



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL COUNCIL

Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 16 May 2019

Place

The Rendezvous, Union Street, Andover

Town Councillors Present:

Mrs B Long – Town Mayor for Item 1 (P)

Mr M Mumford – Deputy Town Mayor for Items 1-4 (P)

Cllr R Rowles (Town Mayor from Item 2) (P)

Cllr L Banville (Deputy Town Mayor from Item 5) (P)

Cllr S Blackmore (P)

Mrs D Day (A)

Cllr M James (P)

Cllr V Thorp (P)

Cllr D Coole (P)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr R Meyer (P)

Cllr A Watts (P)

Cllr J Coole (P)

Cllr K Farrer (P)

Cllr P Scott (A)

Cllr G Davis (P)

Cllr Revd. A Fitchet (P)

Mr D Treadwell (A)

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk)

Michelle Young (Committee & GDPR Officer) (training) (taking the minutes)

Borough Councillors present:

Cllr Burley

Cllr I Anderson

Borough & County Councillors present:

Cllr Z Brooks

Hampshire Police:

Sgt K MacDonald

Members of the Public: 21

Members of the Press: 1

The meeting started at 7.00pm

C 001/19 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

Cllr V Thorp proposed and Cllr C Ecclestone seconded that Cllr R Rowles be elected as Town Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year 2019/2020.

There were no other nominations.

C 002/19 RESOLVED: That Cllr R Rowles be elected Town Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year 2019/2020. TOWN MAYOR TO MAKE THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr R Rowles made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and gave the following speech:

“Ladies and Gentlemen, I’d like to offer my thanks for the trust that you have bestowed upon me in electing me, mayor.

I’d like to take this opportunity to offer heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Cllrs and the team in the office for the service offered to our community throughout their time as Cllrs for the Town Council. I’d also like to point out that our plan is to involve those that wish to, in our new community working groups initiative to have local experts help comment on the new policy and new ideas for our town through its council.

As some of you know in the past, I have not been a massive proponent of having a mayor on the basis that I believe people are born equal. Over the last few years, however, I have come to see the work executed by our previous mayors and I am excited to be able to offer our Town the same and hopefully even more pride and help in this position.

Over the next four years, I hope we will see our town benefit from a number of changes to our organisation that will make it more efficient, inclusive and transparent, and offer better value for money by doing more.

Our new councillors – along with the sage-like Cllr Fitchet and, myself – offer a huge range of new skills and knowledge that I hope will see us work in an inclusive and cooperative way. But make no mistake the work we have to undertake is very significant, our town faces huge issues some of which our town council is not able to address, or address on its own. Wherever we can we will discharge our duties in the best tradition of the power vested in us and work with any Cllr, Council or organisation to help improve Andover.

Let’s represent the people that elected us with pride and integrity, and most importantly of all Let’s get the job done!”

C 003/19 Cllr R Rowles continued with his duties as Town Mayor and chaired the meeting. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING TOWN MAYOR

Retiring Deputy Town Mayor Michael Mumford gave the following vote of Thanks to the retiring Town Mayor, Mrs Barbara Long:

“Barbara.

Paying tribute to someone I respect as much as I respect you is going to be one of the easiest things I have ever done.

Being your Deputy for the last year has been a real privilege and a pleasure. What you have done for Andover over the years and in particular the last year has been second to none. You have earned the right to be Andover’s first citizen and you are Andover through and through. Working with you has been fun. (Dancing with Mayor)

What makes your year even more amazing is that you have been fighting cancer all year and still managed to complete your commitments and the towards the end to cap it all you had a hip replacement. What you have managed to do is simply quite amazing.

You have given a large part of your life to the people of Andover and it is a better place because of you. Your experience and in particular your planning knowledge will be sorely missed. You made me realise how little I know.

Barbara, I know you are in politics for the right reason and that is to serve and in particular serve the people of Andover and you have certainly done that.

On behalf of the people of Andover I thank you for being you. Take a rest and enjoy life, you deserve it."

C 004/19

TOWN MAYOR'S REVIEW

Retiring Town Mayor Barbara Long gave a speech thanking past members, the Town Council Staff and all those who had supported her during her time as Town Mayor.

C 005/19

ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Cllr V Thorp proposed and Cllr C Ecclestone seconded that Cllr L Banville be elected Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year 2019/2020.

There were no other nominations.

