



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

A

Minutes Council

Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 15 October 2015

Place

The Rendezvous, Union Street, Andover

Details of Attendance:

Cllr V Pond (Chairman) (P)

Cllr B Long (Vice-Chairman) (P) (Arrived at 7.30pm)

Cllr C Bartholomew (P)

Cllr K Bird (P)

Cllr B Carpenter (P)

Cllr A Cotter (P)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr L Gates (P)

Cllr L Gregori (P)

Cllr S Hardstaff (P)

Cllr K Hughes (A)

Cllr R Hughes (P)

Cllr M James (P)

Cllr D Marriner (P)

Cllr G McBride (P)

Cllr J Msonthi (P)

Cllr M Mumford (A)

Cllr R Rowles (P)

Officer: Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk) (P) (Taking the minutes)

Members of the Public: 5

C 62/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs K Hughes and M Mumford.

C 63/15 Declarations of Interest

Cllr K Bird declared a Pecuniary Interest in Item 12, Andover Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme.

C 64/15 Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 September 2015 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 September 2015 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C 65/15 Public Participation

Mr R Kidd – Andover Resident

We would welcome some refugees to Andover, however would suggest that some Arab countries also offer to take refugees.

Mr N Long – Andover Resident

Refugees

There are already people on waiting lists for housing in Andover, Test Valley Borough Council have already spent £250,000 on bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless people in Andover.

I would suggest that the refugees be spread between towns and villages across Test Valley.

Motion on Planning

The Parker Morris Standards referred to date from 1961 and became mandatory in 1967. They were ended by the Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980. This seems to be an outdated argument.

If the Town Council decides to vote and pass the Motion, it runs the risk of mockery with the local planning authority.

Andover Levy

Can the Town Council please put a statement on its next full Council agenda as to what it has done to get the Andover Levy abolished? The five wards of Andover are the only areas in Test Valley that have to pay the levy. If the Andover Levy cannot be abolished for whatever reason maybe the Town Council should propose to Test Valley Borough Council that a similar levy be imposed onto the people of Romsey.

C 66/15 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that she had received a letter from Hampshire Constabulary stating that PCSO's, if they were on duty would attend the Town Council's full Council meetings.

The Chairman reported that she had attended an event at the Romsey War Memorial Park.

On 10th October she had attended the Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils and had asked several questions of Roy Perry regarding the Devolution of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Mr Perry's response had not been helpful.

C 67/15 Youth Council Update

Cllr McBride reported that the Youth council were working on a new project for 2016; however, the Youth Councillors themselves would announce what the project would be to a future meeting of the Town Council.

C 68/15 Committee Minutes

The following Minutes were received and noted:

14 September 2015 – Planning Committee

5 October 2015 – Planning Committee

C 69/15 Motions from Town Councillors

Motion proposed by Cllr L Gates and seconded by Cllr L Gregori

"Andover Town Council notes;

The current plight of thousands of refugees fleeing war in Syria and other countries.

The legal obligations of the United Kingdom as a signatory of the 1951 United Nations Convention and its 1967 Protocol on Refugees.

The recent public petition calling on Test Valley Borough Council to welcome refugees to Andover, reflecting the humanity and Britishness of fellow Andoverians.

The recent deplorable attempts by some journalists and Politician's to demonise these refugees and refuse them help.

Andover Town Council calls on;

Test valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to facilitate the reception, support and integration of refugees into Andover.

Central Government to extend financial support to local councils for the reception of refugees and their integration past the one-year point so that the more generous communities are not unduly financially penalised.

Cllr Gates made the following statement in support of his motion; Last year commemorated the start of WW1, which was supposed to be the War to end all Wars. It is not and wars are

happening again and again. Our own leaders support wars while bombasting others which force people to flee for their lives. They are refugees; they have nothing left or to loose. We should take a lead in dealing with this crisis.

Failing to help our own is no excuse not to help others. We should welcome them, not shun them. This country welcomed 16,000 refugees in one day during the 1914/18 conflict and during the 1930's we took in refugees.

The refugees want to come and live here, it should be a matter of pride for us to take them in, we should be helping. This Motion is about humility, responsibility and taking a lead.

I hope this Council will follow and take action.

Members discussed the Motion in detail and agreed that the Town Council should support it. A vote was taken and Members agreed unanimously to support the motion.

