



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE
TOWN HALL, 5 CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY, ON THURSDAY 19TH
DECEMBER 2019**

In the Chair: Cllr M Smith (Town Mayor)

Present:

Cllr C Adams	Cllr M Bateman	Cllr Mrs S Chapple
Cllr A Christensen	Cllr T Dixon	Cllr Mrs A Harrison
Cllr A Huxley	Cllr T Hussain	Cllr T Hunter-Watts
Cllr S Jarvis	Cllr R Lloyd	Cllr G Moore
Cllr Mrs S Morgan	Cllr Mrs J Puddefoot	Cllr Mrs D Summers
Cllr Mrs R Takodra	Cllr M White	Cllr M Willis
Cllr M Winn		

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

One member of the public in attendance

The Town Mayor called the meeting to order at 7.00 p.m. and welcomed all.

- 1. TO RECEIVE, NOTE AND AGREE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
RESOLVED: To receive, note and accept the following apologies from Councillors for non-attendance at the meeting: Cllrs Mrs B Russel (family commitment), B Adams (family commitment), B Chapple (ill health), Mrs J Bloom (prior commitment) and W Raja (ill health)
- 2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Chair referred to the Mayoral list of civic engagements circulated in advance of the meeting and these were noted.
- 3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Cllr Lloyd notified members that Aylesbury United had not been successful in buying back their former football ground. The club had praised the Council for the support given.
It was also announced that the Aylesbury Garden Town Master Plan had been circulated to all members and would be open to public consultation from 6th January 2020. It was envisaged that the Master Plan document be given formal consideration at the next meeting of Full Council.
The Leader also referred to a letter from Buckingham Town Council which the Town Clerk had latterly circulated to all members relating to concerns over the establishment of the new community boards under the Bucks Council as part

of the unitary approach. The Town Clerk added that this issue had also been raised in the Clerk's forum.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No declarations of interest were made.

5. MINUTES

To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 14th November 2019.

Cllr Dixon had noted that the draft Minutes referred to the Town Mayor closing the meeting whereas it was the Deputy Town Mayor who actually presided at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the draft minutes be duly received, accepted and agreed subject to the above amendment and that the Town Council meeting on 14th November 2019 be signed as a true record.

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 had no matters to report.

[Cllr Hunter-Watts left the meeting at 7.06 p.m.]

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES AND CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

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

- i) Planning & Licensing Committee - Cllr R Lloyd
 - a) To receive Minutes of 4th November 2019
 - b) To receive Minutes of 18th November 2019
 - c) To note draft Minutes of 2nd December 2019
- ii) Policy Committee - Cllr Lloyd
 - a) To note that the next meeting would be held on 22nd January 2020
- iii) Direct Services Committee - Cllr Jarvis
 - a) To receive any important updates from the Chairman following the meeting held on 18th December 2019
- iv) Communities Committee - Cllr T Dixon
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 11th February 2020
- v) Grants Committee - Cllr Mrs J Puddefoot
 - a) To note the next meeting would be held on 29th January 2020
- vi) Finance Committee - Cllr M Smith
 - a) To receive draft Minutes of 13th November 2019

8. FINANCIAL

A summary showing the headline cost centres update and also confirmation of the proposed headline 2020/21 Budget and Precept was tabled.

a) and b) Cllr Smith reported that the budget remained on track, with general reserves standing at approximately 33% and a modest underspend of around £16k was forecast for the year-end. No questions had been received from members.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Huxley and endorsed unanimously on being put to the vote that the cash book statements and bank reconciliation for Month 8 (November 2019) and the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report for Month 8 (November 2019) be agreed and accepted.

9. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2020/21

To receive, consider and approve the 2020/21 budget and Precept.

Recommendation from Finance Committee [Draft Minute 7, 13th November 2019 refers]

Cllr Smith, Chairman of Finance, introduced this item and indicated that the proposed budget for next financial year was an increase of 8.9%. He indicated that with the creation of the new unitary Bucks Council from April next year, the 2020/21 year would be momentous and the Council needed to be adequately prepared given the possibility of future service and asset transfers. He highlighted a number of relevant factors such as the climate change agenda, JPPC consolidation, investment in existing assets such as the cemetery and potential new assets, as well as further community events that the Council may be expected to take the lead role. Thus an increase of 8.9% for the coming year was felt to be reasonable in the light of the expected challenges the Council was facing.

A member referred to the anticipated savings arising from the unitary arrangements and felt that the public were being asked to provide additional funding at a time of financial stringency and pointed out that recent Council budget increases had been arguably excessive. Cllr Smith indicated that last year the increase was at 3% in line with general inflation and the year previously it had been 7%. Each council is a separate corporate entity and is able to set their precept and budget at the level necessary.

Another member queried whether the proposed increase was in fact sufficient to fund possible new services in the coming year. Cllr Smith suggested that the option of further budget increases in coming years was a possibility if the circumstances merited such a requirement. Although it was hoped that any service transfer would be accompanied by release of special expenses, this could not be guaranteed and thus the Council had a duty to take a responsible step to fund services. Cllr Smith reminded members that other councils had set precept increases of over 20 or 30% in order to fund service transfers in unitary arrangements. The Leader indicated that the new Buckinghamshire Council would need to review its precept after a year if service(s) had been transferred to Aylesbury Town Council.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr M Smith, seconded by Cllr A Christensen, that the 2020/21 budget and Precept of £1,271,994 representing a 8.93% increase and Band D rate of £66.59 be approved and on being put to the vote there were 17 For and 2 Against, therefore duly carried.

[Cllr Winn left the meeting at 7.25 p.m.]

10. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES QUESTION TIME

- **Planning Committee** (*Cllr Lloyd*)
No questions
- **Policy Committee** (*Cllr Lloyd*)
No questions
- **Direct Services Committee** (*Cllr Jarvis*)
No questions.
- **Communities Committee** (*Cllr Dixon*)
Cllr Willis wished to record his appreciation to members and staff who had attended, as he did, the recent Mayor's Christmas Service and the Carolfest events.
- **Grants Committee** (*Cllr Mrs Puddefoot*)
No questions.
- **Finance Committee** (*Cllr Smith*)
No questions.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 9th January 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

[Cllr Winn rejoined the meeting at 7.26 p.m.]

The Mayor indicated that as the budget and precept had now been agreed that the scheduled meeting of the Finance Committee on 8th January 2020 would be cancelled.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.27 p.m.

Mayor _____ Date _____