



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

A

Constantia Basis Virtutum

Minutes Council

Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 20 October 2016

Place

Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover

Details of Attendance:

Town Councillors

Cllr K Bird (Chairman) (P)

Cllr L Gates (Vice-Chairman) (P)

Cllr C Bartholomew (A)

Cllr A Fitchet (P)

Cllr R Hughes (P)

Cllr G McBride (P)

Cllr R Rowles (P)

Cllr B Carpenter (P)

Cllr L Gregori (P)

Cllr R Kidd (A)

Cllr J Msonthi (P)

Cllr A Cotter (P)

Cllr S Hardstaff (P)

Cllr B Long (A)

Cllr M Mumford (A)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr K Hughes (P) (left at 8.30pm)

Cllr D Marriner (P)

Cllr V Pond (P)

County Councillors

Cllr Z Brooks (P)

Borough Councillors

Cllr I Andersen (A)

Cllr J Cockaday (P)

Cllr P North (P)

Cllr D Drew (P)

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

Members of the Public: 2

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Council received a presentation from Test Valley Borough Councillor Phil North on the progress of the Andover Vision Project. He was accompanied by the Chief Executive of Test Valley Borough Council, Mr R Tetstall and Test Valley Policy Manager, Mr J Moody.

C083/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors R Kidd, C Bartholomew and B Long.

C084/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C085/16 Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 September 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting of 8 September 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C086/16 Public Participation

Mr N Long

I would like to draw your attention to page 4 of your agenda the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2016.

Public participation (C065/16), I asked how often in the last 12 months has the Council dipped into reserves?

The Chairman of this Council said she would ensure that every question would be answered and a written reply given. I am still waiting on this answer for this question. One of the reasons of asking is that there are conflicting amounts in the Council agendas.

C135/15. 31st March 2016 states reserves for at least half a years running costs. Ours are well below this level. Yet the PR minutes (PR 78/15) states that reserves should be one year's operating costs.

What is the true figure that your reserves should be held at?

The Chairman of the Town Council answered that the Reserves are recommended to be held at 6 months of Operating Costs.

Mr N Long

Another question I recently asked was, what is this Town Council doing to control the overspend on allotments, £15,000 plus pest control? I was informed that this would be referred to the allotment committee for discussion, have they met yet? As I would be interested in the answer.

The Chairman replied that the Allotment Committee would be meeting on 27 October 2016 and this topic would be discussed.

Mr N Long

Finally I raised concerns over the amount that this Council precept would be raised by. What extra services would you provide with this extra money? Also when you intended to start doing so?

The response from this Council was, to increase the budget for elections, taking on the bus shelters from September 2016. Also producing regular newsletters & increasing the number of events held during 2016. New offices & monies have been set aside for reserves. Monies are required to run these; therefore a new budget has been created to cover the cost.

My question to you this evening is, how many of these things have happened? None as far as I can see. What will happen to the money for these schemes? Safely tucked away in your reserves?

The Chairman replied that the Bus Shelters would be happening but for reasons out of the Town Councils control they had not yet been transferred. The newsletters would be coming online prior to the end of the financial year. The Town Council was still searching for alternative accommodation for its offices. It is not anticipated that the Precept for residents will increase for 2017/2018.

C087/16 Reports from Borough and County Councillors from the Andover Wards

Cllr Z Brooks reported that the Charlton Road crossing was being upgraded. The Devolution process was still being discussed and Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight had voted no to the latest proposals. The leader of Hampshire County Council was continuing talks with central government.

C088/16 Questions from Town Councillors to Borough and County Councillors

Cllr. C Ecclestone thanked Cllr Z Brooks for being supportive at resisting Haydon Cars development. He reported that he had lodged a request with Hampshire County Council Highways that they restrict truck length. Would Borough Council and Hampshire County Council be supportive?

Cllr. Z Brooks replied that she would email contacts and follow up regarding the development.

Cllr. B Carpenter asked Cllr North whether he had any further information regarding the Roman Way Lollipop lady?

Cllr. Z Brooks responded that Hampshire County Council regularly advertise for a lollipop lady but will keep trying.

Cllr J Msonthi asked Cllr North if he could identify what the monies collected via the 106 agreements for Augusta Park had been spent on?

Cllr P North confirmed that he would send the details of the costs to the Town Clerk for distribution.

Mount Rise - double yellow

Cllr. R Rowles asked Cllr. P North whether Section 106 money was sent aside for school. Cllr. P North advised that Hampshire County Council decided not to build secondary school. Cllr R Rowles asked if it was known how much was sent back.

The Chairman of the Town Council confirmed that the Town Council would ask Test Valley Borough Council formally.

C089/16 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman made the following announcements:

"On 17th September, I attended HALC Board meeting where the substantive discussion was on devolution, and finding a way to best represent the views of all local councils, which as we know are significantly diverse with different needs and drivers.

