



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL HELD THROUGH THE ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM ON THURSDAY, 11th JUNE 2020

In the Chair: Cllr M Smith (Town Mayor)

Present:

Cllr B Adams	Cllr C Adams	Cllr Mrs J Bloom
Cllr A Christensen	Cllr A Huxley	Cllr T Hussain
Cllr Mrs A Harrison	Cllr T Hunter-Watts	Cllr R Lloyd
Cllr G Moore	Cllr Mrs S Morgan	Cllr W Raja
Cllr Mrs B Russel	Cllr Mrs D Summers	Cllr M Willis
Cllr M Winn		

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

Eight members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed all present to the first virtual meeting of the Town Council and asked whether any of the members of the public present wished to take part in the public participation session.

A member of the public identified himself as a resident of Aylesbury and drew attention to the benefits of having an overarching nature-friendly strategy to cover the ecology of the town. The Town Clerk responded that the Council may wish to consider this matter in depth and suggested that this be scheduled for formal discussion on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting. The originator agreed to forward his contact details to the Town Clerk and also to provide some background information in advance of the next meeting.

The Town Mayor opened the meeting at 7.10 pm.

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: Cllr Dixon (sickness), Cllr Mrs Takodra (sickness), Cllr S Chapple (family commitment), Cllr B Chapple (family commitment), Cllr Bateman (prior commitment) and Cllr White (work commitments).

2. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor indicated that he had attended only three mayoral engagements since March due to the Covid-19 epidemic, these being a visit to

the Food Bank, laying a wreath at the cemetery war memorial on the anniversary of VE Day and a visit to the Kingsbrook development. In addition a presentation of a cheque (by Skype call) to the Mayor's charity, Youth Concern which had raised almost £20,000 in total.

3. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Lloyd expressed his thanks to the Town Clerk and all Town Council staff as well as members for their efforts in maintaining services to the community during these difficult times. He had been in contact with main contractors for HS2, Efrage Kier, who indicated that no major works on site had been undertaken in the interim. Meanwhile, a revised traffic plan had been developed. He had little further to report in relation to the proposed new stadium at this stage though Netball England were certainly interested in the project.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Several members who were members (or substitutes) on the Buckingham Council planning committee sought advice on whether they should declare an interest in agenda item 11. The Town Clerk provided appropriate advice and following this the following councillors declared an interest in Item 11; Cllrs Huxley, Winn, Moore, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Bloom and Mrs Russel.

5. MINUTES

To agree as a correct record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 12th March 2020.

RESOLVED: That the draft minutes be duly received, accepted and agreed for the Town Council meeting on 12th March 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. COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT TO FILL AN OUTSIDE BODY VACANCY

Proposal to nominate and agree a Council representative for the Elizabeth Eman Trust upon the resignation of Cllr Puddefoot as a Town Councillor.

Cllr Mrs Summers expressed an interest in holding this representative role. There were no other nominations made.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Summers, seconded by Cllr Mrs Bloom and on being put to the vote duly carried that Cllr Mrs Summers be elected as the Council's representative to the Elizabeth Eman Trust.

8. 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**
To receive draft Minutes of 9th March 2020 (pages 9-12)

9. CEMETERY CHAPELS - PLANNING APPLICATION

To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk and members to consider and agree how the matter should be progressed.

The Town Clerk brought members up to speed on this matter, reminding Council that both cemetery chapels had been closed for quite some time due to the state of the roof structures of these Grade 2 listed buildings. Working in conjunction with a professional architect who was knowledgeable in the field of listed buildings, a planning application had been made but this had ultimately been refused by the planning authority. Further discussions were now being held with the architect and the planning authority but inevitably the Covid-19 epidemic had put a break on things lately. Members noted the position and that the matter would be brought before Full Council or the Planning & Licensing Committee at a future date.

10. BAUER MEDIA AND MIX 96

Motion proposed by Cllr Lloyd

"Mix96 are synonymous with Aylesbury and do so much to support local people, businesses and the Town Council. That the Town Council writes to Bauer Media to urge them to reconsider their decision to not have a stand alone radio station for Aylesbury."

Cllr Lloyd apprised members of the background to his proposal and stated that the re-badging of the radio station would result in much more generic content produced in London rather than locally in the town. Mix FM and the Council had a long-standing mutually beneficial relationship in which they helped promote ATC events and the Council reciprocated. A petition asking to retain Mix 96 in its current guise was circulating and had attracted around 2,000 signatures. Cllr Lloyd wished to slightly amend the original motion to add after "...write to Bauer Media - and Ofcom and the MP for Aylesbury - and urge Bauer..."

