



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes Council

Time and date

7.06pm on Friday 11 October 2019

Place

The Upper Guildhall, Andover, Hampshire

Cllr R Rowles - Town Mayor (P)

Cllr L Banville - Deputy Town Mayor (P)

Cllr S Blackmore (A)

Cllr G Davis (P)

Cllr K Farrer (P)

Cllr R Meyer (P)

Cllr A Watts (P)

Cllr D Coole (P)

Cllr D Day (A)

Cllr V Harber (P)

Cllr P Scott (A)

Cllr J Coole (P)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr M James (P)

Cllr D Treadwell (P)

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk)

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

Borough/County Councillors Present:

Cllr I Anderson

Cllr Z Brooks

Cllr D Drew

Cllr C Donnolly

Cllr K Hamilton

Cllr N Matthews

Members of the Public: 8

Members of the Press: 1

C 117/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Blackmore, Cllr D Day and Cllr P Scott.

C 118/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C 119/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of Public 1:

Cllr K Hamilton was making a statement with regard to the setting up of a Lottery as a Member of the Unity Board.

She asked why the Town Council was considering setting up a Lottery when Unity was a Test wide organisation and had looking into setting up a lottery 3-4 years ago.

It was stated that Unity was involved with the Town Council Lottery proposals. She stated that it had not been agreed. When would the Town Council consult with Unity.

She pointed out that there was an investment requirement and queried whether it was best value for the Andover Tax Payers.

Cllr Rowles as the Chairman of the meeting responded by explain that the provider was the only one that provided the service all online with minimal administration needs.

He confirmed that there was no reference to Unity being involved, there was no exclusion but there was scope for them to be involved if they wished to. There had been a meeting with Unity and had not gone out of the way to preclude them.

He explained the workings of the monetary return, working with medium sized charities and that remaining monies would go to good causes.

Cllr K Hamilton responded.

She understood that the Lottery would benefit the community but that Unity, being a bigger concern would be able to get a better return.

Taking the money out of the Town Council now when the Town Council when publicly there was not a lot of support for the Town Council was a bad idea.

Cllr Rowles responded by saying that, yes he had heard that before but there were issues with Unity as well. When he first became a Councillor he had a meeting with Unity 3 years ago and suggested that Unity and Andover Radio set up a lottery but nothing happened. He thought it was a fair comment.

Cllr Hamilton disagreed and stated that it was out on Social Media regarding the reputation of the Town Council.

Cllr Rowles responded by saying it wasn't a question.

Cllr Hamilton asked what the problem was with Unity.

Cllr Rowels responded that he had already provided feedback.

Member of Public 2:

"Regarding the Lottery, I have spoken to approximately 35 people on Picket Twenty. They feel it will encourage gambling and that it is not a good idea. How do you know you will make

enough sales to cover the costs? Who is going to sell the tickets? Who is going to choose which Charities that will benefit?

Your full Council meetings. Why don't you rotate them between each ward to allow more members of the public to feed back their concerns?"

Town Mayor's Response:

Under the scheme we are running, you are restricted to buying a limit of 10 tickets at any 1 time. In terms of the prizes, they are covered by insurance. The ticket sales will be promoted by the charities and the different causes that will benefit the town and parish community. With regards to rotating the meetings between wards, we did try this previously, however, it wasn't successful.

Member of Public 3:

"Despite repeated requests for publication of who has attended relevant training & reassurances from the Town Clerk and the Mayor that this will happen. It still has not been published.

Why is this, when can I expect to see this information? I would like you to treat this as a freedom of information request for this information please.

Why are the figures of attendance of all other committee meetings & working groups not included in Appendix D as you have included them in all previous years?

With the constant swopping & musical chairs by Councillors of late will be difficult but important it is included. I would suggest that the Town Clerk is massaging the figures to look better than they are.

This Council was recommended by the external auditor to move monies into different accounts.

Yet on agenda page 41 your Unity Trust Bank account shows a balance of £371,030.48p. (30 Aug).

Despite only deposits up to £85,000 are eligible for protection under the financial service compensation scheme.

This shows that this Council is negligent in responding to advice & local safeguarding of public money. When will this situation change?

- I would like to voice my concerns over the lottery proposal,
- There has been NO PUBLIC CONSULTATION has been undertaken if actually want it.
- Extra staff time to administer & market/promote the lottery, with no money allocated in your budget for this. Robbing the reserves yet again mr Rowles to pay for it> If not, where is the money coming from?
- Wrong that the Council is encouraging gambling & profit from it. (10% to Council)

Direct debit payment will encourage people to get further into debt, also online will exclude certain people from playing it if they wished.

