



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

A

Constantia Basis Virtutum

Minutes Annual Council

Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 12 May 2016

Place

Upper Guildhall, Andover

Cllr V Pond (Chairman) Item 1 only

Cllr K Bird (Chairman) (P) From item 2

Cllr L Gates (Vice Chairman) (P) From item 5

Cllr C Bartholomew (P)

Cllr B Carpenter (P)

Cllr A Cotter (P)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr A Fitchet (P) Left at 7.15pm

Cllr L Gregori (P)

Cllr S Hardstaff (P)

Cllr K Hughes (P)

Cllr R Hughes (P)

Cllr M James (P)

Cllr B Long (P)

Cllr D Marriner (P)

Cllr G McBride (P)

Cllr J Msonthi (P)

Cllr M Mumford (P)

Cllr R Rowles (P)

Borough Councillors Present: 0

County Councillors Present: 0

Officers Present: Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk) (taking the minutes)

Members of the Public: 7

C 01/16

Election of Chairman

Councillor Richard Rowles proposed and Councillor Christopher Ecclestone seconded that Councillor Katherine Bird be elected Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year 2016/2017.

There was a second proposal.

Councillor Veronika Pond proposed and Councillor Alan Cotter seconded that Councillor Barbara Long be elected Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year 2016/2017.

As there were 2 nominations for Chairman, the current Chairman, Councillor V Pond moved that the Council accept the proposal, included on the Agenda, from Cllr B Long and seconded by Councillor V Pond, that the Standing Orders be suspended to allow a vote via ballot, rather than show of hands.

A vote was taken to suspend Standing Orders, 14 for, 5 against. Therefore the vote was carried.

RESOLVED: That Standing Orders be suspended to allow a vote for the Chairman of the Municipal Year 2016/2017, via ballot, rather than show of hands.

A ballot vote was taken for the Chairman of the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

The result was:

Cllr Katherine Bird – 11 votes

Cllr Barbara Long – 8 votes

RESOLVED: That Councillor Katherine Bird be elected Chairman of Andover Town Council for the ensuing Municipal Year 201/2017.

C 02/16 The Chairman to make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Katherine Bird made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and continued with the duties of Chairman.

The first being to reinstate Standing Orders for the rest of the Council meeting.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Rowles and Cllr Ecclestone for proposing and seconding her nomination as Chairman and thanked the Members of the Town Council for electing her as Chairman for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

C 03/16 Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Chairman

Councillor Katherine Bird gave the following Vote of Thanks to the retiring Chairman:

“Thank you Veronika for all of the hard work you have put in to the role of Chairman over the last year. You have been a steady hand throughout a time of change and upheaval, for which I think we are all grateful. I, for one, have been amazed by the amount of meetings and events you have managed to fit into the year, and the links that have been forged with partners both near and far.

Thank you for your cheerfulness throughout everything, for the good humour (including a leaf-covered walking stick during the scarecrow judging), for being a figurehead and for bringing new ideas to the Council. I hope that you have enjoyed your time in the Chair, and that the seeds sown over the last year will grow and flower”.

C 04/16 Chairman’s Review

The Retiring Chairman, Councillor Veronika Pond, handed round name badges that had been made for the Town Councillors.

She continued to give the following speech:

“This year Andover Town Council has had a “hands on” Chairman and Vice Chairman who have worked tirelessly to raise the profile of the Town with both the borough and county, attending events throughout the working week but more often than not at weekends.

We have set out to meet all the parishes who butt onto Andover and meaningful talks have been started with Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council on a number of subjects, most of which are still ongoing.

To the purist amongst the Town Council I am well aware my style of chairing the meetings has not been to their taste but in mitigation I would just like to say that having 13 new councillors, who are all individuals, it has taken blood, sweat and not quite tears to get them finally working as a team.

- Thank you to all those who have given me your support throughout this year, especially my wonderful husband and my Vice Chairman
- Thank you to Cllr Iris Andersen, outgoing Mayor of Test Valley for all the invitations that came my way.
- Thank you to Wendy Coulter the Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer who has helped more than she will ever know and finally last but not least to
- Lisa Laing the Allotments Officer for all the laughs we have had”.

C 05/16 Election of Vice-Chairman

Councillor Josie Msonthi proposed and Councillor Barbara Carpenter seconded that Councillor Len Gates be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year 2016/2017.

