



# ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

## Council Minutes

### Time and date

5.30pm on Wednesday 8 February 2023

### Place

Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover

Cllr D Coole - Town Mayor (P)		
Cllr R Meyer - Deputy Town Mayor (A)		
Cllr N Asamoah (A)	Cllr J Coole (P)	Cllr C Ecclestone (A)
Cllr L Gregori (P)	Cllr K Hughes (A)	Cllr R Hughes (P)
Cllr N Long (P)	Cllr M Mumford (P)	Cllr E Reynolds (P)
Cllr R Rowles (P)	Cllr J Sangster (P)	Cllr D Treadwell (A)
Cllr S Waue (P)		

### Officers Present:

Gail Foster (Town Clerk)

Tor Warburton (Deputy Clerk) (Taking the Minutes)

**Members of the Public:** Unknown

**Members of the Press:** Unknown

**Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and Government legislation regarding Social Distancing, this meeting was held in the Guildhall following Coronavirus preventative measures. The Town Council made arrangements to stream the meeting virtually to allow as much public access as possible.**

<b>C131/02/23</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
	Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors C Ecclestone, K Hughes and R Meyer.
<b>C132/02/23</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS</b>

	Declarations were received by Councillor E Reynolds who is on the Allotment Committee, an allotment holder and a member of the Allotment Association.
<b>C133/02/23</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>
	<p><i>The notes below are a precis of statements/questions. They are not recorded word for word.</i></p> <p><b>Member of Public 1:</b> Why did you move the Council meetings to 5.30pm?</p> <p><b>Town Mayor's Response:</b> The Council voted some months ago to move the start time.</p> <p><b>Member of Public 1:</b> Everybody felt you were trying to avoid scrutiny from the public.</p>
<b>C134/02/23</b>	<b>MINUTES</b>
	<p>It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor M Mumford that the Minutes, of the Town Council meeting held on 23 November 2022, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p> <p>A vote was taken: FOR – 8, AGAINST – 0, ABSTENTIONS – 2</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: That the Minutes, of the Town Council meeting held on 23 November 2022, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</b></p>
<b>C135/02/23</b>	<b>EXTERNAL REPORTS</b>
	<p>County Councillor D Drew's update report for February 2023 was emailed to all Andover Town Councillors on 8 February 2023. Highlights of the report were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hampshire County Council (HCC) sets out £2.6 billion spending plans for local services amid difficult economic times in 2023/2024.</li> <li>• HCC is reminding residents about its 'Chat About Scheme', that aims to help people to connect with others to alleviate loneliness and improve wellbeing.</li> <li>• With effect from 1 February 2023, the 1921 census becomes available in all HCC libraries and the record Office in Winchester. HCC has arranged for free access for residents to delve into history.</li> <li>• HCC's leader, Councillor Rob Humby has awarded £67,800.00 in one-off grants to five organisations across Eat Hampshire, Winchester, Test Valley and Fleet. This will support local organisations to help provide life-enriching opportunities to residents, through learning, creative expression or by being physically active.</li> <li>• HCC have begun investigations into how the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group and the introduction of 20mph zones in Hampshire, can be delivered. It is hoped that proposals for a new policy can be brought to the cabinet in June/July 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>C136/02/23</b>	<b>CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER FOR HARROWAY WARD</b>
	<p>Members noted there was one nomination for a Mr Mark Farren, for Co-option as a new Member for the Harroway Ward. Mr Farren gave the following speech on his reasons for his application.</p> <p><i>The notes below are a precis of statements/questions. They are not recorded word for word.</i></p>

