



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

A

Minutes Council

Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 25 January 2018

Place

The Upper Guildhall, Andover

Cllr K Bird - Town Mayor (P)

Cllr B Long – Vice Chairman (P)

Cllr C Bartholomew (P)

Cllr M Mumford (P)

Cllr L Bird (P)

Cllr V Pond (P)

Cllr C Ecclestone (A)

Cllr S Hardstaff (P)

Cllr A Cotter (P)

Cllr Revd. A Fitchet (P)

Cllr R Hughes (P)

Cllr G McBride (P)

Cllr K Hughes (A)

Cllr R Rowles (A)

Cllr B Carpenter (P)

Cllr L Gregori (P)

Cllr R Kidd (P)

Cllr P Crossman (A)

Cllr L Gates (P)

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk) (taking the minutes),

Victoria Warburton (Committee Officer) (training)

County Councillors Present:

Cllr Z Brooks

Borough Councillors Present:

Cllr P North

Cllr D Drew

Cllr I Anderson

Cllr J Cockaday

Members of the Public: 4

Members of the Press: 1

C 077/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr P Crossman, Cllr C Ecclestone and Cllr K Hughes.

C 078/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C 079/17 MINUTES

It was agreed that the minutes from 30 November be withdrawn and approved at the next meeting.

C 080/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr D Drew –

Cllr Drew confirmed that Augusta Park would be considered by Enham and Smannell Parish Councils with reference to the Community Governance Review currently taking place.

With reference to Burghclere Down Test Valley Borough Council would listen to all comments.

Ludgershall to Andover Railway – Borough Councillor Cllr J Budzynski attended the most recent meeting.

MOD need to give permission, feasibility study commercial with tourist use pending availability.

It was suggested that the Friends of Andover Station raise their profile and create future events.

Mrs Coole – 3 points

At the meeting held on 30 November 2017 Council instructed all Committee to reconsider budgets, did discussions take place?

The Town Mayor confirmed that all the Committee budgets were reconsidered.

Why precept higher?

The Town Mayor explained that the Band D Property figure had risen but that the Precept had not been increased.

Why was there a £20,000 Christmas Budget in the main budget and in Earmarked Reserves?

The Town Mayor explained that the Budget in the current year was for operational costs and the hire of the Christmas Lights. The monies set aside in Earmarked Reserves were for infrastructure improvements that had to be carried out during 2018 and 2019 due to new legislation.

The Vice Chair commented that recent legislation changes have meant that changes to the Christmas lighting needs to be made. No lighting can now be strung from lamppost to lamppost, the Christmas Tree lights can no longer be powered from the Guildhall and will require a separate power source which will need to be installed. Officers are to get their G39 certification to be able to go into lamp columns to fix any on-going issues so that further expense is not incurred calling out the installation company.

Why has £100,000 been set aside for the allotments in one year?

The Town Mayor explained that the Town Council had a duty to provide the allotments, even if no one was renting them, they had to be maintained. It is not a linear spend, potential of spend in any given year – officers & committee know what needs to be done.

Ongoing project to reduce costs, a number of contracts have been changed to reduce costs.

Allotments are public land. It is not a business, we cannot put up rents to make profits.

Staff done great job to minimise costs.

Cllr Anderson – Explained that to keep toilets in Andover costs approximately £42,000 per annum.

There are 4 businesses involved with the Community Toilet scheme and the Borough Council gives them £1,500 per annum to assist with their costs.

It will cost £14,000 to demolish the toilets.

Disappointed to see them go and fought to save them. She thanked the Councillors that supported her.

C 081/17 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Town Mayor thanked the Working Group for putting the submitted report together she explained that it was the Town Councils first chance to officially comment and put forward changes that the Town Council wished to see.

There would be a second opportunity to comment once the first round of consultation had taken place.

Members considered the report submitted from the Community Governance Review Working Group. Councillor Gates explained the various topics covered in the report including a recommendation for the number of Councillors to sit on the Town Council.

There was some concern from Members that this had not been considered in full but it was noted again that this was the first of a number of public consultations on the Review and further comments could be made.

It was proposed by Cllr L Gregori and seconded by Cllr B Long that the recommendations included in the report be agreed.

A vote was taken on each of the recommendations:

- 1 – Unanimous
- 2 (to include the comments regarding Burghclere Down) – Unanimous
- 3 (to include comments regarding Andover Downlands Ward) – 14 for, 1 abstention
- 4 (The number of Councillors to be reduced to 16) – 11 for, 4 against
- 5 – Unanimous

Resolved that:

- 1: Council note and accept the report from the working group.**
- 2: Council include comments regarding the transfer of Burghclere Down to Andover parish.**
- 3: Council include comments regarding Andover Downlands ward.**
- 4: Council request the new Town Council consist of 16 councillors as proposed for the borough wards.**
- 5: Council instruct the Town Clerk to submit the above report from item 1 Historical background to TVBC in response to their consultation.**

C 082/17 REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS FROM THE ANDOVER WARDS

County and Borough Councillor Z Brooks reported the following:

Meals on Wheels going up 12p. £4.67 2 course meal, 3 course £5.67. 770 customers – 35000 lunch time meals each month.

Dementia, learning difficulties are delivered.

£2.2 m set aside for carers to take a break. Running for 3 years now.

Library refurb in April 2018.

Borough Councillor I Anderson - Working with Picket Twenty and Persimmonds to try and get some answers about the flooding.

