



AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, AYLESBURY TOWN HALL, 5 CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY, HP20 2QP AT 7.00 pm

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7.00 pm.

In the Chair: Cllr Anders Christiansen (Town Mayor)

Present:

S. Bateman	M. Baldwin	T. Dixon
S. Chapple	C. Hendren	T. Hussain
T. Hunter-Watts	R. King	P. Koya
S. Lambert	R. Lloyd	N. Mehta
A. Sherwell	M. Willis	M. Winn

Officers: Mr Keith Gray, JP (Town Clerk)
Mr Mark Broughton (Deputy Town Clerk)

Guest Speaker: Holly Hoskisson, Chief Executive of Carers Bucks

The Town Mayor welcomed all present, introduced Holly Hoskisson, Chief Executive of Carers Bucks and invited her to address Council.

Ms Hoskisson had been appointed Chief Executive last year and she gave a presentation to Council on the wide variety of work undertaken by Carers Bucks, which had a staff of 36 in the county. She emphasised that carers could be anyone of any age and covered both physical and mental health and wellbeing as part of Carers UK the nationwide body saved approximately £132B through voluntary care. There were approximately 6.5M carers in the UK as a whole, with 1.4M providing in excess of 50 hours per week of voluntary care. Within the county there were approximately 56k carers and specifically in Aylesbury the figure was around 5k. Carers Bucks had provided support for over 20 years to adult carers, young carers and young adult carers and recognised that in particular some young adult carers, faced challenges such as lack of esteem or a lack of confidence and the organisation provided training to carers and support groups.

The organisation worked in primary care settings and in schools to promote and inform voluntary caring as part of a partnership working approach which also included Bucks Mind and the Alzheimers Society.

The Covid-19 pandemic had made a big impact on carers and Carers Bucks had delivered support online during lockdown periods. It was estimated that nationally some additional 4 million people took-on caring responsibilities during the pandemic. A new strategy and vision was being worked on which encompassed a community-based approach.

A member asked how Carers Bucks were funded and in response Ms Hoskisson advised the primary source as being Bucks Council along with other organisations but was looking also at expanding targeted community funding. Another member said that previously the Council had given a grant to Carers Bucks specifically to support young carers. What was the most important thing that members could learn? Ms Hoskisson stressed that anyone could be a carer and there was a need for her organisation to support especially more vulnerable young carers in their demanding role and recognising the stress that was often endured. Carers Bucks would welcome working with the Council on future campaigns.

The Town Mayor thanked Holly Hoskisson for attending the meeting and providing a very useful and thought-provoking presentation regarding the important work undertaken by Carers Bucks.

The Town Mayor opened the meeting at 7.32 pm

1 APOLOGIES

To receive and accept apologies of absence from Town Councillors.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies from Cllrs A and S Morgan (prior commitment, Cllr Summers (illness), Cllr Raja (prior commitment) and Cllr Thompson (work commitment).

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor referred to the list of Mayoral Engagements on the agenda and highlighted particularly the Royal Naval Association Standard Blessing and the Waterside Theatre Gala Opening that he had attended.

3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader gave an update to the last meeting of the Policy Committee (minutes tabled) and firstly advised that a new Devolved Services agreement was expected to be received next week. At this stage there was an absence of detail on what the new agreement may contain and thus full due diligence would be needed accordingly. The Town Clerk also expressed his concerns at potentially increased burdens on the Council under devolved services that had not seen further funding being provided and more generally many parish councils in Bucks had similar concerns.

The Leader also briefly drew attention to the Aylesbury Community Board and the possibility of the Council delivering projects under the auspices of the Board in future. Also mentioned was that the idea of instituting a Freda Roberts Cup would be referred back to Policy Committee after due liaison with the late Mrs Roberts family.

The Leader also drew attention to a request from Cllr Cooper of Bucks Council in respect of introducing blanket 20 mph speed limits throughout the county as he wished to consult and gain the views of town and parish councils locally. Members expressed a consensus of support in principle and it was agreed unanimously that the Leader write to Cllr Cooper supporting his initiative.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any pecuniary or non-pecuniary declarations of interest
None received.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 9 September 2021 (Pages 6-11).

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 13 September 2021 (pages 12-22)
 - b) To receive the Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2021 (pages 23-27)
 - c) To receive any important updates from the Chairman following the meeting on 11 October 2021

- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2021 (tabled)

- iii) **Direct Services** - Cllr W Raja
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2021 (pages 28-31)
 - b) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2021 (pages 32-33)

- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
 - a) To receive the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2021 (pages 34-37)

- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr Mrs S Morgan
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 20 October 2021

- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 10 November 2021

8. FINANCIAL

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 5 (August 2021) (Pages 38-53)
- b) Cash Books for Month 5 (August 2021) (Pages 54-61)

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.

- c) To receive and note the approved Audit and Governance Report 2020/21. (Pages 62-64)

9. OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS

To receive verbal reports from Outside Body representatives

Aylesbury Community Board

Cllr Sherwell reported that the process over funding from the Board is still evolving but presently there were concerns that any of the last two year's funding not allocated by the end of the financial year (March 2022) would be removed.

Aylesbury Garden Town Board

Cllr Lloyd referred to the minutes of the last Policy Committee for the latest update on Garden Board activities and noted that the next meeting would be held on 20 October.

William Harding Trust

Cllr Bateman indicated that meetings of the charity were now being resumed in traditional format rather than remotely and standardised application forms were now being used. Promotion of the charity through social media and an article in Aylesbury Town Matters.

Freight Strategy Group

Cllr Willis advised there was nothing to report.

Elizabeth Eman Charity

Cllr Mehta reported that applications had been received and everything was progressing well.

Aylesbury Multicultural Centre

No report

Town Twinning Committee

Cllr Hendren had nothing to report

Arla Liaison Group

Cllr Hunter-Watts reported that lorry movements through the town had been reduced by Arla.

Armed Forces Champion

No report

10. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES QUESTION TIME

Planning and Licensing - No questions

Policy - No questions

Communities Committee - No questions

Direct Services

Cllr Koya asked what the new devolved services agreement was likely to include.

Cllr Lambert responded that at present this was not known but the agreement would be received next week and then the scope and all details should be known.

Grants - No questions

Finance

Cllr Lloyd asked for details of election costs. The Town Clerk explained that the Council had received an invoice from Bucks Council of £60k, which compared with

much smaller sums in previous years, for example £24k in 2015. An itemised breakdown of these costs was being sought and he had challenged the invoice. A member asked if there had been any prior indication that this year's election costs would be higher than previously. It was stated that the Council had not received any notice of the costs rising. Bucks Council had said, in parish briefings in January 2021 and also to election agents at the time that the costs could rise. No specific notice was received that costs would rise as this would have challenged at the time. The briefings would have made no difference to us as Council set the precept in December 2020. Since the original invoice had been received a revised lower sum had been suggested by Bucks Council, so clearly there remained many unanswered questions and the final invoice would be brought to Council for authorisation to pay.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the next meeting will be held on Thursday 9 December 2021 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP

The meeting closed at 8.14 pm

Mayor _____ Date _____