Risks of not performing as well as expected & not producing the anticipated levels of income. If the Council plan to spend over a certain limit you need 2 other bidders to compare, where are these people to look at/compare?

Harrogate Borough Council charged £3000 to set up in July 2018, so why so much more for Andover Town Council?

Tunbridge Wells Council, state that is "excessive & prohibitive cost of officer time". I would urge you to all vote against this proposal this evening."

Town Mayor's Response:

Training figures – These will be published and put on the website.

Massaging figures – I will support the Town Clerk as we have had 9 years of clear audits.

Bank accounts – This is being looked into.

Consultation – Our entire budget is minuscule against the Borough.

Staff time – We chose Gatherwell as it's the only company that operates entirely online.

Therefore, there will not be any staff costs involved.

Suppliers – Yes there are other external operating systems, however, they require a lot of staff time.

We will look into the costings involved compare to other organisations.

Member of Public 4:

Developments with the Andover Levy – is there anything more you can tell us about any further progress?

Town Mayor's Response:

No, to my knowledge there have not been any further discussions in process.

Member of Public 5:

Budgets and Staffing – I note that the Minutes of 26 September 2019 are on the agenda. Where are the Minutes of the Council meeting on 26 September 2019?

Tree Plaques - Officers were previously delegated in May 2019 to arrange for these to be put on. When can we expect to see them?

Town Mayor's Response:

The minutes will be added onto the next Council agenda as well as the Tree Plaques.

Member of Public 6:

Amendment of the Town Council website – would it be possible to include Burghclere Down details?

Parking Permits – What cost will this be to the taxpayer? Its unclear which mixture of staff this applies to. Was a report done as it seems rather vague.

Cllr D Drew's statement:

The Wheelerbrator incinerator – This is going to public consultation week commencing 11 November 2019. Andover residents will be able to have their say. Proposal for submission will be early next year. I am not content with the location of the incinerator as its too big. Planning decision is to be made by Secretary of State in due course.

Andover Lottery - I've heard the concerns regarding encouragement of gambling. In my experience with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance Lottery, most people play in order to help the charity and the winnings are often donated back to the charity.

The participants need to be clear as to who the monies will go to in order to encourage them to play.

C 120/19 REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS FROM THE ANDOVER WARDS:

Cllr Z Brooks:

Sad to hear about Vigo School parking problems. Sarah Lees at Hampshire County Council will work with the school to find a solution, hopefully by involving residents and members of the public together to help provide quick parent parking.

Grit bin time – check the salt inside and any problems will need to be reported online to Hampshire County Council.

Cllr C Donnolly:

Update on the several travellers in Andover – Work has been started in Augusta Park and next will be Picket Twenty. Persimmons have put a wooden fence in.

Flooding issues at Picket Twenty – I have a meeting with Hampshire County Council next week. I will provide an update next time.

Cllr K Hamilton:

Harroway – Bound all the way along the greenspace. Its important to safeguard the greenspace from travellers. Positive response overall.

Cllr I Anderson:

Vigo Road – there has been a lot of consultation with Test Valley Borough Council.

Hampshire County Council consultation was done in 2016. Nothing has happened since. A layby and a crossing have been promised. They are working with the Norman Gate School Headmistress and Vigo Road School Headmistress.

Colenzo Drive park – The removal of the roof on the slide seems to have work in preventing teenagers from sitting there and the police are patrolling the area.

Sheep Fair have had bad electrical problems in the area. These have now been sorted.

Bus stop flags in Highlands Road – Hampshire County Council have removed some of them.

The Broken bench up at Winton will be replaced – Apologies from the last Council meeting as this should have said Bell Road and not Winton.

I would like to see the lottery work for Andover. I would like Unity to be involved. I just wish we could all work together.

C 121/19 QUESTIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS TO BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

There were no questions asked by the Town Councillors to the Borough and County Councillors.

C 122/19 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

I've had a local company come forward to sponsor the Christmas Lights.

On Tuesday at 2.00pm, an officer from the Planning Department at Test Valley Borough Council will be coming to the Andover Town Council offices to talk about options regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Development Plan.