RESOLVED: That Andover Town Council notes;

The current plight of thousands of refugees fleeing war in Syria and other countries.

The legal obligations of the United Kingdom as a signatory of the 1951 United Nations Convention and its 1967 Protocol on Refugees.

The recent public petition calling on Test Valley Borough Council to welcome refugees to Andover, reflecting the humanity and Britishness of fellow Andoverians.

The recent deplorable attempts by some journalists and Politician's to demonise these refugees and refuse them help.

Andover Town Council calls on;

Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to facilitate the reception, support and integration of refugees into Andover.

Central Government to extend financial support to local councils for the reception of refugees and their integration past the one-year point so that the more generous communities are not unduly financially penalised.

Motions proposed by Cllr C Ecclestone and seconded by Cllr L Gregori

1. *"That Andover Town Council adopt for the area covered by Andover Parish, a minimum standard for residence sizes in line with the Parker Morris standards. All planning applications for residences of sizes inferior to these standards will require the Planning Committee to Object to the applications. All such properties will then be flagged on a special page of the Andover Town Council website so that estate agents and residents can know which properties have failed this standard".*

Cllr Ecclestone made the following statement in support of his motion;

This country has eradicated many of its slums however, we are now moving backwards. If the properties of today are not up to 1961 standards then we are moving backwards.

There is no current standard, bedrooms of 2.1x1.5mtrs are being accepted and built, there are buildings of multi-occupancy, a minimum standard is needed.

Time and again we are seeing 3, 1 bedroomed flats where the bedrooms don't have room for a wardrobe, no parking is provided.

The Town Council cannot make decisions on planning applications but we can make observations. We should encourage the Planning Authority to show a more generous standard.

Members discussed the Motion in detail, considering how the Town Council was allowed to make observations within its planning committee and what it was able to make comments on. It was agreed that there was concern that properties were appearing to become smaller and smaller.

Members raised concern that the second part of the Motion, referring to inputting of properties onto the Website that failed to meet the Parker Morris standard would require resourcing that

the Town Council currently did not have.

It was further noted that all the Town Council's observations were available online via the Planning Portal and was it best use of time to write them up again on the Town Council's website.

Cllr Bird suggested the following amendment to the Motion

"That Andover Town Council adopt for the area covered by Andover Parish, a minimum standard for residence sizes in line with the Parker Morris standards. All planning applications for residences of sizes inferior to these standards will require the Planning Committee to formally comment".

Cllr R Hughes seconded the amendment.

Cllr S Hardstaff suggested that the second part of the Motion, with regard to uploading information on the Town Council website be referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee as there were resource implications.

He further suggested that this issue to fed into the Neighbourhood Plan.

This was seconded by Cllr Rowles.

Cllr Ecclestone was given the right to reply;

I'm happy with the amendment; however I do wish the information to be published on the Town Council's website. The general public have a right to this information. In recent weeks the local press have reported on new buildings not fit for purpose and falling down. The total space provided is inadequate, it needs to be flagged up and made public.

A vote was taken on the amendment to the Motion 13 for 1 against. The amendment was carried.

RESOLVED:

- **That Andover Town Council adopt for the area covered by Andover Parish, a minimum standard for residence sizes in line with the Parker Morris standards. All planning applications for residences of sizes inferior to these standards will require the Planning Committee to formally comment.**
 - **That the second part of the Motion "All such properties will then be flagged on a special page of the Andover Town Council website so that estate agents and residents can know which properties have failed this standard" be considered at the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee to be held on 22 October 2015.**
 - **That the issue of Standard Sized properties should be referred to the Neighbourhood Plan for consideration.**
2. *That the current Working Group on Tourist Information be renamed the Tourism Working Group"*
 3. *"That the Website Working Group be renamed the Town Profile & Communications Working Group".*

Cllr Ecclestone's Motions were seconded by Cllr L Gates.

Cllr Ecclestone made the following statement in support of his motion;

The work of the Tourist Information Working Group has widened into work with other parties and organisations.

The Website Working Group should also cover media and communications such as advertising in shop windows, press releases, media relationships, Facebook and Twitter. We need to ensure that the local media are kept up to date; the website is only a part of this.

Cllr R Rowles commented that currently the working groups had no clear mandate as to their specific roles.

A vote was taken to adopt Cllr Ecclestone's final two Motions, 14 for, 1 against.

