



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, 5 CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY, ON THURSDAY, 9TH JANUARY 2020

In the Chair: Cllr M Smith (Town Mayor)

Present: Cllr M Bateman Cllr Mrs S Chapple Cllr B Chapple
Cllr A Christensen Cllr A Huxley Cllr T Hussain
Cllr R Lloyd Cllr G Moore Cllr Mrs J Puddefoot
Cllr W Raja Cllr Mrs D Summers Cllr Mrs R Takodra
Cllr M Willis

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), Mrs J Bloom (holiday), M White (work commitment), T Dixon (illness), Mrs A Harrison (work commitments), Mrs S Morgan (illness), S Jarvis (work commitment) and T Hunter-Watts (Late arrival/work commitment)
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 welcomed Cllr B Chapple's attendance after his recent period of ill health.
The Leader reminded members that any items for the next edition of Aylesbury Town Matters needed to be submitted to the office by 24th January.
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To declare and note any personal or prejudicial interests, and to declare and note any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests

Cllr B Chapple declared interests in items 7 and 8 on the agenda and would absent himself from discussion accordingly.

5. **MINUTES**

To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19th December 2019.

RESOLVED: That the draft minutes be duly received, accepted and agreed subject to the above amendment and that the Town Council meeting on 19th December 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 B Chapple left the meeting at 7.06 p.m.]

7. **AYLESBURY GARDEN TOWN**

To discuss and comment on the Aylesbury Garden Town Draft Masterplan

Cllr Lloyd introduced this item and noted it had been circulated by email in advance of the meeting and ran to nearly 200 pages. He noted with dismay that the Town Council had no elected representative on the AGT Board and this contrasted, for example, with the situation at Taunton Deane which had also been given garden town status.

A discussion followed regarding having an ATC representative(s) on the AGT Board and there was a clear consensus in support of this. Members also recognised positive strands of the Masterplan such as business opportunities and improvement to transport links and cycling provision.

A member opined that air quality in Tring Road remained poor and this underlined the importance of local transport not just in the town centre but also in other parts of the town where link roads were planned to be built. Cllr Christensen drew attention to two key strands, namely the governance issues and also ensuring that professional project management principles were applied. Another member was concerned about on-going central funding of the AGT project and the risk of ATC being approached for funding to AGT in future.

Cllr Lloyd referred to the climate change agenda and considered that this should be seen as a higher priority for the town, through “greening, linking paths to parks and open space areas, developing pedestrianisation, providing electric vehicle charging points etc.

The Town Clerk indicated that engagement with both the Town Council and other nearby parish councils was key in recognising local elected member input and it was questionable that the AGT met the original guiding principles behind the establishment of the unitary council.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Mrs Puddefoot and on being put to the vote carried unanimously that the Town Council question the AGT Masterplan reflecting the comments made at the meeting in relation to governance, delivery of the Masterplan and that ATC formally request a seat on the AGT Board.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Christensen, seconded by Cllr Mrs Summers and on being put to the vote carried unanimously that the Town

Clerk be granted delegated powers to submit a response to AVDC/AGT reflecting the concerns expressed at this meeting.

In relation to the recent request from AVDC for funding of trees, Cllr Lloyd indicated that this matter would be referred to the meeting of the Communities Committee on 11 February 2020, as appropriate.

8. COMMUNITY BOARDS

To discuss decisions by Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards (reference letter from Buckingham Town Council dated 19th December 2019) to all councils.

The letter was circulated with the agenda in advance of the meeting.

Cllr Lloyd indicated that the Town Council had made a similar response to that of Buckingham Town Council on this matter.

Cllr Willis expressed dismay that the proposed community boards appeared to be overtaking the role of existing parish councils and this represented a threat to the goodwill needed to ensure the new system worked. These views were generally reflected by further comments received and overall it was felt that the consultation was a missed opportunity and the new community boards wouldn't enhance local democracy.

Cllr Bateman referred to the executive/non-executive split on the new Buckinghamshire Council where of 147 councillors only a handful would hold formal decision-making powers under the Cabinet system.

Members noted that a response to representations were currently awaited and would be informed accordingly.

[Cllr B Chapple rejoined the meeting at 8.06 p.m.]

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 13th February 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.07 p.m.

Mayor _____ Date _____