



AYLESBURY
TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 30 January 2024,
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	S. Chapple	A. Christensen
T. Dixon	C. Hendren	T. Hunter-Watts	R. Khan
R. Lloyd	N. Mehta	A. Morgan	S. Morgan
A. Sherwell	D. Thompson	M. Willis	M. Winn

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

No Members of the public in attendance

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7pm.

1. Apologies of Absence

Cllr T Hussain (prior commitment), Cllr D Summers (prior commitment), Cllr M Azam (prior commitment), Cllr G Wadhwa (work commitment), Cllr R King (illness), Cllr P Koya (illness), Cllr W Raja (illness), Cllr N Hussain (prior commitment)

Resolved: Council unanimously agreed that the above apologies be received and accepted.

2. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor's engagements for the month of December were issued to councillors in advance of the meeting. The Mayor thanked councillors who attended the Mayor's Carol Service. It was a busy month of engagements.

The Mayor reiterated the importance of town councillors attending and supporting the council's events. He highlighted his visits to the St Mary's Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day and the Aylesbury Caribbean Community Christmas Dinner, both of which were extraordinary experiences and highlighted the diversity of Aylesbury's community.

3. Leader's Announcements

The Leader, Cllr Lloyd, thanked Neil Murray (town hall member of staff) for his work as he was now changing jobs and wished him all the best for the future.

Cllr Lloyd gave a report from the Buckinghamshire Council (BC) Parish Liaison Meeting, which was an interactive session with much discussion.

BC impressed their budgetary position on all attendees and what it means for vital and non-vital services.

Representatives from Marlow Town Council presented on flooding and the impact on the community.

BC established a new Town and Parish Council Focus Group, which will filter questions for future Parish Liaison Meetings.

Cllr Lloyd attended the monthly meeting with HS2. At present there is no immediate and imminent road closures coming up except the ones that are already in place.

He advised councillors that BC have issued a consultation on a proposed Waddesdon Freight Zone. In agreement with councillors the Town Clerk and Cllr Lloyd will be responding on behalf of the Town Council, based on the comments they receive from councillors, due to the deadline being prior to the next council meeting.

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.

Cllr M Winn declared an interest in item 10 and that he will be leaving the room when the item is being discussed.

Dispensation granted to each parish councillor by the clerk, in accordance with legal guidance, policy and protocol in order to set the Precept for 2024/25.

5. Minutes

Resolved: To sign and unanimously agree, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 14 December 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 4 December 2023.
 - b) To receive the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18 December 2024.
 - c) To receive the draft minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15 January 2024.
 - d) To receive any important updates from the chairman
- ii) **Policy Committee - Cllr R Lloyd**
 - a) To note that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 13 December 2023.
- iii) **Direct Services - Cllr W Raja**
 - a) To receive the draft minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 13 December 2023.
- iv) **Communities Committee - Cllr T Dixon**
 - a) To note that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 6 February 2024.
- v) **Grants Committee - Cllr S Morgan**
 - a) To receive draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2024.
- vi) **Finance Committee - Cllr A Christensen**
 - a) To receive draft minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2024.

8. Financial

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 8 (November 2023)
- b) Cash Books for Month 8 (November 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 November 2023 (month 8) and Cash Books for November 2023 (month 8).

9. Reserved items

Cllr S Lambert proposed, seconded by R Lloyd to close the meeting to the public and press for item 10 and 11.

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 10 and 11 of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

10. Transfer of Assets - Community Centres

To consider taking on a 25-year full repair and insuring lease for three Community Centre buildings and a 10-year full repair and insuring lease for a Playing field, under the Buckinghamshire Council Devolved Services programme.

Cllr Winn left the room at 7:11pm

Cllr Lloyd presented the item and referred councillors to the briefing paper they received prior to the meeting and to the discussion at the last council meeting. The additional information the council requested after the last meeting has been obtained, which clarified the reduction in Special Expenses by Buckinghamshire Council (BC), any current/future maintenance requirements and the length of the leases remaining as previously offered by BC.

Cllr R Lloyd proposed, seconded by Cllr M Willis to proceed with taking on the three community centres and Bowlers Field offered by Buckinghamshire Council under their devolved services and assets programme.

Councillors discussed the proposal in detail.

On being put to the vote the council voted For:17, Against: 0 and Abstained: 2

Resolved: To proceed and take on Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre, Haydon Hill Community Centre and the Multicultural Centre Aylesbury on a 25-year full repair and insure lease and Bowlers Field on a 10-year full repair and insure lease.

Cllr Winn returned to the council chamber at 7:30pm

11. Purchase of Premises in Aylesbury

To consider proceeding with the purchase of premises in Aylesbury.

Cllr R Lloyd proposed, seconded by Cllr M Baldwin to proceed with the purchase of premises in Aylesbury, as outlined in the briefing paper which was sent to councillors in advance of the meeting.

Councillors discussed the proposal and purchase in detail.

On being put to the vote there were For: 17, Against: 0 and Abstained: 3

Resolved: To proceed with the purchase of the premises and to run it as a community hub/centre for the residents of Aylesbury.

It was resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £950,000 over the borrowing term of 49 years for the purpose of purchasing the Railway Club. The annual loan repayments will come to around £54,566.

It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.

12. Budget and Precept 2024-25

To receive, consider and approve the 2024-25 budget and precept, taking into account the impact of any final decisions made at agenda item 10 and 11.

Cllr R Khan left the room at 7:43pm

Cllr Christensen gave an introduction to the item and provided councillors with background information on the proposed budget and advised councillors of the resolution made by the Finance committee at the meeting on 17 January 2024, which is to recommend a precept of £2.50 per week for a Band D property.

Cllr Khan returned to the room at 7:45pm

Councillors discussed the proposed precept.

Cllr A Christensen proposed, seconded by Cllr R that the proposed budget and precept for 2024/2025 be agreed by the council.

On being put to the vote the council voted For:14, Against: 3, Abstention: 0

Resolved: To approve the proposed budget and precept for the financial year 2024/25 and confirm a precept of £2,480,266 which equates to a Band D property rate of £2.50 per household per week.

Cllr Khan left the room at 7:49pm and did not return to the meeting.

13. Biodiversity Policy

- a) To review and agree the Council's ATC POL84 Biodiversity Policy in line with the requirements of the 2021 Environment Act.
- b) To review and note the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan

A discussion took place on the policy and Cllr Sherwell proposed that in the future further consideration is given to the type of herbicides the council uses and that the council considers stop using herbicides that contain Glyphosate.

Cllr S Lambert proposed, seconded by Cllr A Sherwell to approve the policy and for the Direct Services committee to discuss further the use of herbicides by the council and make recommendations at future council and committee meetings.

Resolved: The council unanimously agreed to adopt the Biodiversity Policy and to note the Biodiversity action plan and for further discussions to take place on the type of herbicides the council uses.

14. Outside Bodies Report

To receive verbal reports from Outside Body representatives.

Cllr S Bateman, William Harding Trust

Cllr Bateman has been requested by the trustees to visit all schools in Aylesbury to discuss the “hardship funding” available from the trust. She has asked if councillors can let her know if they are a governor or involved with a school.

No further reports from Outside Body representatives were received.

15. 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
No questions
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr S Morgan
No questions
- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr A Christensen
No questions

16. Date Of Next Meeting

To note the next meeting of the Council, will be held on Thursday 14 March 2024 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Church Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2QP.

The meeting closed at 7:59pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Town Mayor