



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

A

Minutes Council

Time and date

7.00pm on Wednesday 18 November 2015

Place

The Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover

Details of Attendance:

Cllr V Pond (Chairman) (P)

Cllr B Long (Vice-Chairman) (P)

Cllr C Bartholomew (P)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr K Hughes (P)(arrived at 7.02pm)

Cllr G McBride (P)

Cllr K Bird (P)

Cllr L Gates (P)

Cllr R Hughes (A)

Cllr J Msonthi (P)

Cllr B Carpenter (P)

Cllr L Gregori (P)

Cllr M James (P)

Cllr M Mumford (P)

Cllr A Cotter (P)

Cllr S Hardstaff (P) (arrived at 7.08pm)

Cllr D Marriner (A)

Cllr R Rowles (P)

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

Members of the Public: 6

Prior to the start of the meeting Councillor Jan Lovell presented the Richard Lovell Award for Young People to 2 members of the Youth Council, Callum McGuire and Theo Youds.

C 88/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Hughes and D Marriner.

C 89/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C 90/15 Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 October 2015 were agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 October 2015 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C 91/15 Public Participation

Mr Long – Andover Resident

Asked if everyone could hear him.

Asked for an update on the Andover Levy at the last full Council meeting.

The Chairman of the Town Council responded that the Andover Levy had been discussed at the Policy and Resources Meeting on 22 October 2015. Once more 'concrete' information had been obtained a full report would be submitted to full Council.

Mr Long noted that the Youth Council was requesting a further £1,000 in the Andover Town Council Budget, he asked as the money was public money, when the Youth Council meetings would be open to the public.

Cllr G McBride responded that he would take Mr Long's comments back to the Andover Youth Advisory Group and update him with their answer.

Mr Long asked what training, if any, Town Councillors received before they attended Committee and Council meetings.

Mr Richard Kidd – Andover Resident

Mr Kidd commented that the Mental Health item was a very good motion.

Mr David Drew – Test Valley Borough Councillor

Mr Drew asked when the Town Councillors call on someone to carry out a task, whether the response received is published?

The Chairman responded that most Responses were received via email and was sent to the relevant Councillor.

Mrs S Hawke – Test Valley Borough Councillor

Mrs Hawke commented on the Motion regarding development in Andover. She asked whether with regard to the SHLAA whether the Town Council would approach the landowners. She explained that the Borough Council had to approve SHLAA sites.

The Chairman responded that the questions would be addressed during the item on the agenda.

C 92/15 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced that she had attended the following events on the following dates:

31 October 2015 – Halloween Dinner

2 November 2015 – Pride of Andover Awards

8 November 2015 – Mayoral Service at Romsey

12 November 2015 – TVP & TC Meeting

14 November 2015 – Andover & District Sports Awards.

C 93/15 Youth Council Update

Youth Councillor Callum McGuire updated the Town Council members on the activities of the Youth Council, including their new project to purchase a touring bus to promote Youth activities to the young people of Andover who find it difficult to access the main services available.

C 94/15 Committee Minutes

The following Minutes were received and noted:

26 October 2015 – Planning Committee

22 October 2015 – Policy and Resources Committee (Members noted that these minutes had not yet been completed and would be received at the next Council meeting in January 2016).

C 95/15 Motions from Town Councillors

Motion proposed by Cllr L Gregori and seconded by Cllr J Msonthi

Council notes:

That mental health services still suffer severe inequality compared to those for physical health;

That people with mental ill health do not have equal access to treatment and services with some estimates suggesting that 75% of people experiencing mental ill health do not access any treatment;

That until April 2015 there were no maximum waiting time standards for treatment for mental ill health and new standards still have not been rolled out across all services;

The huge cost of mental ill health to individuals and their families, but also to the economy as a whole, including from visits to A&E, unemployment and homelessness support, which some estimates suggest are as high as £100bn a year;

That practices such as sending patients far from home to receive treatment are commonplace in mental healthcare, whereas they would not be tolerated for physical health;

That too many people having a mental health crisis are detained in police cells, rather than taken to hospital;

Council welcomes:

