



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE
TOWN HALL, 5 CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY, ON THURSDAY
11th JULY 2019**

In the Chair: Cllr M Smith (Town Mayor)

Present:

Cllr C Adams	Cllr Mrs S Chapple	Cllr B Chapple OBE
Cllr A Christensen	Cllr T Hunter-Watts	Cllr T Hussain
Cllr A Huxley	Cllr R Lloyd	Cllr G Moore
Cllr Mrs S Morgan	Cllr Mrs J Puddefoot	Cllr W Raja
Cllr Mrs B Russel	Cllr Mrs D Summers	Cllr Mrs R TakodraMBE
Cllr W Winn	Cllr M Willis	

Officers in attendance: Mr K Gray (Town Clerk)
Mr M Broughton (Deputy Town Clerk)

Guest Speaker: Catherine Turnbull-Ross (Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy)

There were no members of the public present

The Town Mayor invited guest speaker, Catherine Turnbull-Ross, Operations Manager of the Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy to address Council.

Ms Turnbull-Ross explained that the Council was an early supporter of the Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy, which was established in 2010. The organisation offers an opportunity to listen to vulnerable people and presently has 12 voluntary chaplains who, through sharing life and space within the community provide guidance and support throughout the town as well as a dedicated chaplain based at Aylesbury Police Station. Other chaplains cover facilities such as the Crown Court building, Morrisons and the University Campus of Aylesbury Vale. After dark, the Street Angels may be found covering the town centre and these volunteers work in a mixed gender group of three, aged from 20 to 70 years old and come from many different walks of life. Some 20 different churches combine to staff the Street Angels, who are active in the nighttime economy, speaking to pub and club doormen, suspected street beggars and rough sleepers, offering advice and support directly or signposting alternative organisations such as Aylesbury Homeless Action Group and SPACE.

Several members expressed their appreciation of the service provided by Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy. A member asked whether some people were unsure whether the Chaplaincy was primarily promoting a religion-based agenda. In response Ms Turnbull-Ross stressed that they undertook outreach to the whole community, whether they held different religious faiths or indeed had no faith at all. Another member asked if certain times of the year were busier than normal for the Street Angels and the response was that typically Halloween, Christmas and A Level results

night were significantly more demanding but as always the Street Angels were there to provide a safety net.

The Town Mayor thanked Catherine Turnbull-Ross for attending the meeting and highlighting the good work her organisation was undertaking and then welcomed all attendees, formally convening the meeting at 7.14 p.m.

1. TO RECEIVE, NOTE AND AGREE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: To receive and accept apologies for absence from:

Cllr S Jarvis (family commitment), Cllr Mrs A Harrison (work commitments), Cllr M White (holiday), Cllr M Bateman (family commitments), Cllr T Dixon (ill health), Cllr Mrs J Bloom (prior commitments) and Cllr B Adams (family commitments).

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending mayoral events during his recent absence and expressed his praise and appreciation for the Aylesbury-on-Sea event in Vale Park last weekend which he had attended and was a great success and helped promoting the Council's events so effectively. He had received much very positive feedback.

3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr R Lloyd praised the Aylesbury-on-Sea event and considered it the best one that the Council had ever put-on.

He drew to members' attention a minor change to Standing Orders regarding the giving of apologies for absence, as agreed at the Policy Committee meeting last week and he urged members to check the minutes which outlined the newly agreed arrangements.

Along with Cllr Jarvis and the Town Clerk, he had attended a "Keeping it Local" workshop last month which was relating to devolved services and many town and parish councils were in attendance. Two specific questions were examined through small groups, firstly about local community boards where the overwhelming view was that 19 such boards should be established, these conforming more or less to the existing local area forums. The prevailing views were for increased funding, empower local decision-making and hold more rather than fewer meetings. The second question posed covered Working Together and Devolution. Attendees were challenged to formulate a business plan for devolving services and transferring assets over a timeframe of between one and three years.

Policy Committee had last week agreed the formation of a cross-party Devolution Working Group.

In relation to the Community Stadium, talks had been held with the Ernest Cook Trust and Bucks FA and furthermore a workshop would be held soon to which Council representatives would be invited.

Cllr Mrs Summers queried the new Standing Order in relation to apologies for absence but the Town Clerk provided reassurance that the newly agreed approach would give more flexibility to members to notify their apologies and most importantly that the reason for absence was recorded and approval given.

Cllr C Adams asked about sports funding for the stadium and the Leader responded that two sports were being considered in this regard.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To declare and note any personal or prejudicial interests, and to declare and note any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

No declarations made, and no dispensations requested.

5. **MINUTES**

To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 11th June 2019

RESOLVED: That the Draft Minutes be duly received, accepted and agreed as a correct record by the Chairman.

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 advised that there were no additional matters to report.

7. **COMMITTEE MINUTES AND CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS**

RESOLVED: Unanimously, to take Minutes "as read" and to note/accept Minutes accordingly:

- i) **Planning & Licensing Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
 - a) To receive Minutes of 17th June 2019 (pages 9-14)
 - b) To receive draft Minutes of 1st July 2019 (pages 15-19)
- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
 - a) To receive draft Minutes of 3rd July 2019 (pages 20-24)
- iii) **Direct Services Committee** - Cllr S Jarvis
 - a) To receive draft Minutes of 5th June 2019 (pages 25-28)
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
 - a) To receive any verbal update from the Chairman following the meeting held on 9th July 2019
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr Mrs J Puddefoot
 - a) To receive draft Minutes of 19th June 2019 (pages 29-30)
- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr M Smith
 - a) To receive draft Minutes of 12th June 2019 (pages 31-32)

8. **FINANCIAL**

a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 2 (May 2019)

b) Cash Books for Month 2 (May 2019)

Councillors are asked to send any questions to officers and/or Cllr M. Smith before the meeting so that any necessary information may be gathered.