C 006/19

RESOLVED: That Cllr L Banville be elected Deputy Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2019/2020. DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR TO MAKE THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr L Banville made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by the Responsible Officer and thanked the Council for her appointment.

C 007/19

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Declarations of Acceptance of Office were received and witnessed by the Responsible Officer of the Town Council from the following Members of Andover Town Council:

Councillor Lauren Banville

Councillor Scott Blackmore

Councillor David Coole

Councillor Joanne Coole

Councillor Graeme Davis

Councillor Christopher Ecclestone

Councillor Kevin Farrer

Councillor Revd. Andy Fitchet

Councillor Michael James

Councillor Rebecca Meyer

Councillor Richard Rowles

Councillor Peter Scott

Councillor Victoria Thorp

Councillor Alison Watts

It was agreed that the Declaration of Acceptance of Office from Mrs Dorothy Day and Mr David Treadwell would be received at the next Full Council Meeting on 14 June 2019.

C 008/19

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr D Treadwell, Mrs D Day and Cllr P Scott.

C 009/19

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following questions/comments from members of the Public are a summary and are not recorded Verbatim.

Member of Public 1.

"I would like to congratulate all the new Cllrs this evening, but now the real work really starts.

I would like to remind each and every one of you this evening, that the money that you intend to spend comes from the residents of Andover via the precept that every household has to pay even if they don't agree with the idea of the Andover Town Council or not! So, before you get carried away with grand schemes and ideas, I urge you all to remember this.

Can the Chair/Mayor please confirm to me and the public present this evening that all Cllrs have undergone training so they all know what they can and cannot do legally as a parish council? Also, can you publish a list of Cllrs who have done the training? I have concerns that the Cllrs who have not had the said training are allowed to sit on committees. As if you were on the Test Valley Borough Council you would not be allowed to until relevant training was undertaken.

Is this not on the Andover Town Council standing orders, if not, why not?

I am really pleased that the Andover Alliance Cllrs recently published that they want to abolish homeless an Andover according to your 'manifesto'.

So, as the Andover Town Council are still paying rent and rates on an empty office building, 20 yds from your new office why can you not allow this redundant building be used for homeless people to have somewhere safe and warm to stay? Or are you happy to allow public money be wasted in this way, as the building has been empty since 16th March 2018? Yet you still have to pay til end of your lease.

Also, I would like to bring to your attention that a homeless person has recently been sleeping in the Andover Town Council doorway. Are you happy with this situation? Or are you able to do anything to help? Maybe use the money earmarked for your tea and chocolate biscuits instead on this? I suggest that if you want refreshments at your meetings, you put your hand into your own pocket to pay for it and not the taxpayers of Andover!

I urge you all to reject the stupid motion from Mr Coole this evening, as it seems to me that its cutting your nose off to spite your face. Any event that brings extra people into the Town spending money should get you support, especially from the business owners amongst you here. The Bid is in place for 5 years, love it or hate it, there is sod all you can do about it until the next vote.

Finally, I hope all the Alliance Cllrs declare their interests in the grant application which is in your agenda this evening or have had advice from your legal officer on this item?

Can the Chair/Mayor try to answer questions in the actual meeting, instead of in writing weeks later?"

Member of Public 2.

Can the Town Council confirm that it will be supporting the Events, the Shilling Fair and Gardening Fair in 2019?

Why is the Town Council moving meetings to Friday evenings?

Commented that Hospitality at Test Valley Borough Council was spent on Councillors and not the Public.

Who is the Chair of the Andover Alliance?

Member of Public 3.

No other parish in Hampshire spends funds on refreshments for themselves and guests.

The motion on the BID is inappropriate. The Ballot was approved by the Secretary of State. I would urge Councillors to reject the Motion. Two members of the Town Council actively campaigned and voted against the BID, 1 of whom has to pay the tariff.

Member of Public 4.

The motion on the BID is against what the Town Council stands for.

Which Power do you intend to use to spend the grant under?

The Town Mayor's Answers to Public Questions:

Member of Public 1.

Training has taken place and is ongoing.

Homeless – If they visit the Town Council Offices, they will receive assistance.

Old Offices – negotiations are ongoing and we hope to shortly either exit from the lease or use it for a public use.

Pecuniary Interests – BID and Grant, members will declare their interests at the relevant point on the agenda.

Member of Public 2.

The Town Council will continue to support the Events. We will continue to support them unless there is a Motion otherwise.

