also discussed the possibilities of allowing the trailer to be used by community groups and the clerk explained the policies relating to insurance cover and liabilities.

Cllr A Sherwell proposed and Cllr P Koya seconded for the town council to contribute a further £3,500 towards the purchase of a wellbeing trailer which will be

utilised at Town Council Community Events and during any deployment of the Willow Flood Defences.

Resolved: Unanimously, to provide an additional £3,500 towards the purchase of the trailer and for the Community Board to fund the remaining amount as per the Council's application.

7.57pm Cllr M Baldwin, Cllr C Anderson, Cllr G Wadhwa, Cllr S Chapple, Cllr T Dixon and Cllr W Raja returned to the chamber.

10. Outside Body Reports

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

i) **Arla Liaison Group**

Cllr Thompson asked Cllr Sherwell if they had had a response from ARLA in regard to the question raised at the last meeting. How many of the employees of ARLA were from Aylesbury Vale, and whether this met the original expectation of employment potential for the area? Cllr Sherwell confirmed he had a partial response and would forward this to Cllr Thompson and the Town Hall office directly.

ii) **William Harding Charity Trust** - Cllr S Bateman

Cllr Bateman advised that the proposed website had been presented to the trust and should be live by the middle of August. Cllr Bateman asked all Councillors to keep William Harding Charity Trust in mind when speaking to groups and individuals that may benefit from requesting a grant.

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

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

Cllr A Sherwell thanked those involved with the presentation at Lindengate for Aylesbury in Bloom. Feedback from Thomas Hickman School was the event was very well run and very enjoyable. Cllr Willis, who also attended, praised the event.

iv) **Grants Committee** - Cllr S Morgan

No questions

v) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen

No questions

12. Date Of Next Meeting

To note the next meeting, the Annual Meeting of the Council, will be held on Thursday 8 September 2022 at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP

13. Reserved Item

Resolved: Council 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.

No members of the public were present

14. Christmas Lights

- a) To agree to take over the Christmas Lights provision in Aylesbury Town Centre from Buckinghamshire Council and Light Switch On event
- b) To award the contract for the installation, storage and maintenance of Christmas Lights to a contractor. See tender documents
- c) To agree the overall budget for the Christmas Lights to be up to £90,000 per annum for three years.
- d) To agree the overall budget for the Light Switch On event on 20 November 2022 to be up to £26,400. See Briefing Paper (see page 101)

The clerk was asked to give an overview of the discussion that had taken place and on the proposal laid before council. Various councillors asked questions relating to partnership working with Buckinghamshire Council, secure infrastructure in place to meet the need for better lighting, the details of the Buckinghamshire Council agreement for the £30,000 grant funding as well as requesting assurance that the lighting installed would be without any difficulties. The clerk gave what assurance he could in terms of partnership working with Buckinghamshire Council, infrastructure plans, staffing, the proposed tender documents as well as explaining what investigations and reports were available for this project/proposal. No total assurance can be given as there are always going to be risks in relation to the infrastructure and we would deal with whatever problems faced us at the time with both assistance from Buckinghamshire Council and the contractor.

All councillors expressed the need for better lighting and for the town centre to be better managed, which would benefit residents, businesses and visitors to the town.

Resolved: Unanimously, to agree to take over the Christmas Lights provision in Aylesbury Town Centre from Buckinghamshire Council (BC) and Light Switch On event as per the agreement.

Unanimously, to award the contract for the installation, storage and maintenance of Christmas Lights to Blanchere Illuminations.

Unanimously, to agree that the town council contribute to the overall budget for the Christmas Lights up to £90,000 per annum and for the Policy Committee and Town Clerk to oversee this budget.

Unanimously, to agree the overall budget for the Light Switch On event on 20 November 2022 to be up to £26,400.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Town Mayor