



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE
TOWN HALL, 5 CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY, ON THURSDAY
10th OCTOBER 2019**

In the Chair: Cllr M Smith (Town Mayor)

Present:

Cllr C Adams	Cllr M Bateman	Cllr Mrs J Bloom
Cllr B Chapple OBE	Cllr A Christensen	Cllr T Dixon
Cllr T Hunter-Watts	Cllr T Hussain	Cllr Mrs A Harrison
Cllr A Huxley	Cllr R Lloyd	Cllr G Moore
Cllr Mrs S Morgan	Cllr Mrs J Puddefoot	Cllr W Raja
Cllr Mrs R Takodra MBE	Cllr M Willis	

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

Guest Speaker: Mr B Bendyshe-Brown
2 members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed all and invited Mr Bendyshe-Brown, the Armed Forces Champion at Bucks County Council to address the Council on the Armed Forces Covenant (AFC).

Mr Bendyshe-Brown explained that the primary purpose of the covenant was to give support and targeted assistance to military veterans including cadets. The AFC had been created in 2011 and had since been adopted by the County Council, district councils and in total now numbers some 67 organisations including Bucks Health Trust, the blue light services, armed services charities and the Royal British Legion, amongst others. The Town Council had also recently joined the ranks and Cllr Mrs Summers was the designated armed forces lead. Mr Bendyshe-Brown was the Armed Forces Champion at Bucks County Council and chaired the Board and he indicated that there were enhanced silver and gold levels under the AFC, for example Bucks County Council had the Silver award as a result of providing assistance in terms of employment and housing. Some 10% of prisoners, 20% of rough sleepers and 25% of suicides were ex-service personnel and there was a campaign to encourage health and GP services to record if health users were veterans and thus help to assist in targeting treatment. Recent organised events included the centenary anniversary of the end of World War One in Aylesbury last year and the Armed Forces Day event at Booker Airfield. Mr Bendyshe-Brown had already liaised with the Leader and Chief Executive of the new shadow Unitary council so that the AFC could be adopted by the new Council on its formation.

Members expressed their full support of the AFC and stressed the importance of reinforcing civic-military links going forward such as with RAF Halton, relatives currently serving in the armed forces and seeking to bolster awareness of issues for military veterans. Mr Bendyshe-Brown stressed that social media

was used extensively to reinforce positive messages and engagement in the wider community.

The Town Mayor thanked Mr Bendyshe-Brown for attending the meeting and highlighting the benefits of the Armed Forces Covenant.

The Town Mayor opened the meeting at 7.23 p.m.

1. TO RECEIVE, NOTE AND AGREE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: To receive and accept apologies for absence from:

Cllr Mrs D Summers (ill health), Cllr Mrs B Russel (family commitments), Cllr M White (family commitments), Cllr S Jarvis (work), Cllr Mrs S Chapple (illness), Cllr M Winn (ill health) and Cllr B Adams (family commitments)

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor referred to the list of events provided. In addition, he had today attended two particularly positive activities, firstly the award for voluntary services to Bucks MIND, and secondly he had taken part in a question and answer exchange over the phone with students from twin town Bourges-en-Bresse.

3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr R Lloyd urged members to try and attend the coming Remembrance Service events next month. He also indicated that the Unitary Working Group was expected to meet in early November and he was hopeful that a report could be provided on progress made at the next meeting of Full Council. Finally, he noted that more Dementia Friends had been signed-up and this was a very positive development.

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 12th September 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 Deputy Town Clerk advised that there were no additional matters to report on the Minutes.

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 draft Minutes of 23rd September 2019 (pages 11-14)

b) To note any important updates from Chairman of the meeting on

7th October 2019.

- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 20th January 2020
- iii) **Direct Services Committee** - Cllr S Jarvis
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 18th December 2019
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
 - a) To receive draft Minutes of 24th September 2019 (pages 15-17)
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr Mrs J Puddefoot
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 16th October 2019
- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr M Smith
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 13th November 2019.

8. FINANCIAL

- a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 5 (August 2019)
- b) Cash Books for Month 5 (August 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 Committee highlighted that the level of general reserve now stood at 25.5% as stated in the budget papers and reminded members that the guidelines indicated that between 3 and 12 months operating expenditure was considered within the parameters of what was both acceptable and judicious practice.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report and Cash Books to Month 5 (August 2019).

9. AYLESBURY FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

Proposal that the Council take responsibility for the management of the flood defences system for the town. This is a devolved service proposal with full financial assistance from Bucks County Council. The Town Council will store equipment, manage volunteer list and provide staff for deploying the flood defence equipment. Bucks County Council will remain responsible for overall decision on weather checks and deployment as well as final health and safety decision on whether to deploy the system or not.

The Town Mayor introduced this item and reminded members that the Town Council had been involved in the flooding scheme for some years now but actual emergency deployment had been limited, though regular practice drills were also carried out. A member asked about costs and it was explained that the proposed transfer would come under the devolved services agreement and full funding would be made available to the Town Council by Bucks County Council. BCC would retain decision-making on when the equipment would be

deployed and funding would be received by the Town Council whether or not deployment was actually required in any one year. Further clarification was sought by the member concerned on specific matters relating to employment law provisions and the possible on call status of Council employees involved in the flood defence scheme. It was recognised that the Town Clerk was the person best placed to advise on these matters but the Town Mayor advocated that in view of the anticipated short time until handover that a quick resolution be sought ideally.

Proposal that the Council take responsibility for the management of the flood defences system for the town. This is a devolved service proposal with full financial assistance from Bucks County Council. The Town Council will store equipment, manage volunteer list and provide staff for deploying the flood defence equipment. Bucks County Council will remain responsible for overall decision on weather checks and deployment as well as final health and safety decision on whether to deploy the system or not, subject to information being circulated to all councillors from the Town Clerk relating to the relevant employment law and pay issues impact.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Christensen, seconded by Cllr Lloyd and on being put to the vote, (17 For, 0 Against and 1 Abstention) duly carried that the above proposal, as amended, be duly agreed.

10. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES QUESTION TIME

Planning & Licensing Committee - Cllr Lloyd

No questions

Policy Committee - Cllr Lloyd

No questions

Direct Services Committee - Cllr Jarvis

No questions

Communities Committee - Cllr Dixon

No questions

Grants Committee - Cllr Puddefoot

No questions

Finance Committee - Cllr Smith

No questions

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th November 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business of the Council, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.54 p.m.

Mayor _____ Date _____