Steps taken by central Government to improve mental health services, including a £1.25bn package of additional funding for children and adolescents' mental health services, as announced in March's budget;

Introducing the crisis care concordat, bringing together organisations involved in health, care and policing across the country in an agreement to improve mental health crisis care;

Introducing the first ever waiting time standards for mental health care;

The transfer back of public health responsibilities to local government;

The work of local volunteers and social enterprises such as MENCAP and MIND;

The recent cross-party open-letter from Norman Lamb MP, Alistair Campbell and Andrew Mitchell MP, along with leaders from the business, faith, culture and sport communities, which calls on the Government to end the historic injustices in mental health and to consider the need for additional investment in mental health services in the forthcoming spending review;

Council calls on:

Central Government to formally welcome the calls from this cross-party and cross-society campaign and commit to take action to address inequalities in mental health services including additional, dedicated funding for mental health services in the 2015 spending review;

Local principal councils, NHS clinical commissioning groups and service providers to protect and to expand in line with demand mental health services;

Local businesses and partners to provide effective and friendly provision for clients with mental health friendly services as appropriate.

Some members commented that the Motion was not asking the Town Council to carry out an action and was therefore not a motion.

It was agreed that the motion be withdrawn.

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

Discussions with neighbouring parishes (e.g. Abbotts Ann) indicate a high level of concern at SHLAA designations that are essentially consuming the green space around Andover. The goals of this motion are:

- To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas*
- To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment*
- The retention of attractive landscapes and the enhancement of landscapes, near to where people live*

*A Map of the Areas indicated is attached at **Appendix D**.*

Motion: Move that the ATC establish a joint working party with those interested parish councils contiguous to Andover with a view to establishing a register designating properties as Green Belt (an anti-SHLAA) between Andover and neighbouring communities.

Members discussed and considered the Motion and a vote was taken, 8 in favour, 6 against and 2 abstentions, therefore the Motion was carried.

RESOLVED: That Andover Town Council establish a joint working party with those interested parish councils contiguous to Andover with a view to establishing a register designating properties as Green Belt (an-anti SHLAA) between Andover and neighbouring communities.

Second Motion:

Preamble: The new council in May made a precipitate and uninformed decision to abolish the Amenities & Town Development Committee. Its absence is now being acutely felt in the loss of Right to Buy opportunities and other matters of importance. Issues that are crucial for the rights of Andoverians under the Localism Act are being negated by inaction. The restoration of this committee will restore balance to the council and reduce other overburdened committees.

Motion: Move that the Amenities & Town Development committee be reinstated with immediate effect with its Terms of Reference as before.

Following discussion it was agreed that this motion be withdrawn from the agenda.

Third Motion:

Preamble: The ATC has hitherto had four committees which have open membership (including the Chairman of the Council and others ex officio). This has resulted in excessively large and unwieldy committees.

Motion: Committees shall be limited to a maximum of nine members, with no ex officio members. No councillor can be chairman of more than one committee.

The proposer and seconder agreed to withdraw this motion from the agenda.

C 96/15 Andover Town Council – Media Policy

Members considered and discussed a Media Policy for the Town Council. It was agreed that the Policy would be referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee to be checked to ensure it was compliant with current legislation and that it did not overlap with the current Standing Orders.

A vote was taken, 12 for, 2 against and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Media Policy be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee to be checked against current legislation before being approved by full Council.

C 97/15 External Audit

Members noted the completed Annual Return and External Audit for the Year Ending 31 March 2015. Members noted the comment from the External Auditor with regard to the balance being out by a pound.

RESOLVED: That the Andover Town Council Annual Return for the Year Ending 31 March 2015 be approved and noted.

C 98/15 Dates of Meetings for 2016

Members noted that the Operations Working Group was considering the operation of the Council and the number of Committee meetings may change. Therefore a schedule to the end of financial year was proposed.

A vote was taken, 14 for, 1 against and no abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the Dates of meetings up to 31 March 2016 be approved.

C 99/15 Dispensations for Precept

Under the new Localism Act 2011 all Councillors residing in the Parish of Andover had to apply for a Dispensation to vote on the setting of the Andover Town Council Precept.