On 24th September, I was honoured to have been invited to an Alderman making celebration at Ludgershall Town Council, the gentleman, Ken Beard had a long and distinguished history of support for and service to the town. It was very positive to make links and connections with surrounding Councils.

On 27th September, I along with a number of colleagues attended an evening event to look at 'The Future of Local Government in Hampshire', it was very well attended with many local councils represented, and a significant number of the senior officers from HCC as well as Steven Lugg the Chief Executive of HALC. It was interesting to discuss the various interests and drivers of the different councils, as well as hearing about how some models of devolution are working in nearby Counties.

On 28th September, I was delighted to be a guest of the Older People's Forum on their open day at The Wellington Centre, there were a range of service providers and community groups serving Andover and the surrounding areas. I am hoping that we will be able to invite a number of services providers to join us for a mini health roadshow in the New Year, including Dementia Friendly Training for all councillors and attendees– watch this space for more information.

On 14th October, I along with Andy Fitchet and Richard Kidd were the guests of Ashbourne Care Home for a tour around their facilities, it was such a positive experience, seeing how much the staff really do 'Chose to be Happy' and bring that positive experience to residents' lives. As an organisation they are very keen that residents are involved in the community, and we will be inviting them to meetings in the future.

On 17th October, I was delighted to attend the Pride of Andover Awards event, it was deeply humbling to see so many people who have given so much to the town over so many years, and uplifting to see so much passion for our town within one room. We are really very blessed to live in a place with such a strong sense of place, and of pride in the town".

C090/16 Youth Council Update

Cllr G McBride reported that the Town Council had lost the Member of Staff who had been assisting with the Youth Council. However, a new Member of Staff would be joining the Town Council on 25 October and he would be meeting with them on 26 October to discuss the way forward with the Youth Council.

Cllr D Marriner reported that he had nominated Callum McGuire for an award and he had been presented with an award at the Pride of Andover Award ceremony on Monday 19 October 2016.

C091/16 Committee Minutes

The following Minutes were received and noted:

30 June 2016 – Allotment Committee

22 September 2016 – Assets & Amenities Committee

1 September 2016 – Community Development Committee

29 September 2016 – Community Development Committee

25 August 2016 – Policy & Resources Committee

12 September 2016 – Planning Committee

5 October 2016 – Planning Committee

C092/16 Andover Trees United – To Appoint a Town Councillor as a Trustee

Members were asked to consider a request from Andover Trees United to nominate a Town Councillor as a Trustee.

Members agreed to nominate a Town Councillor to be considered as a Trustee and Cllr R Rowles volunteered.

Cllr L Gregori proposed that Cllr R Rowles be nominated as the Town Council's representative Trustee for Andover Trees United and this was seconded by Cllr B Carpenter. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That Cllr R Rowles be nominated as the Town Council representative Trustee for Andover Trees United.

C093/16 Meeting Dates for 2017

Members were asked to consider the meeting dates for Committees and Council for 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr L Gregori and seconded by Cllr R Hughes to agree the dates for Committee and Council meetings for 2017. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the dates for Committee and Council meetings for 2017 be agreed.

C094/16 Cheque and BACS Authorisation

It was noted that the following councillors put their names forward as signatories; Cllr. C Ecclestone, Cllr. L Gates, Cllr. J Msonthi, Cllr. A Fitchet, Cllr. Hardstaff, Cllr. A Cotter, Cllr. R Hughes, Cllr L Gregori.

RESOLVED: That the following Members be included as cheque and BACS signatories: Cllr. C Ecclestone, Cllr. L Gates, Cllr. J Msonthi, Cllr. A Fitchet, Cllr. Hardstaff, Cllr. A Cotter, Cllr. R Hughes, Cllr L Gregori

C095/16 Membership of Committees

Cllr. R Kidd indicated that he would like to be a Member of the Allotments Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee.

Cllr. R Rowles proposed and Cllr C Ecclestone seconded that Cllr R Kidd be accepted on to the Allotments Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee. There was a unanimous vote.

Resolved: that Cllr R Kidd be a Member of the Allotments Committee and Policy and Resources Committee.

C096/16 Consultation on the 2017/2018 Local Government Financial Settlement

Members were asked to consider a response to the governments consultation on the 2017/2018 Local Government Financial Settlement

Cllr L Gregori suggested the response submitted required amendment.

Members agreed that a response should be given and that it would be appropriate to write to local MP and the MP for local government and communities.

It was unanimously agreed that the Town Council objected to the proposals. Asked Town Council to respond.

It was proposed by Cllr. R Rowles and seconded by Cllr A Fitchet that the following wording for the Town Councils response be approved. It was agreed. 14 for 1 abstention.

