



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Extraordinary Minutes Council

Time and date

6.00 pm on Wednesday 5 November 2020

Place

Virtual On-Line Meeting via "Zoom"

Cllr R Rowles - Town Mayor (P)

Cllr L Banville - Deputy Town Mayor (P)

Cllr N Asamoah (P)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr B Long (P)

Cllr D Treadwell (P)

Cllr D Coole (P)

Cllr L Gregori (P)

Cllr R Meyer (P)

Cllr J Coole (P)

Cllr R Hughes (P)

Cllr J Sangster (P)

Officers Present:

Tracy Predeth (Locum Clerk)

Members of the Public: 3

Members of the Press: 0

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.

C 286/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

C 287/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N Asamoah declared an interest, item was not specified.
Councillor D Coole declared an interest in item 3 and item 5.
Councillor J Coole declared an interest in item 3 and item 5.
Councillor C Ecclestone declared an interest, item was not specified.
Councillor R Meyer declared an interest in item 3.

C 288/19 LOCUM PROPER OFFICER

Councillor R Hughes proposed and Councillor R Rowles seconded that Mrs Tracy Predeth be appointed as Locum Proper Officer to help guide the Town Council through the grievance process and have delegated authority to engage an independent investigator as necessary.

Councillor D Coole proposed an amendment to that motion to read, "To appoint Mrs Tracy Predeth as Locum Town Clerk, Proper Officer and Responsible Finance Officer and to award back pay to the day she agreed to take on the Locum role."

The Locum Clerk reminded the Members that she had limited hours in which to assist the Town Council with and would not be able to do the roles in a full-time capacity. The Locum Clerk further reminded Members that she would be there as support and to advise, however, as the Responsible Finance Officer, she would not have access to signatories and bank accounts. Therefore, it was important that the Officers were still working.

Councillor D Coole clarified that his proposed amendment did not include the original text regarding delegated authority to engage an independent investigator as necessary, as this was within the Locum's new responsibilities in accordance with the Financial Regulations.

It was proposed by Councillor D Coole and seconded by Councillor R Meyer that Mrs Tracy Predeth be appointed as the Locum Town Clerk, Proper Officer, Responsible Finance Officer and to award back pay to the date she agreed to take on the Locum role.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors N Asamoah, D Coole, J Coole, C Ecclestone, R Meyer, J Sangster and D Treadwell.

Against: Councillor R Rowles.

Abstentions: Councillors L Banville, L Gregori, R Hughes and B Long.

For 7, Against 1, Abstentions 4

RESOLVED: That Mrs Tracy Predeth be appointed as the Locum Town Clerk, Proper Officer, Responsible Finance Officer and to award back pay to the date she agreed to take on the Locum role.

C 289/19 GRIEVANCE PANEL

Members that had declared an interest at item 2 of the agenda were asked to leave the meeting, in order that a grievance panel could be voted upon.

Councillors R Rowles, L Banville and B Long volunteered to form the grievance panel.

It was proposed by Councillor R Rowles and seconded by Councillor B Long that a grievance panel be appointed in accordance with the Town Council's grievance procedure, with delegated authority to manage the grievance/grievances. The three members of that panel will be Councillor R Rowles, Councillor B Long and Councillor L Banville.

A recorded vote was as follows:

For: Councillors L Banville, L Gregori, R Hughes, B long, R Rowles and J Sangster.

Against: Councillor D Treadwell.

For 6, Against 1.

RESOLVED: That a grievance panel be appointed in accordance with the Town Council's grievance procedure, with delegated authority to manage the grievance/grievances. The three members of that panel will be Councillor R Rowles, Councillor B Long and Councillor L Banville.

C 290/19 SURREY HILLS SOLICITORS

It was proposed by Councillor R Rowles and seconded by Councillor L Banville that Surrey Hills Solicitors be appointed to advise as necessary.

A recorded vote was as follows:

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

Against: Councillor D Treadwell.

For 6, Against 1.

RESOLVED: That Surrey Hills Solicitors be appointed to advise as necessary.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.26pm.

Town Mayor

Date