



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE  
TOWN HALL, 5 CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY, ON THURSDAY, 13th  
FEBRUARY 2020**

**In the Chair:** Cllr M Smith (Town Mayor)

**Present:** Cllr M Bateman                      Cllr A Christensen                      Cllr T Dixon  
                Cllr T Hunter-Watts                  Cllr T Hussain                              Cllr R Lloyd  
                Cllr G Moore                                  Cllr M Willis

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

Mr C James, Eiffage Kier  
Mr V Loo, Engagement Manager (Aylesbury), High Speed 2 Ltd  
Three members of the public in attendance

The Town Mayor welcomed all to the meeting and invited representatives of High Speed 2 Ltd to address the Council regarding further developments on the HS2 line through Aylesbury.

Mr James outlined the scale and scope of the HS2 project, both in general terms as well as how the plans would specifically affect Aylesbury and surrounding areas following the project being given the green light by central government earlier this week. It was expected that four or five years would be spent undertaking civil engineering works, consisting of landscaping, building 80km of track and bridges, excavating some 27 million cubic metres of soil, 22 km of road diversions and 15 viaducts along the whole length of the route including that at Thames Valley. There would be five project teams and technical teams to oversee the project.

Early works would involve, environmental works including archaeological digs, fencing and land ownership with to date approximately 85% of the route now in HS2's possession. Ecology mitigation towards newts and badgers etc were being devised.

The project's biggest challenge would be traffic management, ensuring that lorries delivering to the site would use dedicated newly-constructed haul roads to offset general traffic impacts on local roads. The route in Aylesbury would be to the south and west of the town where 2.5 km of bypass would be built and this would co-ordinate with the new link road and the A41 at Fleet Marsden for site entry. Vehicle movements and traffic routes were set out in legislation.

In terms of community engagement, there was a streamlined approach designed to ensure valid engagement in future; residents' charter, 10 community commitments, community investment through funding, town and parish councils, and community groups. Likewise there would be opportunities through skills, employment and education, CEF/BLEF funding totaling £40m through an application process, and supply chain opportunities.

Members had a number of questions, principally concerning traffic routes and haul roads, planning process impact on planning system, employment locally, community engagement and public opposition to the project, funding, programme of works.

*Traffic and haul roads - haul roads were designed to be temporary structures to facilitate site access and help alleviate traffic on local roads. Heavy traffic on A418/A41 would be limited to 15 vehicle movements per day which was low impact.*

*A section 17 notice would be required to facilitate an increase on this figure.*

*Contingency plans were in place if Bicester road should happen to be blocked/closed following liaison with Highways England and the blue light services.*

*Planning - The HS2 Act is separate from the usual outline/detailed planning process and is governed by Schedule 17 which imposes a strict deadline for resolution of all planning matters.*

*Employment - HS2 is a massive civil engineering project and will need to recruit far and wide for specialist roles. However there will also be job opportunities locally, both short and long term, such as construction, services and support activities like catering, cleaning and IT.*

*Community engagement - HS2 recognise the depth of feeling generated in some quarters by the project and in its engagement strategy it is looking to ensure dialogue and recognise the tension. But the Greenway will be crossed by site traffic and this will impact cyclists, runners and walkers and this is the reality which engagement is unlikely to alleviate. Likewise, the rights of demonstrators will need to be recognised in terms of what constitutes lawful protest but as always it will be a balance.*

*Funding - this was available under two different pots, totaling £40m. Applications for projects of community value may be made by town/parish councils or community groups. Full details are on the website. Mr James would be interested in furthering engagement between the project and the Town Council if this was considered productive.*

*Programme of Works - early site works had already been undertaken and the full scale of the project would ramp up by the end of this year, incorporating access roads, compounds then structures, fencing of land, archaeological digs and ecological mitigation e.g. barn owl habitat.*

The Town Mayor thanked representatives from Eiffage Kier/High Speed 2 Ltd for attending and providing a thorough and in-depth update to the Council.

The Town Mayor called the meeting to order at 8.36 p.m.

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 (family commitment), W. Raja (prior commitment), Mrs R Takodra (ill health) and Mrs S Morgan (family 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 reminded members that the deadline for the Garden Town public consultation was tomorrow. He also advised members that together with the Town Clerk, he had recently held a constructive meeting with the newly elected Aylesbury MP, Mr Rob Butler

**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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

**RESOLVED:** That the draft minutes be duly received, accepted and agreed for the Town Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 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 had no matters to report.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019
  - b) To receive Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020
  - c) To receive draft Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020
  - d) To receive any important updates from the Chairman following the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020
  
- ii) **Policy Committee** - Cllr R Lloyd
  - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020
  
- iii) **Direct Services Committee** - Cllr S Jarvis
  - a) To receive draft Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019
  
- iv) **Communities Committee** - Cllr T Dixon
  - a) To receive draft Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020, as tabled
  
- v) **Grants Committee** - Cllr Mrs J Puddefoot
  - a) To receive draft Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020

- vi) **Finance Committee** - Cllr M Smith
  - a) To note the next meeting will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## 8. FINANCIAL

- a) **RESOLVED:** To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 9 (December 2019)
- b) **RESOLVED:** To accept the information and reports relating to the Cash Books for Month 9 (December 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 were received or asked during the meeting.

- c) To receive, acknowledge and formally accept the Internal Audit - Second Interim Report 2019-20 report.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Christensen, seconded by Cllr Hinter-Watts and on being put to the vote carried unanimously to receive and accept the Internal Audit - Second Interim Report 2019-20. Councillors noted the positive comments from the Auditor and thanked the Town Clerk and his staff for their diligence and continued professional approach in respect of the council's finances.

## 9. OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS

To receive verbal reports

### **Aylesbury Town Twinning Association**

No report.

### **Aylesbury Vale Multi-Cultural Centre**

No report.

### **Town Centre Partnership**

No report.

### **Edith Eman Trust**

No report.

### **Greater Aylesbury Local Area Forum (GALAF)**

No report

### **William Harding Trust**

No report

### **Arla Liaison Group**

Cllr Hunter-Watts informed members that he had attended the last ALG meeting yesterday and there were ongoing works to alleviate odours from Aleco. A complaint had been made to Cllr Raja in relation to excessive Arla HGV movements within Aylesbury using Tring Road. Arla had changed their delivery processes so there would be fewer lorry movements and spread over longer hours of the day. Cllr Smith relayed an invitation to all councillors from

Arla to visit their bottling plant next Thursday and any members wishing to attend should let the office know accordingly.

**10. DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2020/21**

To receive and endorse the draft calendar of meetings in municipal year 2020/21.

**RESOLVED:** To accept and endorse the draft calendar of meetings for 2020/21.

**11. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES QUESTION TIME**

**Planning & Licensing Committee - Cllr Lloyd**

*No questions*

**Policy Committee - Cllr Lloyd**

*No questions*

**Direct Services Committee - Cllr Jarvis**

*Cllr Willis referred to damage to grass verges and suggested a dialogue with Bucks CC to resolve and deal with this issue. The Town Clerk suggested the best approach would be to report the matter to the local area technician and ask residents or members to report such matters to the Fix my Street website.*

**Communities Committee - Cllr Dixon**

*Cllr Hunter-Watts enquired about the community clean-up in March. In response, Cllr Dixon stated that councillors were needed to help in the clean-up and to liaise with the Senior Communities Officer.*

**Grants Committee - Cllr Mrs Puddefoot**

*Cllr Smith reported that the Committee had totally expended the grants budget at its last meeting.*

**Finance Committee - Cllr Smith**

*No questions*

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.48 p.m.

Mayor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_