The reason for the dispensation was as follows:

The number of Councillors who had an interest in the matters was such that without a dispensation being granted the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of business (Localism Act 2011 section 33 (2)(a)).

RESOLVED: That the Councillors of Andover Town Council, residing in the parish of Andover be given a Dispensation to vote on the setting of the Town Council Precept while they continue to be a Councillor or until the next election, whichever is the sooner (Localism Act 2011 section 33(3)).

C100/15 Membership of the Policy and Resources Committee

Members confirmed that Cllr Gates be added to the membership of the Policy and Resources Committee.

C101/15 Microphones for use at Council Meetings

Members received a short report regarding the provision of microphones for use during Council meetings.

Members noted that the Town Council was not DDA compliant with the provision of microphones currently available in the Council Chamber.

It was agreed that a more detailed report was required and should be considered by the Policy and Resources Committee as there were financial implications to be considered.

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

RESOLVED: To note the Microphones report and to refer to the Policy and Resources Committee with an in depth report including costs.

C102/15 Christmas – Office Opening Times

Members noted and approved the Christmas Office Opening Times:

Office to close from Wednesday 23rd December 2015

Office to re-open on Monday 4th January 2016 (For staff)

Office to re-open on Tuesday 5th January 2016 (For Public)

C103/15 Standing Orders – Interim Report

Members received an interim report on amendments to the Standing Orders from the Standing Orders Working Group and noted the suggestion that the Town Council adopted the NALC Model Standing Orders.

Members discussed the submitted report and highlighted concerns as to whether the NALC Model Standing Orders were up to date.

Members agreed that the Standing Orders should be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee to confirm whether the NALC standing orders were up to date or whether the Town Council's current Standing Orders included additions that should be incorporated.

A vote was taken 14 for and 1 against.

RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders review be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee to consider whether the NALC Standing Orders are up to date and whether the current standing orders have additions that require incorporation.

Members also noted that the report suggested the Working Group review the committee structure and work flows and bring recommendations to full Council in early 2016.

C104/15 E11R Working Group Report

Members noted and received a report on the E11R Plaque from the E11R Working Group. It was agreed an item would be included on the next Policy and Resources Committee agenda in the new year with firm costings for the project.

C105/15 Christmas Lights Working Group

Members noted and received a report from the Christmas Lights Working Group on the Christmas Lights preparation and organisation for Christmas 2015.

C106/15 Finance

The following list of payments up to 16 November 2015 were approved.

The Bank Reconciliation up to 30 September 2015 were received and approved.

The Bank Reconciliation up to 31 October 2015 were received and approved.

BACS/Cheque No	Date of Inv	Description	Supplier	Amount (£)
342822080	01.11.2015	Allotment Toilet Provision Oct15	Convenient Hire Ltd	587.65
929418595	16.11.2015	November 2015 Reimbursements	Town Clerk	26.94
242327185	01.11.2015	Website hosting and email provision November 2015	Custom Studio Ltd	35.94
300263	22.09.2015	Registration for .org domain name – closure of contract	Fasthosts	130.79
452664444	31.10.2015	Removal of hedge plot 1 The Drove	Grass and Grounds	
452664444	31.10.2015	Cut hedge along eastern boundary Churchill Way Allts	Grass and Grounds	2394.00
518564075	06.11.2015	Window Cleaning 02.11.2015	JRC Cleaning Services	18.00
MainstDDNov2015	31.10.2015	Line rental and Call Charges	Mainstream Digital	47.35
878885689	31.07.2015	Cleaning services 29.06-31.07.2015	Moore's Cleaning Services	
878885689	29.10.2015	Cleaning services 28.09-31.10.2015	Moore's Cleaning Services	260.00
35701026	01.11.2015	Franking machine rental charges October 2015	Pitney Bowes	23.94
221936082	05.11.2015	Stationery (5 boxes paper, keyboard& mouse, files)	Viking Supplies	188.11
760480702	15.10.2015	Employment Law update training for Town Clerk	South East Employers	114.00
300264	02.11.2015	Water supply charges BL Allts Aug-Oct 2015	Southern Water	546.73
300265	02.11.2015	Water supply charges OWR Allts Aug-Oct 2015	Southern Water	104.66
300266	19.10.2015	Water supply charges TD Allts Aug-Oct 2015	Southern Water	409.05
316829995	16.11.2015	Planning Framework Training	Hampshire Association of Local Councils	42.00
TOTAL				4,929.16

