



**AYLESBURY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting called for Thursday 14 December 2023,  
in the Council Chamber, Aylesbury Town Hall, 5 Church Street, Aylesbury,  
HP20 2QP at 7pm**

**Present**

**In the Chair:** Cllr S Lambert (Town Mayor)

**Councillors**

M. Baldwin	S. Bateman	T. Dixon	C. Hendren
T. Hunter-Watts	P. Koya	R. Lloyd	W. Raja
A. Sherwell	D. Summers	D. Thompson	M. Willis

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

6 Members of the public in attendance

Members of the public spoke and voiced their concerns again about the proposed use of the land currently used as allotments and asked a number of questions regarding Tring Road Cemetery and Tring Road allotment gardens. The Town Mayor, Cllr Lambert, the Chairman of Direct Services committee, Cllr W Raja and the Town Clerk answered the questions raised.

It was confirmed that the Council is positively looking for available land for future cemetery use. The current allotment garden land will be used for cemetery use, as per the council's decision. Explanations were given on the procedures for land preparation for burial use as well as the costs involved. Discussions will continue to take place with Buckinghamshire Council officers on suitable land availability.

*3 Members of the public left the chamber.*

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

**1. Apologies of Absence**

Cllr M Azam (personal commitment), Cllr A Christensen (work commitment), Cllr S Chapple (family commitment), Cllr N Hussain (prior commitment), Cllr T Hussain (prior commitment), Cllr R King (prior commitment), Cllr R Khan (Family

commitment), Cllr N Mehta (illness), Cllr A Morgan (family commitment), Cllr S Morgan (family commitment), Cllr G Wadhwa, Cllr M Winn (work commitment)  
**Resolved:** To unanimously agree that the above apologies be received and accepted.

## 2. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor's engagements for the month of November were issued to councillors in advance of the meeting. These included visits from the Brownies and Explorer Scouts to the chamber as well as visits to Aylesbury Sea and Marine Cadets, Bucks Magistrates AGM and attendance at Remembrance Services and Wreath laying ceremonies.

*2 Members of the public left the chamber.*

The Mayor asked councillors to be more committed to assist and attend council events as these are a good opportunity to engage with the public.

## 3. Leader's Announcements

The Leader, Cllr Lloyd, thanked residents, council employees and councillors for their work and wished them all the best for 2024.

Cllr Lloyd reported back on the Aylesbury Garden Town meeting. The Garden Town Board has changed since it was formed.

Southeast Aylesbury Link Road - enabling works and works on the roundabouts either end will start soon.

The Woodlands development is still experiencing challenges

Buckinghamshire Council has still £5million set aside for the redevelopment of the town centre.

The management of the town centre is still an ongoing exercise.

Councillor Lloyd together with Coldharbour Parish Council is still having regular meetings with HS2 to discuss upcoming works and mitigation to ensure that the impact on the parish is lessened.

## 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 Meeting of the Town Council held on 12 October 2023.

**Resolved:** To unanimously agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 23 November 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 Monday 6 November 2023.
- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
  - a) To receive the draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25 October 2023.
- iii) **Direct Services** - Cllr W Raja
  - a) To receive any important updates from the meeting held on Wednesday 13 October 2023.
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
  - a) To receive draft minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28 November 2023.
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr S Morgan
  - a) To receive draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 October 2023.
- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
  - a) To note that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 January 2024.

## 8. Financial

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 7 (October 2023)
- b) Cash Books for Month 7 (October 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 October 2023 (month 7) and Cash Books for October 2023 (month 7).

- c) To receive, note and approve the Internal Audit Interim report 2023/24.

**Resolved:** The council unanimously received, noted and approved the Internal Audit Interim report 2023/24.

## 9. Outside Bodies Report

To receive verbal reports from Outside Body representatives.

### **Cllr S Bateman, William Harding Trust**

The charity has produced a leaflet with a QR code on the back. These are being placed in the university, college, library, shops. The leaflets are also available in pdf format for electronic distribution. If any councillors require leaflets for anyone, they know who may be eligible for a grant please contact Cllr Bateman.

No further reports from Outside Body representatives were received.

## 10. 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
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon  
Cllr Bateman asked the Chairman of the committee if the council has any plans for World Kindness Day on 17 February 2024.  
Cllr Dixon advised that plans are still being finalised, but the idea is to spread acts of kindness in the councillors' wards. He asked councillors to look out for further correspondence and to ensure that they are available on that day to help spread kindness in Aylesbury.
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr S Bateman  
No questions
- vi) **Finance Committee**  
No questions

## 11. Date Of Next Meeting

To note the next meeting of the Council, will be held on Thursday 11 January 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP.

Cllr M Baldwin gave her apologies for the 11 January meeting due to prior commitment.

The Mayor advised that pending the resolution of the next item the meeting may be moved to Tuesday 30 January 2024, which will be confirmed at the end of the meeting.

## 12. Reserved items

Cllr R Lloyd proposed, seconded by Cllr M Baldwin to close the meeting to the public and press.

**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.

*1 member of the public left the room*

## 13. Transfer of Assets - Community Centres

To consider taking on a 25-year full repair and insuring lease for Aylesbury Multi Cultural Centre, Haydon Hill Community Centre and Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre buildings, under the Buckinghamshire Council Devolution programme. The centres will continue to be managed by the existing tenants of each building and Aylesbury Town Council will take on Landlord responsibilities in terms of building maintenance required by statute.

Cllr R Lloyd proposed, seconded by Cllr M Willis a change in the wording of the motion as shown below:

To consider, in principle, taking on the full repair and insuring lease for Aylesbury Multicultural Centre, Haydon Hill Community Centre and Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre buildings and Bowlers Field, under the Buckinghamshire Council Devolution programme. The centres will continue to be managed by the existing tenants of each building and Aylesbury Town Council will take on Landlord responsibilities in terms of building maintenance required by statute.

Councillors had a lengthy and detailed discussion about the offer and agreed with the revised proposal and that more information is required.

**Resolved:** Councillors unanimously agreed to take on the three community centres (Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre, Haydon Hill Community Centre, Aylesbury Multicultural Centre) and Bowlers Field in principle, with a full repair and insuring lease but in order to make a fully informed decision that represents value for the taxpayer Aylesbury Town Council needs clarity from Buckinghamshire Council on the following:

- Increasing the lease term beyond 25 years to give security of tenure and to allow ATC to see the benefit of any investment made.
- That Aylesbury Town Council only take on maintenance costs associated with maintenance due from 1 April 2024. Any prior maintenance outstanding should be completed prior to handover, or reasonable funds to complete that maintenance should be provided at the point of transfer.
- The length of lease of Bowlers Field should mirror that of Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre.

- Buckinghamshire Council to confirm what impact this transfer will have, in monetary terms, to the Aylesbury Special Expenses, so that this can be reflected accurately in the Aylesbury Town Council precept.

Cllr S Lambert proposed, Cllr R Lloyd seconded to move the meeting in January from 11 to 30 January 2024.

**Resolved: Council unanimously agreed that the next full council meeting will take place on Tuesday 30 January 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber.**

Cllr D Summers gave her apologies for 30 January 2024 due to a prior commitment

*The meeting closed at 8:16pm*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Mayor