RESOLVED:

- **That the current Working Group on Tourist Information be renamed the Tourism Working Group**
- **That the Website Working Group be renamed the Town Profile & Communications Working Group.**

C 70/15 Charity Street Collections

Members were asked to consider a proposal from Test Valley Borough Council on the delegation of power to the Town Council for Charity Street Collection Licences.

It was proposed by Cllr R Rowles that as there were resourcing and financial implications to the item that it be referred to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee to be held on 22 October 2015.

This was seconded by Cllr S Hardstaff.

A vote was taken, 11 for, 5 against;

RESOLVED: That the item on Charity Street Collection Licences be referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration.

C 71/15 Facebook and Twitter Accounts

Members were asked to consider whether the Town Council should open a Facebook and Twitter account.

It was proposed by Cllr S Hardstaff that as there would be resourcing issues regarding this item, it be referred back to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee to be held on 22 October 2015.

This was seconded by Cllr G McBride.

A vote was taken, 11 for, 3 against, 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the item regarding Facebook and Twitter accounts be referred to the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee.

C 72/15 Andover Radio

Members were asked to consider whether the Town Council would support a campaign to have a radio station for Andover, which would be a community based radio station giving air time to local organisations and charities.

Cllr McBride spoke in favour of the scheme and encouraged his fellow Members to lend their support.

A vote was taken to support Andover Radio 14 for, 1 against.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to the Town Clerk to write a letter in support of Andover Radio on behalf of the Town Council.

C 73/15 Andover Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme

Members noted that the Town Council had been approached seeking support for the Andover Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme.

Cllr Bird, who had declared an interest in the item, explained to Members that she had been approached to set up the Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme in Andover.

She asked whether the Town Council would show its support by agreeing to finance the printing of '30 Welcome Packs' and '50 Window stickers' for the scheme. She explained that it had been successfully rolled out in Winchester and Salisbury.

She explained that it was very much a Town Centre Community Project and would help support new mums coming in to the Town Centre.

Cllr Bird explained that the maximum funding the Town Council would be asked for as £140 for the Welcome Packs and Stickers.

Members discussed the item asking whether further funding would be required. Cllr Bird explained that the scheme would run for 3 years after which further decisions would be made. Members suggested that the scheme should look to become self-funding. Members also suggested that further quotes for printing be obtained.

Cllr Bird left the room whilst a vote was taken to support the Scheme and release £140 of funding.

A vote was taken and received unanimous support.

RESOLVED:

That Andover Town Council supports the Andover Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme That a total of £140 be taken from the Budget 4700/6 – Development of Town Centre, to fund the printing of the Welcome Packs and shop window stickers.

C 74/15 Defibrillator

Members received a progress report from the Defibrillator Working Group on the installation of defibrillators in Andover Town Centre.

Cllr Bird explained to Members that she had been approached by members of the public concerned that there were no defibrillators in the centre of the Town.

The Working Group had met and researched the possibilities of installing defibrillators in the Town Centre and how much they would cost. The cost of each unit would be £1,500 including lifetime maintenance. Cllr Bird explained that they were not completely vandal proof, however they were as resilient as possible.

She further explained that if a member of public were to use a defibrillator and the patient sadly passed away, there would be no comeback as it came under the Good Samaritan Act.

The Defibrillator Working Group asked Members to consider whether the Town Council would contribute £3,000 to fund the purchase of 2 Defibrillator units for the centre of Andover.

Members discussed whether the Town Council should fund the purchase of 2 Defibrillator units, with the majority of Members strongly in favour of supporting the scheme.

It was further suggested that the Town Council purchase 2 units in the short term with possible further funding and the Working Group looking at other grants and funding to purchase further units.

It was proposed by Cllr Gates and seconded by Cllr Ecclestone that the Town Council fund the purchase of 2 defibrillator units costing £3,000 to be taken from Reserves.

A vote was taken and it was unanimous in favour.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council fund the purchase of 2 defibrillator units costing £3,000 to be taken from Reserves.