- No questions received from Members either before or during the meeting.

The Chairman of Finance advised that the level of general reserve had risen slightly, standing at 34% and two months in to the new financial year there were no concerns about the budget.

RESOLVED: To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report and Cash Books to Month 2 (May 2019).

- c) 2018/19 Final Interim Audit Report (Pages 55 to 62)
To receive and endorse the Report

RESOLVED: To accept the 2018/19 Final Internal Audit Report

9. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES QUESTION TIME

Planning & Licensing Committee - Cllr Lloyd

Cllr Willis raised the acute traffic congestion caused by the deployment of traffic lights near the Holiday Inn on Tring Road and he felt that a strongly worded letter of objection be sent to Bucks County Council and Taylor Wimpey Homes. The Chairman of Planning & Licensing suggested this wasn't the only example of planning conditions not having been effectively enforced. Another member thought it advisable to include AVDC in the correspondence seeing as they were the planning authority and had some responsibility in the matter too. The Mayor reminded Council that any written representations should go through the Town Clerk's office and he would be content to facilitate such a letter being sent. Individual members could of course make their own views known.

Policy Committee - Cllr Lloyd

No questions

Direct Services Committee - Cllr Jarvis

Cllr C Adams drew attention to his significant concerns about the general state of the town, with weeds growing on pavements, grass requiring cutting and some of the roundabouts were also in a very poor state of appearance requiring maintenance. The Vice-Chairman responded and said he would ensure that any reported matters under the town council's responsibility would be dealt with as professionally as they currently are. The Town Clerk reiterated that most of the issues raised by Cllr Adams were outside the remit of the Town Council and responsibility lay with other bodies. Certainly, members should let him know of any problems which were the responsibility of the Town Council to manage and he would ensure that remedial action was expedited. Cllr Morgan reminded Members that the Town Clerk had recently sent out an email explaining the difficulties caused by VAHT in their decision to stop grass cutting on their sites and land they legally don't own. Cllr Adams was asked to be more specific about which areas he is raising as concerns and also to report matters as and when he is made aware of them rather than wait for a month to report at a meeting. The Town Clerk also highlighted the fact that the Town Council carries out works that do not always fall into the remit of the parish council but no other council or organisation will carry out the works. This has helped a number of residents, and town councilors, to resolve problems in their ward areas.

Cllr Winn thanked the Town Clerk for his assistance in dealing with matters relating to his ward areas which he is aware was not the remit of the town

council but the team stepped in and got the work done after many years of neglect by either BCC or AVDC. Cllr Winn asked whether the soil container in the maintenance area in the Cemetery car park could be relocated following an incident of mud on the car park. The Town Clerk advised that the incident he referred to was a one-off and related to extreme bad weather (which Cllr Winn agreed had been the case), but unfortunately there was no other suitable location and there is not normally problems with this area.

[Cllr Moore left the meeting at 7.45 p.m.]

Cllr Mrs Russel raised the matter of brambles and weeds overflowing on to the pavement on Park Street bridge, the Canal bridge and by the swimming pool. In addition, the former wildflower area by the Stoke Road bridge had not been reinstated and she hoped that consideration could be afforded this. The Town Clerk reiterated that the Stoke Road bridge, and other areas were owned by BCC and the Council's role in respect to Devolved Services was purely to maintain areas and not replace or carry out upgrade works or make safe. This would be a matter for the landowner to deal with. The Friarage Road area proposed for wildflowers was something that could be considered should the town council agree that is what they would like. Wildflowers also need to be managed and maintained. Cllr Mrs Summers floated the idea of seeking a sponsor to cover the cost of purchasing wildflower seeds to reinstate this area. The Town Clerk advised that the Committee could by all means address this as an agenda item at a future meeting.

[Cllr Moore rejoined the meeting at 7.48 p.m.]

Communities Committee - Cllr Dixon

Cllr C Adams indicated that the non-operational water fountain in Kingsbury Square was a blight on the town centre. In response, the point was made that the fountain was owned by AVDC and thus was effectively outside the Council's control.

Grants Committee - Cllr Puddefoot

Cllr Mrs Morgan referred to the criteria and was unsure whether a company could apply for a grant. The Chairman explained that the criteria for applications was set out on the website and that Council staff would be pleased to assist in giving any further clarification to potential applicants.

Finance Committee - Cllr Smith

Cllr C Adams asked that consideration be given to capturing the positive feedback on Aylesbury-on-Sea from attendees by including these, suitably anonymised as appropriate in a future edition of the Aylesbury Town Matters. Cllr Mrs Puddefoot felt it would be in order to write officially to Ellen White, freewoman of the town, following England's plucky performance in the recent Women's World Cup Football tournament in France. The Town Clerk indicated that this could certainly be done, under the office of the Mayor and a copy of the letter could be circulated to all members.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th September 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business of the Council, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.08 p.m.

Mayor _____ Date _____