



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

A

Minutes Council

Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 14 June 2019

Place

The Upper Guildhall, Andover, Hampshire

Cllr R Rowles - Town Mayor (P)

Cllr L Banville - Deputy Town Mayor (P)

Cllr S Blackmore (P)

Cllr G Davis (A)

Cllr K Farrer (P)

Cllr R Meyer (P)

Cllr D Treadwell (P)

Cllr D Coole (P)

Cllr D Day (A)

Cllr Revd. A Fitchet (P)

Cllr P Scott (A)

Cllr A Watts (P)

Cllr J Coole (A)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr M James (P)

Cllr V Thorp (P)

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk)

Michelle Young (Committee Officer) (Training) (Taking the minutes)

Borough Councillors Present:

Cllr I Anderson

Cllr K Hamilton

Apologies from Hampshire Police.

Members of the Public: 8

Members of the Press: 1

C 023/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs G Davis, D Day, J Coole and P Scott.

C 024/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C 025/19 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr M James and seconded by Cllr S Blackmore that the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16 May 2019 be signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.
A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16 May 2019 be signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

It was noted by Town Council that Declarations of Acceptance of Office had been received and witnessed by the Responsible Officer of the Town Council for Cllr D Day and Cllr D Treadwell.

C 026/19

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of Public 1:

Andover Advertiser – It's a pity dirty washing is being aired in public. Why do 2 Councillors want to destroy this unity?

Member of Public 2:

"Page no.49 of your agenda shows the Council paid £3376.80 p in business rates for 66c High Street (your empty office building), which means that your paying business rates plus rent until 31st March 2020 on this! So over 2 years of monies paid for an empty building that no one is using. I do not think that this is public money being spent very well.

I am asking this as a freedom of information request, in writing, that I want to know the total amount of money in business rates and rent until the contract for the empty building has expired.

(Please don't try to say that this is a confidential item, as you have published how much you currently pay in your agenda on the new offices).

Can you explain why the Council only receives £5.21 interest yet have over £321,000 stashed away in various accounts?

Surely the Council could/should achieve a better return than this on money from the people of Andover?

Over £3500 spent so far, for "advice" from counsel. Ref Andover Levy.

How much more are you prepared to spend on this item? Do you see it ever being resolved, so that Andover is on an equal footing with Romsey? The Levy is an unfair tax on the people of our town.

Statement

The proposed motion of no confidence in the chairmanship of the Mayor on the planning committee, plus Cllrs resigning from committees before they have even met for the first time, 2 others forming their own group, just six weeks after the elections, planning committee was a farce. This just seems to show that the alliance is falling apart and no evidence that they will be able to deliver their manifesto. Andover deserves better than this fiasco."

Member of Public 3:

Levy Motion – Prior to Election, did the Council get a response from Test Valley Borough Council?

Page 29 of the agenda, appendix D shows a deficit for the Shilling Fair but grant monies were awarded but are not showing for Shilling Fair.

Town Mayor's Responses:

Member of Public 1:

I am unable to answer the question as I was not the one who contacted the press.

Member of public 2:

I do not have the figures in front of me but I will point out this is a new administration and we hope to change things going forward.

Interest on the bank account – we will be looking into this.

Levy fees - No more money is being spent on the Levy. The resolution will depend on whether we decide to vote to create a working group to discuss items on the Levy and charges that may be applied. Planning Committee – we have a number of new Councillors attending training sessions held at Andover Town Council offices, run by Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) and at Eastleigh. Training is an ongoing process.

The Planning Committee Meetings will run more efficiently in the future.

Member of Public 3:

Yes, we did receive a response from Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), however, it was not conclusive. The budget and income for the Shilling Fair will be split down this year, to be more representative.

Member of Public 4 made the following comment:

If you cooperate with TVBC, you will achieve more. There seems to be a lot of antagonism with relations between Borough Councillors and Town Councillors.

The Town Mayor's response:

There is a more productive relationship with dual hatted Members. Individual Councillors are entitled to their own opinions. Decisions are made as a Committee.

C 027/19 REPORT FROM HAMPSHIRE POLICE

There were no representatives from the Hampshire Police present at the full Council Meeting.

C 028/19 REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS FROM THE ANDOVER WARDS

Borough Cllr I Anderson:

On 7th May 2019, Councillors met at TVBC. There is a possibility that some TVBC Councillors do not know the Andover Town Council Councillors. In order that working relationships can form, can we arrange a meeting so they can all meet?