"I wish to be co-opted to this Parish Council. To be on a Parish Council is not to be a politician, nor is it to pursue personal goals. It is simply to represent people of our wards and to speak out for the people who have no voice in this arena. It goes without saying that Councillors need to collaborate, communicate and be inclusive with each other and equally importantly, with the hard-working staff. If I'm scrutinising the Borough, each other and ourselves, it's to identify equality and work towards addressing this where we can and pushing it higher when we cannot. Essentially though, it is to listen. Nobody can doubt that I've got scrutiny locked down. I also regularly voice the thoughts of the people who I listen to and there are many of them. I'm not an expert. I have opinions and would always refer to a specialist. My way is not the way. Just simply an option. Grants policy, allotments, public engagements with meetings, recording the events put on by the BID. These are all things this Council should be doing much better at. Doing so without much needed credibility. Although time is short, these are areas where I could add value. When debating Co-option last November, it was said that this could provide an opportunity for somebody new, who might be considering standing in May. To gain an insight and experience in what being a Councillor involves. I meet the requirements mentioned during the proposal. I am most certainly new and have never been a Councillor before. I am indeed considering standing in May and would of course benefit from the experience of being on the inside, rather than simply standing outside and looking through the window. My attendance record isn't bad either. Despite this being my pitch, this isn't about me. It is more about the people of the Harroway Ward. A ward where I have many friends, family members and of course, critics. It is about what is best for them. Residents I have spoken to on the Harroway Ward, speak of a lack of community centres, the low quality of the roads, the not feeling safe on the streets and sadly all too often that the various Councils are doing nothing to address these issues. I see poor cooperation between Town and Borough Councillors, indeed the many Borough Councillors I have spoken with, make the same observation. Many see me as somebody they can achieve things with, which in turn make lives of residents better and raise the profile of this body. I could well be the only candidate who meets the mentioned requirements, given my objective is to work on behalf of the residents and to represent them. I would respectfully request that you put party politics and personal agenda aside and vote for me to join the Andover Town Council. Thank you."

The Town Mayor thanked Mr Farren and welcomed any questions from Members of the Council.

**Councillor R Hughes:**

I noticed on your webpage; your email address is Councillor Mark Farren. You are not a Councillor, why do you use it?

**Mr Farren's response:**

Personal choice.

It was proposed by Councillor S Waue and seconded by Councillor R Rowles that Mr Mark Farren be co-opted in as a Member of the Andover Town Council, for the Harroway Ward.

Members went to a debate.

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor L Gregori.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
D Coole			X
J Coole		X	
L Gregori		X	
R Hughes		X	
N Long		X	
M Mumford	X		
E Reynolds			X
R Rowles	X		
J Sangster			X
S Waue	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

Mr Farren was not co-opted in.

The Town Mayor thanked Mr Farren for attending and hoped he would apply again in the May elections.

<b>C137/02/23</b>	<b>TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>
	<p>The Town Mayor formally welcomed the new Town Clerk, Gail Foster. The Town Mayor also thanked all the Committees for their contributions toward the Budget. He also thanked Councillor R Hughes as the Chairman of Policy and Resources, for his hard work on the Budget and the audit comments on the Internal Auditors report.</p>
<b>C138/02/23</b>	<b>ANDOVER TOWN COUNCILLORS REPORTS</b>
	<p><i>The notes below are a precis of statements/questions. They are not recorded word for word.</i></p> <p><b>Councillor N Long:</b> On Monday I was invited to go to Harmony Woods by Andover Trees United. They were given a tree by a local landscaper, Kieron Beattie. This tree had been used previously at the Chelsea Flower Show and they decided to plant this large popular at the entrance to Harmony Wood, in memory of Barbara.</p> <p><b>Councillor J Sangster:</b> I have been in contact with representatives of Taylor Wimpey to first tackle an issue of a broken fence on the Augusta Park development and that we have further meetings to go over further issues raised by the residents, that we as a group, were going to investigate further and hopefully resolve some of these ongoing problems.</p> <p><b>Councillor S Waue:</b> Since Christmas, I have been liaising with Hampshire Police and Councillor I Anderson over the feasibility of installing a knife amnesty bin. Somewhere in or near the town centre. Whilst the cost of the bin itself is minimal, it would necessitate the allocation of police resources to ensure it was emptied regularly. It was decided that this would not be a worthwhile venture, as the number of knives received from Test Valley as a Borough operation sector last year, was just thirty. There is currently an issue with delivery drivers parking in the disabled spaces outside New Street McDonalds and blocking the zebra crossing and exit road from the petrol station, causing safety issues in the area. Myself, Councillor Anderson and Test Valley</p>

Borough Council (TVBC) Planning Officers are engaging with the landowner to try and find a solution before an accident happens. Especially with the increased traffic that the new Costa will bring when it opens.

