



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting called for Thursday 27 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 | A. Christensen | T. Dixon |
| C. Hendren | N. Hussain | T. Hussain | R. Khan |
| R. King | P. Koya | R. Lloyd | A. Morgan |
| S. Morgan | W. Raja | A. Sherwell | D. Summers |
| G. Wadhwa | M. Willis | M. Winn | |

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

27 Members of the public in attendance, who advised that they would record the meeting.
Cllr M Baldwin requested no to be in any photos or in the recordings.

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

1. Apologies of Absence

Cllr M Azam (prior commitment), Cllr S Chapple (family commitment),
Cllr T Hunter-Watts (work commitment), Cllr N Mehta (prior commitment), Cllr D
Thompson (prior commitment)

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

2. 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.

The Mayor invited the Town Clerk to provide updated information to council which was received on the day of the meeting.

- The land purchased in 1934 as an extension of the town cemetery was approved at the time, and in accordance with our interpretation of the relevant documentation, this land, the whole land as shown on relevant documents, is classed as part of Aylesbury Cemetery.
- Although at the time, the Town Council did not need to apply for planning permission, Change of Use/Planning Permission was applied for and granted to begin works on the land, by the Planning Department for the whole portion of the land set aside as cemetery extension land.
- The covenant as shown on the conveyance and transfer of this land is interpreted by the town council correctly.
- Conditions were set in the planning approval and all these conditions have been met:
 - Archeological dig Phase 1 with approval that no further works are required for Phase 2 as no significant artifacts were found.
 - Ground water and other works approved at the time for the land
- Phase 1 works were carried out and therefore the town council holds this land in perpetuity and can, at any time, carry out works on Phase 2 (current land area used for allotment gardens) to continue the cemetery extension for burial purposes.
- No further conditional works are required, as listed in the planning approval.
- No further planning permission is required.
- The Town Clerk had been told that Cemetery land is exempt from any application for Assets of Community Value registration. To be clarified by Buckinghamshire Council legal team.
- The Town Clerk discussed the matter of future land availability for both allotments and cemetery and has had confirmation that he can begin discussions about the future requirements needed for these services.
- The Town Clerk will assertively raise on behalf of the town council the issue of the need for future cemetery land as well as allotment land.

There were no questions for the Town Clerk following his update.

The Mayor suspended Standing Orders at 7:08pm to allow questions and comments from the public

Mr K Keasley a Tring Road allotment holder, spoke on behalf of the allotment holders' group and handed in the second part of a petition.

Mr R Marshall, whose wife is an allotment holder at Tring Road and Mr R Williams also spoke on behalf of the allotment holders.

Mr K Keasley read out a letter on behalf of an allotment holder at Tring Road.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting under Standing Orders at 7:20pm

3. Cemetery expansion and Tring Road allotments

The Mayor invited Cllr W Raja to introduce an amendment to the proposal to reclaim allotment land at Tring Road for Cemetery expansion.

The amended proposal is as following:

- a) That the Council fully supports the decision of the Policy Committee and Direct Services Committee to reclaim the remaining allotment garden land at Tring Road, to use as burial ground for the cemetery.
- b) That the Town Clerk, in consultation where required with the Leader of the Council and Chairman of Direct Services Committee, be delegated to take whatever action is appropriate for the land reclaim.
- c) Upon the issuance of the 'Notice to Quit' all allotment holders who wish to remain on the Tring Road allotment site will be offered annual agreements from 31st December 2024 allowing them to continue their tenancy. These annual agreements will provide security and assurance to the allotment holders, granting them the right to utilise the Tring Road allotments.

This is to ensure a smooth transition for the existing allotment holders at Tring Road, allowing them to continue their allotment usage until the Council either purchases new cemetery or allotment land or if no land is available, we must formally begin the reclamation process to remove the allotments for the cemetery expansion.

1. The council commits to continue engaging with allotment holders and actively seek alternative land suitable for allotments/cemetery purposes.
2. The council recognises the importance of allotments, and the allotment community, to the allotment holders and will actively support them in finding suitable alternative arrangements for their allotment activities should this be deemed necessary.
3. The council agrees to freeze all applications for all allotment sites while we assess the way forward and give current Tring Road allotment holders the possibility of taking up any vacant allotment sites in our other allotment sites when they arise until 31st December 2024.

Current Tring Road allotment holders will be provided with the opportunity to relocate to an alternative allotment site as and when allotment plots become available, and the Council will work closely with these allotment holders to ensure a smooth transition and facilitate the necessary arrangements.

4. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Direct Services Committee are hereby delegated the authority to initiate and execute all necessary actions for the efficient and lawful reclamation of Tring Road allotments if alternative land is not available.
- d) To agree that funding be provided for the works over a period of 4 years, or less, and the funding requirements be agreed through the Finance Committee /

Budget and Precept setting procedures which will include the Full Council approval for precept setting.

Cllr Raja also assured allotment holders that the council is actively exploring alternative sites for allotments and future burial space.

Cllr W Raja proposed the above amendment to the proposal, which was seconded by Cllr R Lloyd.

The following councillors spoke on the matter. All councillors echoed that it is a difficult decision to make, and no one disputed the benefits of allotments.

Cllr Wadhwa
Cllr Baldwin, who asked for a recorded vote.
Cllr Summers
Cllr Willis
Cllr Winn
Cllr Bateman
Cllr King
Cllr Khan
Cllr S Morgan
Cllr R Lloyd

No further comments or questions were asked.

Resolved: On being put to the vote, councillors voted as following for the amendment to the proposal. 18 For, 1 Against, 1 Abstention.

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|------------------|---------|
| Cllr Baldwin | For |
| Cllr Bateman | For |
| Cllr Christensen | For |
| Cllr Dixon | For |
| Cllr Hendren | For |
| Cllr N Hussain | For |
| Cllr T Hussain | For |
| Cllr Khan | For |
| Cllr King | For |
| Cllr Koya | For |
| Cllr Lambert | For |
| Cllr Lloyd | For |
| Cllr A Morgan | For |
| Cllr S Morgan | For |
| Cllr Raja | For |
| Cllr Sherwell | For |
| Cllr Summers | Abstain |
| Cllr Wadhwa | For |
| Cllr Willis | For |
| Cllr Winn | Against |

4. 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.

The meeting closed at 8:14pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Town Mayor