C 75/15 Confirmation of Members representing Wards

It was confirmed that the following members would represent the following Wards of the Parish of Andover:

Carol Bartholomew – St Marys Ward

Luigi Gregori – Millway Ward

Dean Marriner – Millway Ward

Josephine Msonthi – Winton Ward

Michael Mumford – Millway Ward

Richard Rowles – Winton Ward

C 76/15 Committee Membership

The Membership of the Town Council Standing Committees was confirmed as shown in the table below:

Policy & Resources Committee	Planning Committee	Allotments Sub-Committee
Cllr S Hardstaff (Chairman)	Cllr A Cotter (Chairman)	Cllr K Hughes (Chairman)

Cllr K Bird (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr B Long (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr A Cotter (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr C Bartholomew	Cllr C Bartholomew	Cllr C Bartholomew
Cllr L Gregori	Cllr B Carpenter	Cllr G McBride
Cllr R Hughes	Cllr C Ecclestone	Cllr J Msonthi
Cllr D Marriner	Cllr L Gregori	Cllr B Long
Cllr G McBride	Cllr D Marriner	Cllr V Pond
Cllr V Pond	Cllr J Msonthi	Cllr R Rowles
Cllr R Rowles	Cllr V Pond	

As there was only one space available for the Staffing Sub-Committee Members were asked to volunteer. Cllrs L Gregori and M James volunteered for the position. A vote was taken by show of hands and Cllr L Gregori was voted onto the Sub-Committee. The Membership of the Staffing Sub-Committee was agreed as shown below:

Staffing Sub-Committee
Cllr S Hardstaff (Chairman)
Cllr K Bird (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr L Gates
Cllr L Gregori
Cllr G McBride

C 77/15 Working Group Membership

The Membership of the Town Council's Working Groups was confirmed and is shown in the tables below:

Quality Council	Defibrillator	Tourism	Website	Grants	Assets & Acquisitions	Hospitality
K Bird	K Bird	S Hardstaff	B Long	B Long	V Pond	K Bird
S Hardstaff	C Ecclestone	L Gates	R Hughes	A Cotter	K Bird	C Ecclestone
M James	R Hughes	B Long	K Bird	R Hughes	A Cotter	M Mumford
R Rowles	B Long	M James	R Rowles	R Rowles	B Long	R Rowles
	R Rowles	C Bartholomew	L Gregori		C Ecclestone	
	D Marriner	R Rowles			S Hardstaff	
		D Marriner			R Rowles	
					L Gregori	
WW1 Commemoration	Arts & Leisure	Boundary Review	Bus Shelters	Business Development	Market Management	Heritage Railway
K Bird	C Ecclestone	V Pond	C Ecclestone	C Ecclestone	C Ecclestone	G McBride
B Long	A Cotter	B Long	S Hardstaff	K Bird	B Long	M James
S Hardstaff	R Rowles	C Ecclestone	L Gates	R Rowles	R Rowles	R Rowles
V Pond	L Gregori	K Bird	B Carpenter		L Gregori	
M James		R Hughes	R Rowles		K Bird	
R Rowles		L Gates				
		C Bartholomew				
		R Rowles				
E11R Plaque	Floral Clock	Council Operations	Emergency Plan	Community Right to Bid	Speedwatch	Christmas Lights
V Pond	B Long	J Msonthi	J Msonthi	J Msonthi	J Msonthi	B Long
B Long	M James	R Rowles	R Rowles	R Rowles	R Rowles	A Cotter
M James	K Bird	B Long	B Long	B Long	B Long	V Pond
R Rowles	R Rowles	L Gates	V Pond	L Gregori	L Gates	K Bird
	D Marriner	L Gregori	L Gregori	K Bird		R Rowles
		R Hughes				M James
		C Ecclestone				
		K Bird				

C 78/15 Business Cards

Members were asked whether they wished to have business cards and to agree a design. It was proposed by Cllr Hardstaff and seconded by Cllr Rowles that the item be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee as it would have financial implications. A Vote was taken 13 for, 2 against

RESOLVED: That the Business Cards Item be referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee due to financial implications.

C 79/15 Finance

The following list of payments up to 13 October 2015 were approved.