I have also submitted a revised layout for Enham Arch roundabout to Councillor Kirsty North, in an effort to improve traffic flow and reduce the number of near misses that are a near daily occurrence. She has passed this onto the Highways team and will provide feedback.

I have also been in contact with Councillor Nick Adams King regarding grit reserves, which are plentiful for Hampshire, thanks to them tripling their capacity in the past ten years. Also the resurfacing of footpaths in Shepherds Spring Lane and along the back of Wicks and onto Anton Lakes. Its in dire need with tree roots causing issues for wheelchairs and mobility users. I've also asked if it could be widened in places to better accommodate cyclists and pedestrians. I'm awaiting confirmation of the date for the resurfacing work but the widening work is not currently budgeted for. This could perhaps be debated later to use our rather substantial CIL monies for.

**C139/02/23 QUESTIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

**Councillor E Reynolds:**  
 What do we do with the data collected from the Speed Indicator Signs?

**Town Clerk's Response:**  
 The data will be going out to social media platforms and the Andover Advertiser, in order to publicise the information every three weeks, when the data is taken from the SIDs.

**C140/02/23 BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

Members received reports and voted on considerations for inclusion in the Budget 2023/2024 for items which included:  
 Payroll Budget, Allotment Toilets and Election Costs.

**Payroll Budget:**  
 It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor L Gregori that the payroll budget at £215,000.00 for the 2023/2024 budget, be approved.  
 Members debated the recommendations.  
 A vote was taken:  
 FOR – 9, AGAINST – 1, ABSTENTIONS – 0

**RESOLVED: That the payroll budget at £215,000.00 for the 2023/2024 budget, be approved.**

**Allotment Toilets:**  
 It was proposed by Councillor N Long and seconded by Councillor R Hughes that the provision of toilets on all Allotment sites, be removed.  
 Councillor R Rowles requested a recorded vote.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
D Coole	X		
J Coole	X		
L Gregori	X		
R Hughes	X		
N Long	X		

M Mumford			X
E Reynolds	X		
R Rowles		X	
J Sangster	X		
D Treadwell			
S Waue	X		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**RESOLVED: That the provision of toilets on all Allotment sites, be removed.**

**Election Costs:**

It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor M Mumford that £20,000.00 is allocated in Earmarked Reserves for 2023/2024 towards the next election costs in 2027.

A vote was taken:

FOR – 9, AGAINST – 0, ABSTENTIONS – 1

**RESOLVED: That £20,000.00 is allocated in Earmarked Reserves for 2023/2024 towards the next election costs in 2027.**

**C141/02/23 BUDGET 2023/2024**

Members considered the Budget for 2023/2024.  
 Councillor R Hughes gave his thanks to the new Town Clerk for her extraordinary effort with the Budget.  
 Members went into debate.  
 It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor S Waue that the Budget for 2023/2024 of £406,989.15 (Four hundred and six thousand, nine hundred and eighty nine pounds and fifteen pence) be approved.  
 A vote was taken:  
 FOR – 9, AGAINST – 1, ABSTENTIONS – 0  
**RESOLVED: That the Budget 2023/2024 of £406,989.15 (Four hundred and six thousand, nine hundred and eighty nine pounds and fifteen pence) be approved.**

**C142/02/23 PRECEPT 2023/2024**

Members considered the Precept level for 2023/2024 and noted the Policy and Resources Committee’s recommendation of no increase to the precept and that it remained at £361,801.70 for 2023/2024.  
 Members went into debate.  
 It was proposed by Councillor R Rowles and seconded by Councillor L Gregori that the Policy and Resources recommendation of no increase to the precept be accepted. That the Precept level for 2023/2024 at £361,801.70 (three hundred and sixty one thousand, eight hundred and one pounds and seventy pence) be accepted and approved.  
 A vote was taken which was unanimous.  
**RESOLVED: That the Policy and Resources recommendation of no increase to the precept be accepted. That the Precept level for 2023/2024 at £361,801.70 (three hundred and sixty one thousand, eight hundred and one pounds and seventy pence) be accepted and approved.**

