



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes Council

Time and date

6.13 pm on Wednesday 21 October 2020

Place

Virtual On-Line Meeting via "Zoom"

Cllr R Rowles - Town Mayor (P)

Cllr L Banville - Deputy Town Mayor (P)

Cllr D Coole (P)

Cllr L Gregori (P)

Cllr R Meyer (P)

Cllr J Coole (P)

Cllr R Hughes (P)

Cllr D Treadwell (P)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr B Long (P)

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk)

Tor Warburton (Deputy Clerk)

Michelle Young (Committee & GDPR Officer) (Taking the Minutes)

Borough/County Councillors Present:

Cllr I Anderson

Cllr Z Brooks

Cllr N Matthews

Members of the Public: 6

Members of the Press: 1

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and Government legislation regarding Social Distancing, it was not possible to hold this meeting at a normal public venue. Therefore, the Town Council made arrangements under the Coronavirus Act 2020, and subsequent Regulations permitting remote meetings, to hold the meeting virtually. A voting procedure was actioned via role call method with each Member's name and response recorded in the Minutes.

Prior to the commencement of the Council meeting, all attendees of the full Council held a minute silence in memory of former Councillor Veronika Pond, who had sadly passed away.
Councillor B Long gave the following words:

“Veronika came to Andover in 2002 and was elected to Andover Town Council (Harroway Ward) in May 2011.

Veronika was very community minded and always very fair in her judgements, seeing both sides of the argument. She served as a school governor for Andover C of E School and always helped out with projects and events that the Town Council organised.

Charity market in 2012, consultation of the Andover Neighbourhood Plan, Erection of the Blue Plaque to Reg Presley, Events to mark WW1. She supported officers in manning phone lines when we were understaffed. She represented ATC at HALC and NALC meetings as well as TVBC resilience meetings. She project managed the move of the Town Council office.

She was elected chair in 2015-2016, always promoting Andover and liaising with neighbouring parishes. At the Lights Switch on 2015 she hosted Parish Chairmen to the event and was the first chairman to be put on the stage to switch on the lights with the little star.

While chair she opened Wickes and the coffee shop on Walworth Business Park, she judged the scarecrow competition for Andover and Ludgershall Allotments.

She was part of Andover Visio and a volunteer at Andover Shilling Fair.

She was a scrabble fanatic, enjoyed painting and had a wicked sense of humour.

Veronika served 8 years as town Councillor until May 2019.

She will be missed by all who worked with her and this is just some acknowledgement for all she did in helping to establish Andover Town Council. She was a hands on person, always calm, always a smile helping plan events and projects and a dear friend who I will always remember.”

C 269/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

C 270/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest in relation to any item on the agenda.

C 271/19 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A Member requested that the previous Minutes be amended at item 17, 5 against to be amended to 5 abstentions.

It was proposed by Councillor L Banville and seconded by Councillor R Hughes that the amended Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 September 2020 be signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors L Banville, D Coole, J Coole, C Ecclestone, L Gregori, R Hughes, B Long, R Meyer, R Rowles and D Treadwell.

Unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the amended Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 September 2020 be signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

C 272/19 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor made the following statement:

“It is worth remembering that the required standards of behaviour and discussion are the same whether in remote or face-to-face meetings. These are difficult times and people may be worried about their health or family members, they may be frustrated being isolated at home and there may be challenges with using new technology particularly if there are technical difficulties. Everyone in the meeting will

need to be respectful and compassionate towards one another, emotions may be higher than usual but that only makes it more important that everyone approaches the meeting with respect and in the spirit of the Council's code of conduct.

I will ask politely for people to stop talking if this doesn't happen. I am within my rights as Mayor to ask for a Motion of censure and to "not hear from that cllr anymore", which will require a seconder and then a vote. If any disruption continues I am also within my rights to adjourn the meeting until a later date. However it is now electronically possible to eject a cllr whom is causing disruption from the meeting it is my judgement at this time that doing so would be contrary to the law by excluding a cllr from the meeting.

Sadly I had to hear indirectly, despite asking for members to contact me directly regarding a vote by secret ballot. This was possible in the past in physical meetings however, I'm concerned as it is with cllrs not being on screen when they cast their vote. I nor anyone can be more confident of more secretive ways to vote. In any case I am calling for a recorded vote on this, so as to be sure we are not hiding anything from the public.