Meetings on Fridays – there was an issue with the number of meetings per month. The 1 night a month will streamline business, lessen the burden financially and will be better working for us and officers. The Friday meetings will start after work for 1 hour, then a break of ½ an hour. If the members think it is too much, we will reduce them.

Member of Public 3.

The item on the motion will provide the answers.

Member of Public 4.

Will send an email confirming the Power.

C 010/19

REPORT FROM HAMPSHIRE POLICE

Sergeant Kath MacDonald gave a report on Andover which included the following:

Crime figures have reduced from 4000 to 3800.

It appears that as the weather has improved, the anti-social behaviour concerns have increased. We ask the people to continue reporting to the Police.

An interim PSPO has been put in place to manage drinkers in public places.

Proactive action on criminal behaviour order of repeat offenders.

Anti-social behaviour closure notices are often associated with drugs. This allows the police to ban individuals from people's houses.

In relation to drugs, measures have been taken to work against County lines, where people come into Andover from outside areas to deal in drugs.

Pub Watch is up and running which is proving to be a success with a number of offenders already being barred by the response teams.

C 011/19

REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS FROM THE ANDOVER WARDS

Cllr Z Brooks:

Blue Badge issues – Hampshire County Council working with Test Valley Borough Council regarding reports of misuse by individuals. People do not realise it's a criminal offence and carries a fine of up to £2,000. Over 1.5 thousand badges have been retained.

The Police recently carried out a road safety campaign and it was reported that 847 drivers were stopped for a road side eye test. The average age of drivers who failed was 76 years old.

Hampshire County Council provide a course on driving skills for people aged 60 and over. The aim of the course is to explain how the driver's abilities change with age, how to adapt to new cars, check driving licences, provide eyesight tests and offer advice to increase confidence on the road.

Cllr I Anderson:

Congratulations to the new Andover Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.

Thanks to the retiring Andover Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.

Congratulations to the new Councillors.

The 2 trees in Toby Court, blocking the light to the bungalows, have now been removed.

The bollards by the Co-op on Admirals Way have now been removed.

A new play area in Duncan Court, Admirals Way, is being put in place.

We have a friendly rat at the rear of Savers which has been reported to Pest Control.

On the Vigo Road underpass, a wrecked bench is to be replaced.

We are writing to Hampshire County Council regarding the red and white bollards around the trees.

These are trip hazards and we need support from Andover Town Council.

We have been made aware of drug misuse around the Vigo Park and cricket ground areas. Please continue to report any sightings to the police.

- C 012/19 DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS.**
Cllr K Farrer declared a Pecuniary Interest in agenda Item 25, the BID.
Cllr D Coole, Cllr R Meyer, Cllr K Farrer and Cllr G Davis declared Non-pecuniary Interests in agenda item 28, Grant application from Andover Radio Limited.
Cllr R Rowles and Cllr V Thorp declared a Pecuniary Interest in Item 28, Grant application from Andover Radio Limited.
- C 013/19 MINUTES**
Cllr C Ecclestone proposed and Cllr Revd. A Fitchet seconded that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 March 2019 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.
A vote was taken, 10 for, none against, 1 abstention.
RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 March 2019 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.
- C 014/19 COMMITTEE MINUTES**
The following Committee Minutes were received and noted:
14 February 2019 – Assets & Communities Committee
21 February 2019– Policy & Resources Committee
4 March 2019 – Planning Committee
25 March 2019– Planning Committee
15 April 2019 – Planning Committee
17 January 2019 – Allotments Committee
- C 015/19 STANDING COMMITTEES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**
Cllr D Coole proposed and Cllr C Ecclestone seconded that the Council accept the proposed Committee structure and Terms of Reference for each Committee.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Council accept the Committee Structure and Terms of Reference for each Committee. (The Committee Structure and Terms of Reference are attached to Record Minutes)
(Cllr K Farrer left the meeting at 8.13pm)
- C 016/19 MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES**
Members considered the Membership of Standing Committees.
It was proposed by Cllr Revd. A Fitchet and seconded by Cllr L Banville that the Budgets & Staffing Committee have a maximum of 11 members, the Allotments Committee have a maximum of 5 Members and the Planning Committee have a maximum of 7 Members.
A vote was taken which was unanimous.
RESOLVED: That the Budgets & Staffing Committee have a maximum of 11 members, the Allotments Committee have a maximum of 5 members and the Planning Committee have a maximum of 7 members.