**C143/02/23 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT AND RESPONSE**

	Members received the Internal Auditors report and noted the Town Clerk's response.
<b>C144/02/23</b>	<b>OPERATIONAL RESERVES</b>
	<p>Members discussed the lowering of the Operational Reserves/General Fund to three months expenditure in line with JPAG guidelines and auditor's recommendation. It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor N Long that the Operational Reserves/General Funds be reduced to three months.</p> <p>A vote was taken: FOR – 9, AGAINST – 0, ABSTENTIONS – 1</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: That the Operational Reserves/General Funds be reduced to three months.</b></p>
<b>C145/02/23</b>	<b>FINANCE</b>
	<p>Members considered appointing a Councillor to review, approve and sign the bank statements, in line with Financial Regulations and JPAG guidelines. It was proposed by Councillor D Coole and seconded by Councillor R Hughes that the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, be the appointed Councillor to review, approve and sign the bank statements, in line with Financial Regulations and JPAG guidelines.</p> <p>A vote was taken which was unanimous.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: That the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, be the appointed Councillor to review, approve and sign the bank statements, in line with Financial Regulations and JPAG guidelines.</b></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor R Rowles and seconded by Councillor M Mumford that the List of Payments up to 19 January 2023 be approved and that the Financial Reports be noted.</p> <p>A vote was taken: FOR – 9, AGAINST – 0, ABSTENTIONS – 1</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: That the List of Payments up to 19 January 2023 be approved and that the Financial Reports be noted.</b></p>
<b>C146/02/23</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2023 - 2027</b>
	<p>Members noted the report and considered a recommendation from the Christmas Lights Working Group for the extension of the Christmas Lights provision 2023–2027. Councillor R Rowles gave his thanks to the Officers and Working Group for their hard work with the Christmas Lights.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor D Coole and seconded by Councillor R Rowles that all the recommendations as stated in the agenda, be accepted.</p> <p>A vote was taken which was unanimous.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: That:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The proposed extension be approved.</b></li> <li>• <b>The cost of the installation of the commando sockets to be taken from the CiL funds be approved.</b></li> <li>• <b>That the proposed timeline was the best case scenario and left no time allowance for overrun or problems that may occur, be noted.</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Officers' recommendation that the 1 year extension is accepted, to ensure that Andover Town Council are able to provide Christmas Lights provision for 2023.</b></li> <li>• <b>Officers be delegated to explore the possibility of additional lights with current provider, IF commando sockets and structural survey is completed, in time to apply for licenses.</b></li> <li>• <b>It be noted that the delivery of any extension to the scheme is subject to the vagaries of external suppliers for example, SSE. Therefore, it is recommended that ATC accept the extension to allow for delivery of the same or better Christmas Light provision in 2023.</b></li> <li>• <b>The increase cost when proposing the Budget 2023/2024 to Full Council, be accommodated.</b></li> </ul>
<b>C147/02/23</b>	<b>SIDS</b>
	<p>Members received and noted a report which contained data extracted from the Speed Indicator Signs (SIDs).</p> <p>It was strongly felt that more SIDs were required and the involvement of the Police needs to happen. The Town Clerk gave the Members the following update:          "We are already working with HCC to approve more sites for SIDs. We have their support in looking at AutoSpeed Watch, which is a device that takes photographs, logs the car, colour and number plate. It provides data to a hub, which could be managed by the staff. A trial is already going on Eversleigh in Hampshire, with police support and HCC support. I'm trying to pull Andover into that trial. I'm going to be talking to their Councillors tomorrow."</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that Members must give the Officers time to bring a proposal to a Council meeting as soon as possible.</p>
<b>C149/02/23</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>
	<p>Members noted the date of the next meeting: <b>Wednesday 22 March 2023</b>, at the <b>Upper Guildhall, Andover</b>, starting at <b>5.30pm</b>.</p>
<p>The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 6.45pm.</p>	
<p>Town Mayor</p>	<p>Date</p>