Our Office team will be on mute and will only talk unless I allow it, this includes our Proper Officer Wendy. All questions need to be addressed through Me as the chair of this full council meeting. Members of the Town Council and members of the Public. The second wave of covid is, without any question, now upon us. This is sadly as I predicted based on the computer modelling of both Harvard and Stanford University in our first zoom meeting this year. I am glad that calls to re-open our office by at least one council member who, on Facebook, called the situation "dragging our feet" has come to a stop and replaced with the comment from the last meeting "I don't think anyone is saying we want to re-open the office". That said now more than ever our town needs us all to pull together, to put our differences aside, to disenthral ourselves from the past so we can not only help Andover survive, but to Thrive.

One of the best ways we can achieve this is by working constructively with ALL other local councils and organisations to help our town prepare for the gathering storm of economic and more importantly the social harm that could rip the beating heart out of Andover over the next decade as a result of this virus. It is displeasing to many residents (because they have told me so) that this constant sniping and time wasting with regard to meeting dates, levy services, priorities for next year and other less important subjects should be distracting the officers of both our Town's council and the officers of TVBC. It is time for this farce to stop, you are fiddling whilst Rome burns!

As an example, I asked four out of five of our main team to tell me how many emails one Cllr had sent them in the preceding calendar month..... Their combined answer was since 21 September a Member of the Council had sent 222 emails.... that is in one calendar month... Just in case any of us should wonder what affects the productivity of the Tam in the Office, this is just one example.

I am sure I am correct in saying that morale in our office team is at an all time low, the restructuring plan being hammered through up to this point, has members of the team feeling unwanted, unappreciated and frankly looking at their CVs definitely undervalued. I cannot and will not allow this process to continue.

The staffing review is not finalised until a vote in favour of it on the Full Council and I'm afraid for a number of reasons too long to list I cannot allow a vote or debate at full council on this item.

Firstly the report was not received before the 10 day deadline which enables myself and our clerk to check the validity of the recommendation before a vote. The Mayor and Chairman is the last in the chain of command with regard to issues relating to staffing, in this instance because it is not clear to me that the correct requirements have been met therefore there will be no vote and no discussion on this item.

This item will be added to the next council agenda for a vote if I am satisfied that the correct requirements have been met. It has been made quite clear to me that a number of members are unclear of the ramifications of this recommendation, it has also been made clear that all members of the council have NOT had adequate time to consider what is a massive change to the operation of the Town Council, this inline with the "two bites of the cherry" technique as outlined in Knowles Edition 8.

The team in the office is NOT satisfied with the answers to their questions as part of the consultation period and I am extremely concerned regarding the risk to the Town Council on a corporate level, where is the risk assessment for this change?

Having taken the time to talk to the team I am organising a meeting to discuss their concerns. Because of this I am instructing the P&R committee to undertake NO further work on this until the results of such a meeting are made known (ALL MEMBERS will be notified in FULL with anonymous responses) and I am instructing the Team in the office not spend any more time on this issue until further notice. I hope members will support both me and our staff in building a harmonious and productive environment and meet our duty of care to people who are “employees”.

I say again Item 13 will NOT be discussed it is to note only, until such time as the team and I can meet to discuss this situation.

On another note I was pleased to see that the P&R committee re-ratified the exact motion put forward by myself and the then Cllr Fitchet. Quite why it would need voting on again I have no idea. But this sensible policy and its subsequent re-adoption gives me the confidence that no decisions at full council will be made about next year’s budget or earmarked reserves until this process has been followed and a budget proposal is put forward by the P&R committee.

Finally Item 16: The co-option Will be moved directly after item 5 which is this item.”

C 273/19 CO-OPTION

Members considered the Co-option of 2 Members to Andover Town Council for Romans Ward and Millway Ward, following the resignations of 2 Andover Town Councillors.

Members noted that applications had been received from the following candidates:

Mr Nicholas Asamoah
Mrs Barbara Carpenter
Mr Kevin Hughes
Mr Jason Sangster

Members debated how the candidate application form read and the correct way in which it should have been completed, as there was some confusion relating to Jason Sangster’s form. It was felt that the application form was misleading and that it should have been updated.

It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor L Gregori that Kevin Hughes, Barbara Carpenter and Nicholas Asamoah are suitable to be considered for Co-option, however, unfortunately for the failure to have completed the form in the correct manner, on this occasion Jason Sangster be excluded.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors L Gregori, R Hughes and B Long

Against: Councillors L Banville, D Coole, J Coole, C Ecclestone, R Meyer, R Rowles and D Treadwell.

For 3, Against 7.

Motion not carried.

It was proposed by Councillor R Rowles and seconded by Councillor D Coole that all four applicants be accepted as candidates for Co-option to Andover Town Council.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors L Banville, D Coole, J Coole, C Ecclestone, L Gregori, B Long, R Meyer, R Rowles and D Treadwell.