Work will commence in 4 weeks' time on the plastic railings in front of the tree on the High Street.

The tents in the church yard have all gone now.

The graffiti on Riverway, all authorities had worked together to remove it.

The recent President Trump visit resulted in lots of stickers everywhere. These have all been removed.

The previously reported rat issue at the rear of Savers has now been resolved.

Borough Cllr K Hamilton:

The house on Harrow Way, Charlton Road, has now been sold.

C 029/19 QUESTIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS TO BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

There were no questions from Town Councillors to Borough and County Councillors.

C 030/19 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since the previous Council meeting on May 16th, the Town Mayor had attended the following:

The 10th Anniversary of TARCA

LinkedIn local event at the Andover Foodbank. The Town Mayor was shown around the facility, met with other small businesses in Andover and on behalf of LinkedIn, presented a cheque to the Andover Foodbank.

C 031/19 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The following Committee Minutes were received & noted:

29 April 2019, Planning Committee

C 032/19 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

"Motion on The Levy"

The Town Mayor as proposer of the Motion asked the seconder Cllr Revd A Fitchet if he would speak first on the Motion.

Cllr Revd. A Fitchet read out the motion.

Actions from Cllrs and Office Team

- *ATC Cllrs are asked to join a Levy working group and elect a Chair and Vice Chair.*
- *The levy working group will inevitably need to consume the Clerks time by asking questions. The levy group or Chair will make prearranged meetings with the clerk to achieve this, and make every effort to make efficient use of the working hours of the office team.”*

Members debated the motion on the Levy and the following points were made:

- The Town Council has a unique channel of access with the number of Borough Councillors on the Town Council, dual hatted Members.
- The Motion is a sensible option which allows the Town Council to have discussions with the Test Valley Borough Council.
- Discussions are moving forward with TVBC.
- Andover Town Council will work with TVBC.

The Town Mayor concluded that the debate had ended and called for a vote which was 9 For, 0 Against, 3 Abstentions.

The Motion was carried.

RESOLVED: That the following actions from Cllrs and Officers be taken:

- **Andover Town Councillors to join a Levy working group and elect a Chair and Vice Chair.**
- **The levy working group will inevitably need to consume the Clerks time by asking questions. The levy group or Chair will make prearranged meetings with the clerk to achieve this, and make every effort to make efficient use of the working hours of the office team.”**

C 033/19 USE OF OLD OFFICE – 66C HIGH STREET

It was proposed by Cllr S Blackmore and seconded by Cllr D Coole that a Working Group be formed to consider alternative uses of the Office Building at 66c High Street.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That a Working Group be formed to consider alternative uses of the Office Building at 66c High Street.

The following members indicated their interest in being on the Use of Old Office Working group: Cllrs M James, R Rowles, D Treadwell and A Watts.

RESOLVED: That the Use of Old Office Working Group would include the following members: Cllrs M James, R Rowles, D Treadwell, A Watts and D Coole.

C 034/19 WORKING GROUPS

It was suggested that the Grants Working Group, which was formed at the previous Council meeting be instructed to review the current Grant System.

RESOLVED: That the Grants Working Group, which was formed at the previous Council meeting be instructed to review the current Grant System.

It was proposed by Cllr M James and seconded by V Thorp that Cllrs L Banville, R Rowles, and V Thorp be members of the Working Group.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs L Banville, R Rowles, and V Thorp be members of the Working Group.

It was suggested that the Policies Working Group, which was formed at the previous Council meeting be instructed to create a Media Policy for approval and adoption by full Council.

RESOLVED: That the Policies Working Group, which was formed at the previous Council meeting be instructed to create a Media Policy for approval and adoption by full Council.

It was proposed by Cllr M James and seconded by V Thorp that Cllrs L Banville, M James, R Rowles, V Thorp and A Watts be members of the Policies Working Group.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs L Banville, M James, R Rowles, V Thorp and A Watts be members of the Policies Working Group.

C 035/19 MOVEMENT OF EARMARKED RESERVES

Members considered the movement of Earmarked Reserves from the Mayors Regalia fund to the Grants Project fund, as contingency in case requests were received while the Grants System was reviewed.

