



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, 5 CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY, ON THURSDAY, 12th MARCH 2020

In the Chair: Cllr M Smith (Town Mayor)

Present:

Cllr B Adams	Cllr C Adams	Cllr A Christensen
Cllr T Dixon	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 Mrs B Russel
Cllr Mrs D Summers	Cllr Mrs R Takodra	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.

The Town Mayor advised the Council that unfortunately Mrs Brenda Bright, invited guest speaker, had latterly had to cancel due to family health reasons and the best wishes of councillors would be transmitted to Mrs Bright.

- 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: M. White (work commitment), W. Raja (work commitment), Mr M Bateman (family commitment), Mr S Jarvis (work commitment), Mrs J Bloom (Coronavirus concerns), Mrs S Chapple (Coronavirus concerns), Mr B Chapple (Coronavirus concerns), and Mrs A Harrison (work commitment).
- 2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
The Chair referred to the Mayoral list of civic engagements circulated in advance of the meeting and in particular referred to his participation in the Mix 96 pancake race on 25th February and the Charity Quiz Night on 28th February. He also announced that regrettably the Dung Beatles had had to withdraw from the event scheduled this month due to band members' ill health. The civic engagements were noted.
- 3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Cllr Lloyd informed members that members of the Planning & Licensing Committee had met informally with representatives of the Kingsbrook Development Group in advance of the last Committee meeting. Amongst

issues discussed were the link road and disused community facilities. The Leader also drew attention to the recent request made by the Electoral Commission to the government that the scheduled local elections on 7th May be postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Town Clerk clarified the situation for members if the elections were cancelled then the term of office would continue until elections were rescheduled to be held. Likewise, the Buckinghamshire Council “shadow authority” would continue on the same basis in the interim until such time as they decided to change the executive from 1st April 2020 when the new council is established.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13th February 2020.

Cllr Mrs Summers indicated that she and several members of her political group who all travelled in the same vehicle tried to attend the meeting but due to the traffic chaos were unable to attend. However, she did send apologies for absence during that evening when it was clear that she, and others, would not be able to reach the Town Hall and she felt that apologies should be included and minuted. The Town Clerk indicated that the minutes would retrospectively show that Cllrs Summers, Russel, B Chapple, S Chapple and M Winn had tendered apologies to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the draft minutes be duly received, accepted and agreed (subject to the matter referred to above) for the Town Council meeting on 13th February 2020 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 raised two matters. Firstly, election nomination packs had been received and these were available for collection by members at the back of the Council Chamber, but that Cllrs were now aware that the elections had been cancelled. Secondly, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, it was necessary for the Town Clerk to seek and be given enhanced emergency executive delegated authority to enable the Council to make expeditious and timely decisions during a period of uncertainty. It may not be possible to convene Council and Committee meetings in the interim at a time when flexibility and timeliness were crucial factors. The Town Clerk stressed that any such decisions which he needed to take would be discussed with the Leader of the Council, the Town Mayor and the Chairman of the relevant committee affected. The Town Clerk also informed members that a staff briefing document associated with the corporate Business Continuity Plan had been issued to all staff.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk be granted additional emergency delegated powers to make decision on all matters affecting the Town Council and its services and responsibilities from now on and during the period of

Coronavirus peak activity. This does not affect the already delegated powers given to the Town Clerk.

7. COMMITTEE MINUTES AND CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS

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

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 10th February 2020
 - b) To receive draft Minutes of 24th February 2020
 - d) To receive any important updates from the Chairman following the meeting held on 9th March 2020
- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 8th April 2020
- iii) **Direct Services Committee** - Cllr S Jarvis
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 26th March 2020
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
 - a) To receive draft Minutes of 11th February 2020
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr Mrs J Puddefoot
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 24th June 2020
- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr M Smith
 - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 17th June 2020

8. FINANCIAL

- a) **RESOLVED:** To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 10 (January 2020)
- b) **RESOLVED:** To accept the information and reports relating to the Cash Books for Month 10 (January 2020)

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 were received or asked during the meeting.

9. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES QUESTION TIME

Planning & Licensing Committee - Cllr Lloyd

Cllr Willis drew attention to the two adjoining developments to the east of the town where the developer had made little progress on a new link road. It was suggested that the Town Clerk be tasked to write to the developers asking for an explanation regarding the lack of progress as this would affect parishioners living on the eastern side of the town. Cllr Lloyd additionally reported this concerns that both the developers concerned (of the Kingsbrook and Woodlands developments) had made little progress or adapted their plans

since first being lodged several years previously. The latter site had not progressed since 2017. Cllr Christensen suggested that clarity was required over the eastern link road from both the developers and Bucks County Council. The Town Clerk would write accordingly bringing the Council's concerns to the attention of the developers and BCC.

Policy Committee - Cllr Lloyd

No questions

Direct Services Committee - Cllr Jarvis

Cllr C Adams expressed his thanks to the Council's Maintenance Team for their efforts during the recent stormy weather and the town looked much cleaner and tidier now. The first grass cut was also much welcomed. Cllr Willis referred to churned up grass verges and asked whether a concrete lattice (grasscrete) could be laid which would protect the verges, allow grass cutting to take place and residents could still park there, recognising that on-street parking in some areas of Aylesbury was a problem. The Town Clerk indicated that photo evidence of the state of the verges would be supplied to Bucks County Council as ATC couldn't cut such areas when so badly rutted but agreed that grasscrete could be successfully mowed. Cllr Mrs Russel reported an overflowing dog bin and the Mayor reminded members that such matters could be reported directly to the office and didn't have to wait for the next monthly meeting.

Communities Committee - Cllr Dixon

Cllr Winn enquired about the cost of the new contract for production of the Aylesbury Town Matters quarterly magazine. The Town Mayor responded that the new contract price was slightly lower than the former contract.

Grants Committee - Cllr Mrs Puddefoot

Cllr Mrs Puddefoot indicated that the next meeting would be held in June. Cllr Lloyd asked whether successful applicants came into the meeting to give feedback and Cllr Mrs Summers responded that this did happen from time to time. Cllr Lloyd felt that an increased social media promotion would be helpful in promoting the grants scheme.

Finance Committee - Cllr Smith

No questions

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 9th April at 7.00 p.m. and the Annual Town Meeting would be held on Thursday 9th April at 6.30 p.m.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.44 p.m.

Mayor _____ Date _____