Abstention: Councillor R Hughes.

For 9, Abstention 1.

RESOLVED: That all four candidates be accepted as candidates for Co-Option to Andover Town Council.

Prior to the first candidate being invited to give their presentation, a Member of the Public had asked whether the Members of the Public would be present in the same virtual room to hear each candidate's presentations.

A Member of the Town Council raised a concern that some Members of the Public could be listening in and relaying information to their preferred candidate, whereas that would not happen in a physical presence.

It was proposed by Councillor R Rowles and seconded by Councillor L Banville that Members of the Public be brought into the room to witness the candidates' presentations.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors L Banville and R Hughes.

Against: Councillors D Coole, J Coole, C Ecclestone, L Gregori, B Long, R Meyer, R Rowles and D Treadwell.

For 2, Against 8

Motion not carried.

A member of the Public raised a complaint regarding the members' decision not to allow the Public to listen to the candidates' presentations. The same member of the Public also requested a list of names of the Members who voted against allowing the Public to be present.

The candidates were each invited by the Town Mayor to make a three-minute presentation to the Members of the Andover Town Council.

Presentation given by Mr Nicholas Asamoah:

"Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. A little bit of background of me. I have been living in Andover for almost five years since 2016. I moved from London with my family and we absolutely love Andover. For me, my background has always been in retail management, so you know I've had stores running up nineteen million pounds in turnover, with about one hundred and twenty staff. Then I moved to Andover and I decided I wanted to be more of a village boy. So, I decided to venture out on my own and start my own business locally. So, my business has been up for five years now and I thought what else can I do to help the community. So, I decided to become a coach and so I coach a young football team in Andover. In September this year I have just recently opened my own club, which we are competing in the Peter Houseman League. So, for me being in a community where you're giving back to the community is very important to me. It always has been even when I used to work in my professional life. I've always done things to help charities, raise money and just make sure everything we do is helping the environment. Also, just a little background, my football team, we are actually now just starting to work a lot with Andover Trees. So, for the last month we've been over there two to three times planting trees and making sure the kids are engaging with the community and giving back.

Now for me, the reason I want to become a councillor is because I want to be able to make sure that we connect the young, the youth of Andover and the elders of Andover, because I think that's a bit of disparage, a bit of a gap. I can see an opportunity for us to work harder to make that happen. As a councillor, instead of just standing in the background and just talking about the things that we think we should be doing, I'm very into the mind set that you need to be in the room to make some decisions and play a part. I'm a good team worker. I work with people based on energy. I don't have any resentment with people. I get along with everyone I meet. I just want to join the Council so I can input some of my experience from my retail background, my experience from working with the youth within Andover and also my experience of being part of a community and making that community thrive. I think it's a great place to be in Andover.

Also, I would love to see a bit of diversity, which is happening in Andover but I want it to reflect within our leadership in Andover, hence why I put my hat into the race. I feel like having different cultures and having different experiences will enhance the decisions we make as councillors and make Andover an even better place than it is now, which I think I excellent. A better place obviously for the town to thrive

and become a place where everyone is proud to be. So really and truly that's what I am keen to bring to the table if I am elected as a Town Councillor and work with all of you, wonderful people."

Presentation given by Mrs Barbara Carpenter:

"I would like to be co-opted onto the Town Council because I enjoyed it when I was on it before and I'm very proud of what I've done for the people of Andover, i.e. the **natural ????** **Basingstoke** and the school crossing etc. I'm still working with the police today, especially on drug issues and I have a lot of involvement with ours here as well, lots of complaints. I have people phoning me asking me for help and I try to get them help, i.e. with the police or Aster. I just enjoy it you know and when I got that school crossing, that just about done it for me. Everybody up here wants me to be a Town Councillor again."

Presentation given by Mr Kevin Hughes:

"I put my name forward for co-option because I feel I can help contribute to the success of the town in which I live. I haven't applied to further my own ambition or increase my profile within the town in any way, shape or form. My only interest is to represent the residents of the town and my neighbours, with the sole aim of improving the lives of those residents. I was born and live in Andover, work in Andover from home for a multinational company and have been working from home since March 2019, so pre coronavirus. I've had about a years' worth of practice before everyone else was forced to work from home.

I live in the Harroway Ward with my wife and now four children. The youngest turned two months last week. So, I'm very keen to see the area in which they are being brought up, improved and offer them the best of opportunities as possible.