We have had a request from Cllr Davis to write a letter of support in favour of the Winterbourne's Project.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

C 123/19 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The following Committee Minutes were received and noted:

19 July 2019 – Budgets and Staffing

9 September 2019 – Planning Committee

C 124/19 MOTIONS FROM THE COUNCILLORS

Retention of Meeting's Recordings

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr D Coole and seconded by Cllr D Treadwell:

That the recordings of Full Council and Committee meetings be securely retained in accordance with GDPR, for a period of one year, so that they may be referred to during this period as required or requested by Officers and Members.

A vote was taken 5 for, 6 against, 1 abstention.

The Motion was not carried.

Budgets and Staffing Committee Membership

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr D Coole and seconded by Cllr R Meyer:

That Cllrs R Meyer and D Treadwell be added to the Budgets and Staffing Committee.

Cllr R Meyer requested that the vote be recorded in the Minutes:

A vote was taken, 6 for (Cllrs D Coole, D Treadwell, C Ecclestone, J Coole, R Meyer and G Davis), 3 against (Cllrs M James, A Watts and R Rowles), 2 abstentions (Cllrs K Farrer and V Harber)

The Motion was carried.

Amendment to Standing Order 19

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr D Coole and seconded by Cllr R Meyer:

That Standing Order 19 be amended to include Working Groups and that the amendment presented be approved.

(Cllr V Harber left the meeting at 8.18pm)

Cllr R Meyer requested that the vote be recorded in the Minutes:

A vote was taken, 6 for (Cllrs L Banville, D Coole, J Coole, G Davis, C Ecclestone and R Meyer), 3 against (Cllrs R Rowles, M James and A Watts), 1 abstention (Cllr D Treadwell)

The Motion was carried.

(Cllr V Harber returned to the meeting at 8.25pm)

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr C Ecclestone and seconded by Cllr D Coole:

- 1. That the NDP Steering Group be re-formed and that the presented Terms of Reference be approved (attached to Record Minutes)***
- 2. That the following Council Members/Members of the Public form the NDP Steering Group: Cllr D Coole, Cllr G Davis, Cllr C Ecclestone, Cllr L Banville, Cllr A Watts.***

It was proposed by Cllr K Farrer and seconded by Cllr R Rowles that this item be referred to the Planning Committee.

A vote was taken, 11 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That this item be referred to the Planning Committee.

Events Committee

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr D Coole and seconded by Cllr C Ecclestone:

- 1. That the Events Committee be formed and that the Terms of Reference be approved.**
- 2. That the following Members/Members of the Public form the Events Committee in the first instance: Cllr L Banville, Cllr D Coole, Cllr J Coole, Cllr C Ecclestone, Cllr R Meyer.**

Cllr R Meyer requested that the vote be recorded in the Minutes:

A vote was taken, 10 for (Cllrs D Coole, D Treadwell, C Ecclestone, J Coole, R Meyer, G Davis, V Harber, A Watts, L Banville and R Rowles), 0 against, 2 Abstentions (Cllrs M James and K Farrer)

The Motion was carried.

Grants Panel

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr D Coole and seconded by Cllr C Ecclestone:

That the Grants Panel membership be amended to include all Councillors, that voting on Grant applications circulated by the Proper Officer, be carried out electronically and that the Grants Policy be amended accordingly.

It was proposed by Cllr K Farrer and seconded by Cllr A Watts that the full Council move straight to a vote.

A vote was taken, 6 for, 1 against, 5 abstentions.

The Chairman instructed Members of the full Council to move straight to a vote.

A vote was taken, 6 for, 6 against, 0 abstentions.

The Chairman Cllr R Rowles gave his deciding vote of against.

The Motion was not carried.

Market Management Working Group

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr C Ecclestone and seconded by Cllr D Coole:

- 1. That the Market Management Working Group be formed and that the Terms of Reference be approved.**
- 2. That the following Council Members/Members of the Public form the Market Management Working Group: Cllr L Banville, Cllr D Coole, Cllr C Ecclestone, Cllr R Meyer.**

A vote was taken, 10 for, 1 against, 1 abstention.

The Motion was carried.

Tourist Information Working Group

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr C Ecclestone and seconded by Cllr D Coole:

- 1. That the Tourist Information Working Group be formed and that the Terms of Reference be approved.**
- 2. That the following Council Members/Members of the Public form the Tourist Information Working Group: Cllr D Coole, Cllr J Coole, Cllr C Ecclestone, Cllr R Meyer.**

A vote was taken, 11 for, 1 against.

The Motion was carried.

Creation of Committees and Working Groups

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr L Banville and seconded by Cllr R Rowles:

The motion is that a Policy be adopted by the Town Council that proposed Committee and Working Group Membership must have received the individual's permission prior to being included on said Committee or Working Group.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

The Motion was carried.