It was proposed by Cllr C Ecclestone and seconded by Cllr L Banville that the sum of £3000 be moved from the Mayors Regalia Earmarked Reserves to the Grants Project Earmarked Reserves.

A vote was taken, 10 for, 0 against, 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £3000 be moved from the Mayors Regalia Earmarked Reserves to the Grants Project Earmarked Reserves.

C 036/19 ACCOUNTS YEAR END 31 MARCH 2019

Members noted the End of Year Accounts ending 31 March 2019 report.

It was proposed by Cllr C Ecclestone and seconded by Cllr Revd A Fitchet that the Accounts for year ending 31 March 2019, be approved.

A Vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Accounts for year ending 31 March 2019, be approved.

C 037/19 INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

Members noted the Internal Auditors Report for year ended 31 March 2019.

Cllr Revd A Fitchet commented that the amount of "No Action Required" on the Internal Auditors report spoke loudly of how hard the Officers had worked, especially the Town Clerk.

Cllr Revd A Fitchet expressed his Thanks to the Town Clerk and Officers for their hard work.

It was proposed by Cllr C Ecclestone and seconded by Cllr Revd A Fitchet that the Internal Auditors Report for the year ended 31 March 2019 be approved.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Auditors Report for the year ended 31 March 2019 be approved.

C 038/19 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2018/2019

Members noted the Annual Internal Audit Report 2018/2019.

It was proposed by Cllr Revd A Fitchet and seconded by Cllr M James that the Annual Internal Audit Report 2018/2019 be approved.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Internal Audit report 2018/2019 be approved.

C 039/19 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018/2019

Members noted the Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019.

It was proposed by Cllr Revd A Fitchet and seconded by Cllr S Blackmore that the Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019 be approved.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019 be approved.

C 040/19 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2018/2019

Members noted the Accounting Statements 2018/2019.

It was proposed by Cllr Revd A Fitchet and seconded by Cllr M James that the Accounting Statements 2018/2019 be approved.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Accounting Statements 2018/2019 be approved.

C 041/19 FINANCE

Members noted the following lists of payments:

14 March 2019, 31 March 2019, 15 April 2019, 25 April 2019 and 1 May 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr L Banville and seconded by Cllr C Ecclestone that the payments up to 20 May 2019 be approved.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the payments up to 20 May 2019 be approved.

Bacs/Cheque No	Supplier	Budget Head	Goods/Supplies	Cost (£)
676034104	AquAid		Water Bottles x 3	£23.40
9496767	Convenient Hire		Allotment Toilets x 7	£560.98
410757616	Evolve Websites		Website Hosting May 2019	£35.94
876752219	MB Pest Services		Pest Control Allotments x 7 sites	£400.00
247510929	Moore's Cleaning		Office Cleaning May 2019	£282.47
154884126	Pitney Bowes		Franking Machine Rental	£25.15
805438846	Restore Datashred		Confidential Waste Removal	£25.92
DDAltoApr19	Alto Digital		Photocopying costs 29.01.2019-30.04.2019	£465.53
DDAltoMay19	Alto Digital		Staples for photocopier	£100.85
	Essential Fire Ltd		Service fire alarm system & extinguishers	£182.40
	HALC		Training – Knowledge & Core skills	£960.00
	Mrs B Long		Chairman/Mayor pictures & frames x 8	£120.00
DDMAINMay1	Mainstream Digital		Fraud Protection	£4.78
DDMAINMay2	Mainstream Digital		Call charges 01.04.2019-30.04.2019	£25.98
DDSAGEMay	Sage		Payroll software hire	£13.20
	South East Donkeys		Donkey Rides for Shilling Fair	£200.00
	South East Donkeys		Deposit for donkey rides for Shilling Fair	£50.00
	Surrey Hills Solicitors		Further advice from Counsel re Levy	£990.00
	Test Valley BC		Hire of Rendezvous 16.05.2019	£64.00
TOTAL up to 20 May 2019				£4,530.60

C0420/19 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

No questions were received from the Councillors.

C 043/19 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

The following reports were received from Town Councillors:

Cllr D Coole – The Andover Festival of Motoring would take place on 22 September 2019.

C 044/19 DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Council meeting would take place on **Friday 19 July 2019**, in the Rendezvous, Union Street, Andover, starting at **7pm**.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.02pm.

Town Mayor

Date