"This council notes:

– The technical consultation launched by the Department for Communities and Local Government in September on the local government finance settlement

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-finance-settlement-2017-to-2018-technical-consultation>);

– That the referendum threshold for council tax increases is proposed at 2 per cent for all local authorities, as in 2016/17. However, shire districts will be allowed increases of up to and including 5%, or up to 2 per cent, whichever is higher;

– That there will also continue to be an additional adult social care precept of 2 per cent for authorities with responsibility for social care services;

– And that for the first time, referendum principles will apply to Town and Parish councils for which the Band D charge is higher than £75.46 and the total precept is over £500,000. Whilst this does not impact on Andover Town Council at the moment, it would do so under any devolution settlement;

– that some town and parish councils are taking on some of the services previously provided by principal

authorities but with no central government funding to help them.

This council believes:

- that such decisions should be made through people holding their local representatives to account at election time;
- that town and parish councils account for just 1.7% of the £26 billion raised through council tax in England;
- that town and parish councils are closely in touch with people’s needs and locally elected councillors should be able to take the right decision for their area;
- that any referenda could end up being extremely expensive for the local taxpayer (in the case of Andover Town Council, it would be in excess of £62,000, just under a quarter of our current precept);
- that restrictions prevent local people from deciding they to respond to a particular opportunity or threat.

This council resolves:

- to write to our local MP, Kit Malthouse, and ask him to ensure that there is no referenda forced on Andover Town Council;
- to ask them to visit Andover Town Council and hear the impact that referenda could have on the services our council provides;
- to task the Town Clerk to formally respond to the technical consultation opposing the referenda but supporting the principle that town and parish councillors must be responsible via the ballot box at election time for any spending decisions they make”.

RESOLVED: That the following response be sent with regard to the governments consultation on the 2017/2018 Local Government Financial Settlement.

This council notes:

- **The technical consultation launched by the Department for Communities and Local Government in September on the local government finance settlement (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-finance-settlement-2017-to-2018-technical-consultation>);**
- **That the referendum threshold for council tax increases is proposed at 2 per cent for all local authorities, as in 2016/17. However, shire districts will be allowed increases of up to and including £5, or up to 2 per cent, whichever is higher;**
- **That there will also continue to be an additional adult social care precept of 2 per cent for authorities with responsibility for social care services;**
- **And that for the first time, referendum principles will apply to Town and Parish councils for which the Band D charge is higher than £75.46 and the total precept is over £500,000. Whilst this does not impact on Andover Town Council at the moment, it would do so under any devolution settlement;**
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C097/16

Finance

It was proposed by Cllr Hardstaff and seconded by Cllr B Carpenter that the payments up to 18 October 2016 be approved. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

Resolved: That the list of payments up to 18 October 2016 be agreed and approved for payment.

C098/16

Questions from Councillors

There were no questions from Councillors as per Standing Order No 8.

C099/16

Reports from Town Councillors

Cllr. K Bird read the report from Borough Council

Cllr. L Gates attended the Town Council Management Board – little to report – 3 November is the next meeting. He visited the Ludgershall Town Council offices.

He confirmed that he had been approved as a Trustee for Age UK (Mid Hants).

Cllr Christopher Ecclestone reported that he been approached regarding the Weyhill/Millway Road Roundabout, Hampshire County Council have plugged all the holes and will review all of the crossings. He contacted Hampshire County Council regarding length restriction for trucks. Railway proposal between Ludgershall and Andover Cllr C Ecclestone and Cllr Msonthi are representing the Town Council.

Cllr. V Pond reported that on 25 September she went to the Festival of Motoring. On 27 September went to Future of Local Government event hosted by Hampshire County Council.

On 7 October Cllr. Long, Cllr Msonthi and Cllr Pond had meeting with Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council about Emergency resilience.

Cllr Geoff McBride reported that the International Suicide Prevention Day held in Vigo Road Recreation Ground was completely rained out but was still very positive he reported that he had facilitated a ‘Lessons Learnt’ session with them for the following year’s event.

Cllr. J Msonthi attended the mobile chemotherapy van funded by the Hampshire Trust.

Cllr. B Carpenter reported that the footpath had been completed on Roman Road. She suggested it would be a good idea to look into a lorry park for Andover.

Cllr. A Fitchet reported that he had met with Test Valley officers and Councillors regarding skateboarding park.

He reminded Members that on the 17 November 2016 as part of Interfaith Week, there would be a session in the Guildhall involving interfaith discussion and a faith question time.

Cllr. A Cotter attended Suicide Prevention Awareness Fair but was concerned that shopkeepers not put up adverts about the day.

C100/16

Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the date of the next full Council meeting was Thursday 1 December 2016 at 6.30pm in the Upper Guildhall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Chairman

Date