Members indicated upon which committees they wished to stand. The Town Clerk confirmed the membership as follows:
Budgets & Staffing Committee – Cllr L Banville, Cllr S Blackmore, Cllr D Coole, Cllr J Coole, Cllr C Ecclestone, Cllr Revd. A Fitchet, Cllr R Rowles and Cllr V Thorp.
Allotments Committee – Cllr G Davis, Cllr J Coole, Cllr M James, Cllr R Rowles and Cllr A Watts.
Planning Committee – Cllr L Banville, Cllr D Coole, Cllr G Davis, Cllr C Ecclestone, Cllr R Meyer and Cllr R Rowles.

RESOLVED: That the Membership of Standing Committees for the Municipal Year 2019/2020 be as follows:
Budgets & Staffing Committee – Cllr L Banville, Cllr S Blackmore, Cllr D Coole, Cllr J Coole, Cllr C Ecclestone, Cllr Revd. A Fitchet, Cllr R Rowles and Cllr V Thorp.
Allotments Committee – Cllr G Davis, Cllr J Coole, Cllr M James, Cllr R Rowles and Cllr A Watts.
Planning Committee – Cllr L Banville, Cllr D Coole, Cllr G Davis, Cllr C Ecclestone, Cllr R Meyer and Cllr R Rowles.

- C 017/19** **OUTSIDE BODIES – COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES**
 Members considered the appointment of members to Outside Bodies.
RESOLVED: That the following members would represent the Town Council at Test Valley Association of Town and Parish Councils: Cllr R Rowles, Cllr Revd. A Fitchet and Cllr L Banville.
That Cllr R Rowles, Cllr D Coole and Cllr A Watts would continue to represent the Town Council at Test Valley Transport.
That Cllr C Ecclestone and Cllr M James would continue to represent the Town Council on the Ludgershall/Andover Railway Group.
- C 018/19** **GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**
 It was proposed by Cllr M James and seconded by Cllr D Coole that a resolution be passed to make arrangements with a view to the Town Council becoming eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence in the near future.
 A vote was taken which was unanimous.
RESOLVED: That the Town Council make arrangements with a view to becoming eligible to exercise the General Power of Competence in the near future.
- C 019/19** **INVENTORY OF LAND, ASSETS & OFFICE EQUIPMENT**
 Members noted the list of Land, Assets and Office Equipment, **attached to Record Minutes.**
- C 020/19** **INSURANCE COVER**
 Members noted the following:
 The Town Council's insurance was provided by Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance plc.
 The Town Council has Public Liability Insurance up to the value of £15,000,000.
- Contents Insurance + rented photocopier – approx. £85,000
 - Notice Boards x 2 - £3,500
 - Office equipment, Christmas Lights & equipment, Regalia, Defibrillators, Portable toilets – approx. £50,000
 - Employers Liability - £10,000,000
 - Legal Defence - £500,000
 - Fidelity - £500,000
 - Legal Expenses - £1,000,000
 - Officials Liability - £250,000
- The Town Council's Cyber and Crime insurance was provided by Touchstone Underwriting and has Cyber and Crime Insurances up to the value of £450,000.
- C 021/19** **SUBSCRIPTIONS TO OTHER BODIES**
 Members considered the annual subscriptions to other bodies. It was agreed that the Town Council would continue to subscribe to the following:
 Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)
 National Association of Local Councils (NALC)
 South East Employers (SEE)
 National Allotment Association (NAA)
- C 022/19** **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING DATES UP TO ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 2020**
 It was proposed by Cllr D Coole and seconded by Cllr S Blackmore that the Town Council and Committee Meeting dates up to Annual Council Meeting 2020 be accepted and approved.
 A vote was taken which was unanimous.
RESOLVED: That the Town Council and Committee Meeting dates up to Annual Council Meeting 2020 be accepted and approved. (Attached to Record Minutes).
- C 023/19** **AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS - SIGNATORIES**
 It was proposed by Cllr A Watts and seconded by Cllr V Thorp that Cllr L Banville, Cllr D Coole, Cllr C Ecclestone, Cllr Revd. A Fitchet and Cllr R Rowles be Signatories to authorise payments.
 A vote was taken which was unanimous.
RESOLVED: That Cllr L Banville, Cllr D Coole, Cllr C Ecclestone, Cllr Revd. A Fitchet and Cllr R Rowles be authorised as Signatories for payments.
- C 024/19** **AUTHORISATION OF THE CLERK**
 It was proposed by Cllr C Ecclestone and seconded by Cllr M James, to authorise the Clerk to sign or where appropriate to have sealed on behalf of the Town Council any orders, deeds, or documents necessary to

give effect to any of the matters contained in the Reports received at this meeting or in any future Resolution passed by the Council. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk be authorised to sign or where appropriate to have sealed on behalf of the Town Council any orders, deeds, or documents necessary to give effect to any of the matters contained in the Reports received at this meeting or in any future Resolution passed by the Council.