I was a member of the Town Council for nine years previously, as I'm sure you are all aware and, in that time, I chaired the Allotment Committee for four years. Prior to that I was Vice Chairman under former Councillor David Drew. During that period when I was Chair, we worked incredibly hard with the Officers, Wardens and Members, in the attempt to put the allotments onto a firm financial footing and to catch up and meet all the health and safety commitments that had been overlooked shall we say, for a number of years prior to that. I believe that we did a fairly good job of that and left the allotments on a pretty good footing for you guys to pick up from.

So, to round it all off, the main message of this is that I'd like to help the Council to get back to the business of serving the residents of Andover to the best of its ability. I'm quite happy to work with anyone. Although obviously I am a member of the Liberal Democrats as a party, at this level, I have no problem with working with anyone. We should be working together with the sole aim of improving the town and improving the lives of the residents of this town wherever possible."

Presentation given by Mr Jason Sangster:

"Thank you everyone for your time. I appreciate that this evening.

I am applying to be a Town Councillor. To give you a bit of background about myself, my family moved here forty plus years ago. My father, Kenneth Sangster, my mother Helen Sangster, they've had businesses in Andover throughout that period. An Andover employment agency and an **airey** up at Walworth. Both my sister and myself grew up in Andover, we have friends and family, been to school here. We've lived in most of the villages, St Mary Bourne and Goodworth Clatford. My family are up in Weyhill now. I'm on Augusta Park so got a good background of the area and surrounding area and villages and lovely people. I've also worked locally. Quite a lot in Andover until I started my true career in the IT Service industry, which is again one of the reasons I'm here this evening.

One of my main reasons, my father's best friend Mick Mumford, was a councillor. He inspired me. He was a teacher and he offered his skills back to the town and I think I am at a point in my life, with the skills and experiences I've acquired in my life so far, to give back.

I'm an IT Manager at a company called Outsource International. I've run a lot of projects and services. I know a lot about time management. I have a business acumen from my family's businesses and my own

experience of ten years in IT Service. I'd be able to offer some of that knowledge and skill set and like this evening, I could help with IT queries and support.

My son is five now and just started at Endeavour School. I see how I can help his life, his friends and their families in the area that we all live in. We all live in the same community. People forget that sometimes. People close off, especially in this pandemic. You see people close themselves off and that will only get worse in times to come. So, community is very important. I want to give back and help in any way I can."

Each Member of the Andover Town Council gave their votes, as follows:

Mr Nicholas Asamoah received 6 votes.

Mrs Barbara Carpenter received 3 votes.

Mr Kevin Hughes received 4 votes.

Mr Jason Sangster received 7 votes.

The Town Mayor announced that Mr Nicholas Asamoah and Mr Jason Sangster had been successfully co-opted onto the Town Council.

C 274/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The notes below are a precis of statements/questions. They are not recorded word for word.

Member of Public 1:

I object that the public did not get to hear what the candidates had to say.

Chairman's Response:

I'm sure they would not object to their statements being posted.

Member of Public 1:

Were there any questions asked to the candidates?

Chairman's Response:

I can provide a written answer for that.

C 275/19 REPORTS FROM TVBC AND HCC COUNCILLORS

The notes below are a precis of statements/questions. They are not recorded word for word.

Councillor Z Brooks:

Our library service continues to support very vulnerable people who may not be able to visit a branch or access online services through the Home Library Service and the Good Neighbour Scheme. For those who may not want to spend too much time out and about at the moment, our libraries are also offering a huge range of different ways to enjoy books and activities – many of which don't involve browsing the shelves.

The [HantsHelp4Vulnerable](#) helpline remains open seven days a week to assist frail and vulnerable local residents with essential shopping, medication collections and befriending. As of last week, it had responded to over 14,700 calls. For some of our older Hampshire residents, there are increased health risks from coronavirus so it's more important than ever to look after your health and wellbeing.

COVID – more Local Testing Sites opening across Hampshire.

Five new testing sites will open in Hampshire over the next two weeks, making it easier and more convenient for local people to access testing for coronavirus.

Police urge residents to obey 'rule of six' in the run up to Halloween.

Police and Hampshire County Council are urging residents to obey the 'rule of six' in the run up to Halloween as coronavirus cases continue to increase. The County Council has stressed to the public they want everyone "to think very carefully" about how Halloween is celebrated this year, suggesting people can find "alternative ways to enjoy the event to ensure they stay COVID safe."

C 276/19 QUESTIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS TO TVBC AND HCC COUNCILLORS

Councillor C Ecclestone to Councillor Z Brooks:

The Railyard where Switch are vacating, is going to be a rail interchange and Millway bridge needs fixing. Have Hampshire County Council been consulted on this?