The Chairman indicated the Members that the Bank Reconciliation would be submitted at the next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 22 October 2015

BACS/Cheque No	Date of Inv	Description	Supplier	Amount (£)
643947757	01.10.2015	Supply of Toilets to Allotments	Convenient Hire	587.65
451110632	12.10.2015	October 2015 – Reimbursements	W Coulter	10.16
120990323	01.10.2015	Website Hosting October 2015	Custom Studio	35.94
259712782	08.10.2015	Website update – blank for Wards	Custom Studio	22.50
97976871	05.10.2015	Purchase & collection plastic sheets for allotments	DMJ Butler Country Services	106.98
858538407	05.10.2015	Repair fence & Grass cut Job No's 1129 & 1131	DMJ Butler Country Services	175.68
354485268	05.10.2015	BL Grass Cut Job No 1130	DMJ Butler Country Services	40.00
353872921	05.10.2015	MR Grass Cut job No 1132	DMJ Butler Country Services	80.00
22754413	05.10.2015	OWR Grass Cut Job No 1133	DMJ Butler Country Services	220.00
989085276	05.10.2015	VR Grass Cut Job No 1134	DMJ Butler Country Services	80.00
MainsDDSept15	30.09.2015	Telephone call charges	Mainstream Digital	9.66
915426380	28.09.2015	Office cleaning 31.08.15-27.09.2015	Moore's Cleaning Services	130.00
989966125	02.10.2015	Postage & Franking machine rental September 2015	Pitney Bowes	181.94
213880306	30.09.2015	Minibus Hire for Youth Council trip to Westminster	Test Valley Community Services	114.65
TOTAL				1795.16

C 80/15 Report from Bus Shelter Working Group

Members received an update report from the Bus Shelter Working Group.

Cllr Gates reported that progress had been made in contacting the various organisations involved with the Bush Shelter Contracts. Further meetings would be taking place and a full report would be brought to Council as soon as all the costs and implications had been researched.

Cllr McBride proposed that the Town Council meeting be extended beyond the time of 2 ½ hrs until 10pm. This was seconded by Councillor R Hughes and unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Town Council Meeting extend beyond 2 ½ hours to 10pm.

C 81/15 Questions from Councillors

As per Standing Order No 8, Councillor L Gregori asked the following question:

"The ATC Offices currently do not run a visitors book. As this is best practice under and can be used to address a number of Health and Safety issues, including legal requirements, should one not be introduced?"

The Town Clerk gave the following answer: "Yes the Town Council can run a visitors book, I would ask the Policy and Resources Committee to consider the proposal as there should be a policy and procedure for staff to administer the book".

C 82/15 Questions from Councillors to Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Gates wished to thank the Borough and County Councillors for being patient and waiting until the end of the meeting.

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

C 83/15 Reports from Councillors

Cllr C Ecclestone wished to make a report on the Leisure Centre. However, as the time for the meeting was limited it was suggested that he request it be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Cllr G McBride reported that there were tents outside his house and that it had been reported that there were homeless people in the area. The Borough Council was investigating.

Cllr J Msonthi reported that she had attended the Older Peoples Forum.

Cllr L Gates reported that he and Cllr Long had attended the Town Centre Management Board Meeting. Car Fest had been a resounding success. Test Valley Borough Council would support A-Fest in 2016. A-Board Licencing would be rolling out from Hampshire County Council.

Town Tidy Day would take place in March 2016 and Andover would be entering the 'In Bloom' competition in 2016.

Cllr K Bird reported that she and Cllrs Long and Pond had attended the Hampshire Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting. There were very good presentations which she would send round to everyone and would write a report for all Members.

C 84/15 Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Z Brooks - County and Borough Councillor

Cllr Brooks offered some of her County Council Grant monies towards the purchase of another Defibrillator for Andover.

She also offered her help to any shop owners having trouble getting licences for their A-Boards.

Cllr D Drew – Borough Councillor

Had been sending the Clerk and Chairman regular updates regarding the Devolution Process for the Areas and Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. He confirmed that the Town Council should be receiving them direct from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC).

The Town Clerk confirmed that she had received an update report from Cllr T Rolt – County Councillor which she would forward to all Members.

C 85/15 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the date of the next full Council meeting was Wednesday 18 November 2015 at 7pm in the Upper Guildhall.

C 86/15 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED: That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting at Part 2 Item 26 of the Agenda due to consideration of office accommodation and contractual business.

Part 2 – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

C 87/15 Office Accommodation

It was proposed by Cllr S Hardstaff and seconded by Cllr R Rowles that this item be referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee as there were significant financial implications to be considered.

A vote was taken 11 for, 5 against and it was

RESOLVED: That this item be referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee due to the significant financial implications.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm.

Chairman

Date