C 025/19

MOTIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Motion

Proposed by Councillor David Coole, seconded by Councillor Christopher Ecclestone.

“Andover Town Council formally withdraws any previously declared support for the Andover BID and formally declares that it does not support the BID and will not support the BID Company and any of its activities or events. Andover Town Council fully supports the termination of the Andover BID at the earliest opportunity”.

Members considered the motion.

Cllr V Thorp proposed an amendment to the motion as follows:

“Andover Town Council formally withdraws any previously declared support for the Andover BID and formally declares that it does not support the BID.”

There was no seconder to this amendment.

Cllr Revd. A Fitchet proposed another amendment to the Motion as follows:

“Andover Town Council express’s its concerns about the financial burden the BID could have on small local businesses and therefore cannot support the Andover BID. Within its powers, Andover Town Council supports all events and projects in the Town Centre which will encourage footfall in the Town to create a thriving and viable place for businesses to grow and Andover Town Centre to flourish.”

It was seconded by Cllr R Rowles.

The amendment as proposed therefore became the substantive motion upon which a vote was taken.

A vote was taken, 9 for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That Andover Town Council express’s its concerns about the financial burden the BID could have on small local businesses and therefore cannot support the Andover BID. Within its powers, Andover Town Council supports all events and projects in the Town Centre which will encourage footfall in the Town to create a thriving and viable place for businesses to grow and Andover Town Centre to flourish.

C 026/19

REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES

Members noted the report on the Town Council’s Earmarked Reserves.

C 027/19

VIREMENT IN CURRENT BUDGET 2019/2020

Members considered a Virement from the current budget from New Building Fund (£20,000). A new Budget Head called Hospitality, to be created with a suggested Budget of £1000.

Members discussed the monies and it was considered that £1000 was too large a sum.

Therefore, it was proposed by Cllr L Banville and seconded by Cllr R Rowles that a new Budget Head, Hospitality be created at an amount of £100, to be taken from the New Building Fund.

A vote was taken, 11 for, 1 against, no abstentions.

RESOLVED: That a new Budget Head, Hospitality be created at an amount of £100, to be taken from the New Building Fund.

As the meeting had reached maximum time of 2 hours, as per Standing Order 1x, Cllr Revd. A Fitchet proposed and was seconded by Cllr C Ecclestone that the Council Meeting be extended until 9.15pm.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Council Meeting be extended until 9.15pm.

C 028/19 GRANT APPLICATION

Prior to the start of the Item, the Town Mayor confirmed that monies could be awarded to the Grant Applicant under Local Government Act 1972 s145, for Entertainment.
Cllr R Rowles and Cllr V Thorp did not discuss or vote on the grant application due to Pecuniary Interests declared at agenda item 12.

Members considered a Grant Application from Andover Radio Limited.

A representative from Andover Radio Limited was present at the meeting so it was proposed by Cllr L Banville and seconded by Cllr A Watts that Standing Order 10 be suspended to allow the representative speak on behalf of Andover Radio Limited.

A vote was taken which was 10 for, none against, 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 10 be suspended to allow the representative speak on behalf of Andover Radio Limited.

Questions were asked of the representative and it was confirmed that the grant monies requested were to assist the funding of the stage for entertainment at the event.

It was confirmed that funding and support were to be provided by Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

A vote was taken to reinstate Standing Order 10, which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 10 be reinstated.

It was proposed by Cllr L Banville and seconded by Cllr A Watts that the Grant Application be approved and £1000 be awarded as a grant for Andover Radio Limited to assist with funding the stage for Entertainment for Armed Forces Day.

A vote was taken which was 7 for, 1 against, 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That the Grant Application be approved and £1000 be awarded as a grant for Andover Radio Limited to assist with funding the stage for Entertainment for Armed Forces Day.

C 029/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next Council Meeting would be held on Friday, 14 June 2019 at 7.00pm in the Upper Guildhall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

Chairman

Date