Councillor Z Brooks' response:

I received a letter from the rail people today. As far as I know they haven't consulted with Hampshire County Council. I will double check.

Councillor L Banville to Councillor I Anderson:

Is the church doing coats, hats and scarves donations this year?

Councillor I Anderson's response:

No because of the COVID but thinking about it for next year. We are thinking about it as there are desperate people out there. I have got a meeting with the church.

C 277/19 ACTION POINTS FROM LAST MEETING

Members noted the Action Points from the last meeting.

C 278/19 COMMITTEE MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor R Rowles and seconded by Councillor B Long that the following Minutes be accepted as correct records:

17 August 2020 – Planning Committee

18 August 2020 – Extraordinary Events Committee

2 September 2020 – Budgets and Staffing Committee

7 September 2020 – Planning Committee

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors L Banville, D Coole, J Coole, C Ecclestone, L Gregori, B Long, R Meyer and D Treadwell.

Against: Councillor R Hughes.

Abstention: Councillor R Rowles.

For 8, Against 1, Abstention 1.

RESOLVED: That the following Minutes be accepted as correct records:

17 August 2020 – Planning Committee

18 August 2020 – Extraordinary Events Committee

2 September 2020 – Budgets and Staffing Committee

7 September 2020 – Planning Committee

C 279/19 FINANCE

The following List of payments were received and noted:

24 September 2020

It was proposed by Councillor R Rowles and seconded by Councillor B Long that the list of payments up to the 19 October 2020 be approved.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors B Long, R Rowles and D Treadwell.

Against: Councillors D Coole, J Coole, L Gregori, R Hughes and R Meyer.

Abstentions: Councillors L Banville and C Ecclestone.

For 3, Against 5, Abstentions 2.

Motion not carried.

Members received and noted the Reconciled Bank Statement up to 31 August 2020.

It was proposed by Councillor R Rowles and seconded by Councillor L Banville that the Cashbook up to 31 August 2020 be received and approved.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors L Banville, D Coole, J Coole, C Ecclestone, L Gregori, R Hughes, B Long, R Meyer, R Rowles and D Treadwell.

Unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Cashbook up to 31 August 2020 be received and approved.

C 280/19 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

Members noted the Banking Arrangements Report.

A Member asked about what was happening with the signatories. A response was given confirming that Officers were waiting on a final signature on the forms, which would be chased up.

C 281/19 STANDING ORDERS REVIEW - UPDATE

Members noted that work had been completed on the Standing Orders review.

It was also noted that any changes or amendments that the Members wished to make, would be collated and the Standing Orders review would be brought back to the Full Council meeting on 25 November 2020.

C 282/19 CHANGE OF COMMITTEE DATES

Members noted the suggested change of Committee dates.

It was proposed by Councillor C Ecclestone and seconded by Councillor R Meyer that the suggested change of Committee dates be adopted.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors L Banville, D Coole, J Coole, C Ecclestone, B Long, R Meyer and D Treadwell.

Against: Councillor R Hughes.

Abstention: Councillor L Gregori and R Rowles.

For 7, Against 1, Abstention 2.

RESOLVED: That the suggested change of Committee dates be adopted.

C 283/19 DESIGN STATEMENT UPDATE

Members received and noted the Design Statement Progress Update Report.

C 284/19 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Members noted that the newly co-opted Councillors were not able to sign their Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the Council meeting due to the Pandemic regulations in place.

It was confirmed that arrangements would be made for the Town Mayor and the Town Clerk to meet the newly co-opted Members to undertake this process, which would be recorded and available for inspection.

C 285/19 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was proposed by Councillor R Rowles and seconded by Councillor C Ecclestone that the membership of newly co-opted Jason Sangster on the Assets and Communities Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee and that the membership of newly co-opted Nicholas Asamoah on the Assets and Communities Committee, be approved.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors L Banville, D Coole, J Coole, C Ecclestone, L Gregori, R Hughes, B Long, R Meyer, R Rowles and D Treadwell.

Unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the membership of newly co-opted Jason Sangster on the Assets and Communities Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee and that the membership of newly co-opted Nicholas Asamoah on the Assets and Communities Committee, be approved.

It was proposed by Councillor B Long and seconded by Councillor R Rowles that the meeting be extended beyond the 2-hour time limit, by thirty minutes.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors L Gregori, R Hughes, B Long and R Rowles.

Against: Councillors D Coole, J Coole, C Ecclestone, R Meyer and D Treadwell.

Abstention: Councillor L Banville.

For 4, Against 5, Abstention 1.

Motion not carried.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.13pm.

Town Mayor

Date