Planning Committee

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr M James and seconded by Cllr R Rowles:

That Cllr M James join the Planning Committee.

Cllr R Rowles proposed an amendment to the Planning Committee membership to remove Cllr V Harber and add Cllr M James and to change the maximum membership number to 10.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

The Motion was carried.

Policy on Party Political Affiliation

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr K Farrer and seconded by Cllr R Rowles:

The motion is to instruct the Proper Officer of the Town Council to remove or change the party affiliation of any member of the Council only upon receipt of a signed letter from either:

- a. The leader and the treasurer of the party in question.***
- b. The Chair and the treasurer of the accounting unit(s) that cover the area of the Parish of Andover.***

In all cases the Proper Officer will verify the positions stated above with the electoral commission and the party name. Only if the names of individuals and party match will the change be made.

Further, any groups established within the town Councils membership may not appear as any name registered with the electoral commission. The only other label acceptable is "blank" or "Independent".

Members debated this motion.

The question was asked "On what authority does the Town Clerk have to decide party political membership for the Councillors?"

The Town Clerk confirmed that Town and Parish Councils do not recognise political parties. Councillors political affiliations are noted. Town Clerks' do not have any authority to decide Councillors' party political affiliations and must remain impartial.

Cllr C Ecclestone proposed an amendment to the motion by striking out the second part to remove the burden on the Town Clerk to conduct searches on party affiliations, this was seconded by Cllr D Coole.

It was proposed by Cllr C Ecclestone and seconded by Cllr L Banville that as the meeting had reached the two-hour mark, the full Council meeting to be extended.

A vote was taken, 7 for, 4 against, 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That as the full Council meeting had reached the two-hour mark, the full Council meeting be extended.

It was proposed by Cllr K Farrer and seconded by Cllr R Rowles that the full Council move to a vote on the amendment.

Cllr R Rowles and Cllr R Meyer requested that the vote be recorded in the Minutes:

A vote was taken, 4 for (Cllrs D Coole, C Ecclestone, J Coole and R Meyer, 7 against (Cllrs R Rowles, L Banville, M James, A Watts, K Farrer, V Harber and G Davis), 1 abstention (Cllr D Treadwell).

The amendment was not carried.

It was proposed by Cllr R Rowles and seconded by Cllr M James that the full Council vote upon the original motion.

Cllr R Rowles and Cllr R Meyer requested that the vote be recorded in the Minutes:

A vote was taken, 8 for (Cllrs R Rowles, L Banville, M James, A Watts, K Farrer, V Harber, G Davis and D Treadwell), 2 against (Cllrs R Meyer and C Ecclestone), 2 abstentions (Cllrs J Coole and D Coole).

RESOLVED: That the full Council vote upon the original motion.

It was proposed by Cllr K Farrer and seconded by Cllr R Rowles:

The motion is to instruct the Proper Officer of the Town Council to remove or change the party affiliation of any member of the Council only upon receipt of a signed letter from either:

- a. The leader and the treasurer of the party in question.***
- b. The Chair and the treasurer of the accounting unit(s) that cover the area of the Parish of Andover.***

In all cases the Proper Officer will verify the positions stated above with the electoral commission and the party name. Only if the names of individuals and party match will the change be made.

Further, any groups established within the town Councils membership may not appear as any name registered with the electoral commission. The only other label acceptable is "blank" or "Independent".

Cllr R Rowles and Cllr R Meyer requested that the vote be recorded in the Minutes:

A vote was taken, 7 for (Cllrs R Rowles, M James, A Watts, K Farrer, V Harber, G Davis and L Banville), 5 against (Cllrs D Coole, D Treadwell, J Coole, C Ecclestone and R Meyer), 0 against.

The Motion was carried.

It was proposed by Cllr R Rowles and seconded by Cllr M James that the full Council meeting be stopped at 9.18pm for a break for five minutes.

A vote was taken, 9 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the full Council meeting be stopped at 9.18pm for a break for five minutes.

The full Council meeting resumed at 9.32pm.

It was proposed by Cllr R Meyer and seconded by Cllr C Ecclestone that the full Council meeting be called to an end.

A vote was taken, 8 for (Cllrs L Banville, D Coole, D Treadwell, C Ecclestone, J Coole, R Meyer, V Harber and G Davis), 4 against (Cllrs M James, A watts, K Farrer and R Rowles), 0 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the full Council meeting be called to an end.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9.34pm.

Town Mayor

Date