C107/15 Questions from Councillors

As per Standing Order No 8, Councillor Christopher Ecclestone asked the following question: "As part of the Standing Orders review it has been claimed that Allotments and Staffing are NOT really sub-committees as minutes and agendas are saying but rather are full committees. Can you please confirm their status?"

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Allotments Sub-Committee and the Staffing Sub-Committee were Sub-Committees and that she would forward a diagram to Cllr Ecclestone to explain their position in the Committee Structure.

C108/15 Questions from Town Councillors to Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Bartholomew – the Town Councillors have received a Press Release from Sentinel Housing regarding Affordable Housing Provision, how will Test Valley Borough Council meet the need for housing?

Cllr D Drew (Borough Councillor) answered that it was a problem across the whole country, he agreed that he would forward the question to Cllr S Hawke, the Housing Portfolio Holder for TVBC.

Cllr L Gates – ask Cllr T Rolt to clarify the situation regarding the pedestrian crossing outside the Roman Way School. The Town Clerk confirmed that she would forward the question to Cllr Rolt.

Cllr L Gates – ask Cllr Cockaday to look into the vandalised Bus Shelter incident in his ward and to find out when it will be repaired.

Cllr L Gates – to Cllrs Drew and Cockaday, to encourage their fellow Borough Councillors to attend the Town Council meetings.

Cllr B Carpenter – asked Borough and County Councillors, Roman Way double yellow lines, cars are parking on the roads so ambulances cannot get through. Is there anything that can be done.

C109/15 Reports from Councillors

Cllr G McBride reported that Andover College had contacted him to confirm that those students that had been involved with A-Fest had been offered jobs. Jordan Simcox and Theo Youds had received Pride of Andover Awards and a new secretary had been found for the Youth Council.

Cllr K Bird reported that she had attended a Test Valley Parish and Town Council's meeting. She reported some of the items that were covered during the meeting:

1. Test Valley had confirmed that they would continue to pursue enforcement issues that were raised.
2. Cllr R Perry made a speech on Devolution and devolved authority. He confirmed that all Town and Parish councils would be included in the debate.
3. Mr Andrew Gibson from Hampshire County Council gave an update on the current situation with the libraries and confirmed that they were being well used and money was being spent in the right places.

Cllr B Long attended the Memorial Day at the Cenotaph on 11 November 2015 and the Sports Awards. She would be attending the Town Centre Management Board meeting the following week and reminded Members that there would be a Town Tidy Day in March 2016.

Cllr J Msonthi attended the Older Peoples Forum, they were conducting a survey on the needs of the elderly. She also attended the Community Services AGM.

C110/15 Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr D Drew (Test Valley Borough Councillor) reported that Hampshire Fire and Rescue had released a consultation.

A consultation on Fracking in the Southern part of Andover was also taking place, he suggested that the Town Council should organise a mini conference with experts on the subject.

He went on to explain that there was no Green Belt in Hampshire, however there was some benefit in that there were Strategic Local Gaps and that all comments and input that adhered to local plan criteria would be welcome.

Cllr Drew further explained that he now represented the Parish of Longparish, which was a rural area. The parish received reports from the local Highways officer and looked after the local footpaths.

Cllr Drew commented that the Boundary Review that was taking place may change the boundaries and in 2 years time the Test Valley Wards would be considered.

C111/15 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the date of the next full Council meeting was Thursday 14 January 2016 at 7pm in the Upper Guildhall.

It was proposed by Cllr L Gregori and seconded by Cllr B Long that the meeting be extended beyond the 2 hour limit.

RESOLVED: that the meeting extend beyond 2 hours.

C112/15 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED: That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting due to consideration of staffing matters.

Part 2 – CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

C113/15 Staffing Matters

Members considered confidential staffing matters.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

Chairman

Date