There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Len Gates be elected Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

- C 06/16 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Vice-Chairman**
Councillor Len Gates made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the Council for his appointment.
- C 07/16 Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Andy Fitchet as he had to leave the meeting at 7.15pm. Cllr Fitchet left the meeting.
- C 08/16 Public Participation**
Mr R Kidd – Andover Resident
Congratulated Cllr Bird on her appointment as Chairman of the Town Council.
Mr Kidd informed the Town Council that Mr Brian Mellor had passed away and that Councillor Fitchet had passed on the Town Councils condolences.
Mr Kidd further confirmed that after enquiring he had received the reply that the local MP Mr Kit Malthouse, would not be attending the Town Councils meetings.
Mr N Long – Andover Resident
1. I searched the Andover Town Council's website to look at tonight's agenda, but could not find anything there. Why is this? If the Council wish the public to attend your meetings, why do the agendas disappear from your website before the actual meeting has taken place? For your information I eventually found the agenda hidden in the archive section.
 2. Training for Councillors, page 8 of agenda, states that you recently spent approx. £500 to HALC for training of Councillors. Can you publish who attended and what subject the training was for? This would be to reassure the public that the newly co-opted Councillors are qualified to speak on the various committees that they sit on and make comments on.
 3. I would like to draw your attention to page 12 of your agenda, P&R.
The mentors of the non-elected Youth Council, wish to have an extra £1,000 per annum for secretarial support. I would like to draw the Councillors attention that in your Council budget recently passed by yourselves, had no mention of this money. So where are you taking this sum from? I seriously hope that at the end of the year accounts of the Council, do not show an overspend. Because of extras not budgeted for. Also that you do not expect the people of Andover to pay a further increase in the precept to pay for your mistakes or grand ideas.
- The Chairman of the Town Council, Cllr Katherine Bird answered Mr Long's questions:
1. The Council agenda is on the website and the technical fault has been amended to prevent the agendas being archived prior to meetings.
 2. The attendance and subject of Training Sessions can be published. We will look into how that can be done.
 3. The £1,000 for secretarial support for the Youth Council is a notional sum, which will be taken from the time of the newly appointed Committee Officer. There will be no extra cost in the Budget and no extra cost to the taxpayer.
- C 09/16 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Pecuniary Interests**
There were no Declarations of Interest.
- C 10/16 Minutes**
The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 31 March 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- C 11/16 Committee Minutes**
The following Minutes were received and noted:
21 April 2016 – Policy and Resources Committee
18 April 2016 – Planning Committee
- C 12/16 Membership of Standing Committees**
Members considered the appointment of Members to Committees.
It was proposed by Cllr Steve Hardstaff and seconded by Cllr Mick James that the Membership of the Standing Committee be approved for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.
RESOLVED: That the Membership for the Allotments Committee, Assets & Amenities Committee, Community Engagement Committee, Planning Committee and Policy & Resources Committee for 2016/2017 as set out below be agreed.

Allotments Committee

Carol Bartholomew, Alan Cotter, Kevin Hughes, Mick James, Barbara Long, Josie Msonthi, Veronika Pond.
TOTAL - 7

Assets & Amenities Committee

Katherine Bird, Alan Cotter, Christopher Ecclestone, Luigi Gregori, Steve Hardstaff, Robin Hughes, Barbara Long, Josie Msonthi, Veronika Pond.
TOTAL – 9

Community Engagement Committee

Katherine Bird, Andy Fitchet, Luigi Gregori, Robin Hughes, Mick James, Barbara Long, Dean Marriner, Geoff McBride, Richard Rowles.
TOTAL – 9

Planning Committee

Carol Bartholomew, Barbara Carpenter, Alan Cotter, Christopher Ecclestone, Len Gates, Luigi Gregori, Barbara Long, Josie Msonthi, Richard Rowles.
TOTAL – 9

Policy and Resources Committee

Katherine Bird, Len Gates, Luigi Gregori, Steven Hardstaff, Robin Hughes, Michael Mumford, Veronika Pond.
TOTAL – 7

C 13/16**Authorisation of the Clerk**

It was proposed by Cllr S Hardstaff and seconded by Cllr G McBride that the Town Clerk be authorised to sign any orders, deeds, or documents necessary to give effect to any of the matters contained in the Reports received at the meeting or in any future Resolutions passed by the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk be authorised to sign any orders, deeds, or documents necessary to give effect to any of the matters contained in the Reports received at the meeting or in any future Resolutions passed by the Council.

C 14/16**Neighbourhood Plan**

Members received a presentation from Members of the Steering Committee of the Neighbourhood Plan on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr Nick Slinger a volunteer sitting on the Steering Committee gave the presentation in the form of a Power Point Presentation, which is attached to **Record Minutes**.

C 15/16**Youth Council Champion**

Following recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee, Members were asked to consider appointing a Youth Council Champion for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

Members asked what the Role would entail.

It was explained that the Youth Council Champion would be a spokesperson on behalf of the Youth Council and the Town Council. The role would build over the ensuing year and Terms of Reference would be written up. It was anticipated that for the Municipal Year 2017/2018, the Youth Councillors themselves would elect the Youth Council Champion from the Town Councillors.

Cllr McBride offered to take on the role until May 2017.

The Chairman asked Members to vote whether Cllr McBride be appointed and the vote was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Geoff McBride be appointed as the Town Council's Youth Council Champion for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

C 16/16**Financial Regulations**

Members noted that the Town Council's Financial Regulations are under review and will be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee to be held on 9th June 2016, for recommendation to full Council on 23 June 2016.

C 17/16**Date of Next Meeting**

Members noted that the date of the next Full Council meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 23 June 2016 at 7pm in The Rendezvous, Union Street, Andover.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Chairman

Date