Members discussed the proposal in some depth and there was a consensus that supported the motion, as amended.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Lloyd, seconded by Cllr Willis and on being put to the vote duly carried unanimously that "Mix96 are synonymous with Aylesbury and do so much to support local people, businesses and the Town Council. That the Town Council writes to Bauer Media, Ofcom and the MP for Aylesbury to urge Bauer to reconsider their decision to not have a stand-alone radio station for Aylesbury."

[Cllrs Mrs Bloom, Mrs Morgan, Huxley, Mrs Russel, Winn and Moore left the meeting at 8.10 pm]

11. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL - PLANNING PROCESS

Motion proposed by Cllr Willis

"That this Council expresses its disappointment in the new planning arrangements, the lack of consultation and lobbies the Unitary Authority to reinstate the automatic right of Parishes to represent their constituents at the Planning Authority committee meetings"
(See attached briefing note, Page 13)

Cllr Willis outlined the background to his proposal and members then had an in-depth discussion. It was explained that other local parish councils also had concerns about the new planning arrangements and had already written or were planning to write to Buckinghamshire Council in a similar vein.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Willis, seconded by Cllr Christensen that the motion was duly passed on being put to the vote with 7 For and 3 Against.

[Cllrs Mrs Bloom, Mrs Morgan, Huxley, Mrs Russel, Winn and Moore rejoined the meeting at 8.21 pm]

12. COUNCIL VACANCIES

Members to note that two vacancies on the Town Council will be filled by a co-option process at the next meeting in July

The Town Mayor confirmed that Cllrs Mrs Puddefoot and Jarvis had recently resigned and he highlighted especially the long service of Mrs Puddefoot who had joined the new created Council in 2001.

The Town Clerk explained the co-option process and in response to a member's question stated that anyone applying had to meet the legal criteria to stand, regardless of any party-political affiliation.

13. FINANCIAL

a) To accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report to Month 1 (April 2020) (Pages 14-29)

b) Cash Books for Month 1 (April 2020) (Pages 30-35)

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.

c) To receive and approve 1) the Final Update Internal Audit Report for 2019/20 and 2) the Internal Audit Governance Report 2019/20, Sections 1 and 2 (Pages 36-47)

Cllr Smith, Chairman of Finance Committee, drew attention to the reserves standing at 27% of annual expenditure and that there was a net expenditure over income of about 11,000, due to the impacts of Covid-19 from the end of March. The 2019/20 Outturn was an underspend of £5,000. Cllr Smith had received no questions from members on the finances.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Willis and on being put to the vote carried unanimously to accept the Cost Centre Budget Monitoring Report (April 2020) and the Cash Books (April 2020).

Cllr Smith highlighted the two audit reports under item 13c and indicated that the internal auditor had given a clean bill of health and that all was in good order.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Mrs Summers, and on being put to the vote duly carried unanimously that 1) the Final Update Internal Audit Report for 2019/20 and 2) the Internal Audit Governance Report 2019/20, Sections 1 and 2 be received and approved and the Governance Report be signed off and sent to the external auditor.

14. CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES QUESTION TIME

Planning & Licensing Committee

Cllr Willis referred to the lack of progress on the Oakfields- Woodlands link road in his ward and asked whether this matter could be expedited as in February Council had agreed that the Town Clerk would write to the developers. The Chairman agreed that this needed to be followed up.

Policy Committee

No questions

Communities Committee

Cllr Mrs Summers, as Vice Chair, indicated that all Council events were presently on hold due to the epidemic.

Grants Committee

Cllr Mrs Summers, as a member of the committee, reported that all grants funding had been disbursed by the end of the 2019/20 financial year.

Finance Committee

Cllr Winn asked about current operations at the Jonathan Page Play Centre. The Town Mayor responded that the centre was only taking children of key workers at this time and the Town Clerk added that the Council was unable to carry out our business at JPPC due to the restrictions issued by the government. He also updated Members on the close working relationship that JPPC and its staff were having with Buckinghamshire Council officers in the childrens service directorate and opening its doors to key workers and local schools. Cllr Summers also reported the close working relationship with the school she is a local Governor of and emphasised the professionalism and actions of the JPPC.

Direct Services Committee

Cllr C Adams drew attention to the poor state of Walton Pond given the extensive recent dry spell. He asked who owned the pond and whether it could be filled as local wildlife were suffering. Cllr Willis responded that no-one owns the pond and it only fills through rainfall. Nature needed to be allowed to

take its course. Cllr Lloyd gave an update on the rat issue at Walton Pond saying that partner organisations Environmental Health and Thames Water were discussing the matter further and seeking a solution.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.57 p.m.

Mayor _____ Date _____