Working with Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to resolve the cars/vans going through the underpasses.

C 083/17 QUESTIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS TO BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Question to Cllr Andersen – Pleased to hear that you are working with Picket Twenty. Do you have an update?

Answer – Persimmonds are following it up and actioning.

Question to Cllr Z Brooks – Thanks for the update on Meals on Wheels. Were you aware that the contractor had changed and the meals were being delivered after 2.30pm?

Answer - I will come back to you.

Question to Cllr P North – Are there any updates on the Town Mills improvements? Are you aware that there is a major rat problem in that area?

Answer – Yes aware of the rat issue Test Valley Borough Council has caught several and are continuing to address the problem.

Progress has been made on the consultation for the improvement of the area, issues are being considered. The County and Borough Councils are working out more details, those details will be available around Feb 2018/March 2018.

Question to Test Valley Borough Councillors - Ongoing saga regarding toilets – how will issue progress?

Answer – Test Valley Borough Council has set up the Community toilet scheme & made decision to close the toilets due to drug issues. They have been closed since July 2017 the drug problem should not be understated. One member of staff was injured – individuals found unconscious – worked with police, all things tried and could not be resolved so had to shut and provide other toilet community scheme.

Cllr Fitchet raised the issue of drug taking at Anton Lakes and asked whether the Borough Council was addressing it? What is Borough & County Council going to do re drug takers?

Answer – The Borough Council were working on the problem in conjunction with the police.

C 084/17 YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE

Councillor Fitchet thanked Members for approving the Youth Council Budget for 2018/2019.

He explained that during 2018 there would be programme of speakers to come and speak to the Youth Councillors.

The Youth Councillors also attended the recent Andover Vision meetings and are working with them, Councillor P North will be attending one of their future meetings.

C 085/17 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The following Committee minutes were noted:

19 October 2017, Assets & Amenities Committee.

2 November 2017, Community Engagement Committee.

16 November 2017, Policy & Resources Committee.

21 December 2017, Policy & Resources Committee.

13 November 2017, Planning Committee.

4 December 2017, Planning Committee.

18 December 2017, Planning Committee.

5 October 2017, Allotments Committee.

C 086/17 BUDGET 2018/2019

Members considered the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee for the Council Budget 2018/2019. It was noted that it had been reduced significantly from the original proposals.

It was proposed by Councillor S Hardstaff and seconded by Councillor L Gregori that the Budget for 2018/2019 should be £274,050.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Andover Town Council Budget for 2018/2019 be £274,050.

C 087/17 PRECEPT 2018/2019

Members noted that the figures for the Tax Band D income had been received from Test Valley Borough Council. The Tax Band D households level for 2018/2019 was noted as 13,638.

It was proposed by Cllr R Hughes and seconded by Cllr L Gregori that the Precept for 2018/2019 be £273,169.14 or 320.03 per Band D Tax household and that the deficit of £880.86 be taken from Council Reserves.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: that the Precept for 2018/2019 be £273,169.14 (Two Hundred seventy three thousand, one hundred and sixty nine pounds and fourteen pence).

C 088/17 EARMARKED RESERVES 2017/2018

The Town Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and Cllr Gregori for the work done on the Earmarked Reserves.

Members noted the report on the Earmarked Reserves and the proposed Earmarked Reserves for 2017/2018.

It was proposed by Cllr S Hardstaff and seconded by Cllr L Gregori that the Earmarked Reserves be agreed for 2017/2018.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Earmarked Reserves for 2017/2018 be agreed (full list attached to Record Minutes).

C 089/17 ANDOVER VISION

It was agreed that the Town Council should provide its official support for the Andover Vision Project.

It was proposed by Cllr B Long and seconded by Cllr R Kidd that the Town Council confirm its support for the Andover Vision Project.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That Andover Town Council confirm its support for the Andover Vision Project.

C 090/17 BUS SHELTERS

Members considered a report on the Bus Shelters of Andover. Members noted that the Town Council originally set up a working group to work with Test Valley on the possible transfer of the Bus Shelters in Andover. It was agreed that it was now for the Town Clerk to take negotiations further.

It was proposed by Cllr A Fitchet and seconded by Cllr I Gregori that the Town Clerk be instructed to continue negotiations with Test Valley Borough Council on the transfer of the Bus Shelters in Andover Parish.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk be instructed to continue negotiations with Test Valley Borough Council on the transfer of the Bus Shelters in the Andover Parish.

C 091/17 FINANCE

The list of payments up to 23 January 2018 was received. It was proposed by Cllr L Gregori and seconded by Cllr R Kidd that the payments be approved. A vote was taken 14 for, 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That the following payments up to 23 January 2018 be approved:

BACS/Cheque No	Supplier	Item	Amount (£)
468551604	Blachere Illuminations	Removal services for main lights	2988.66
182019617	Blachere Illuminations	Removal services for additional lights	441.60
589742340	MB Pest Services	Pest control allots x 7	400.00
603301760	Convenient Hire Ltd	Supply of toilets x 7 allot sites	560.98
107581025	Town Clerk	Reimbursements January 2018	113.62
266009438	Custom Studio	Website and email hosting Jan18	35.94
830259948	Custom Studio	Website construction – index page	1620.00
992314543	Grass & Grounds	Maintenance at VR Allts	102.00
181122510	Kevin Justice	Turn off water supply x 6 sites	150.00
DDMAINDec17	Mainstream Digital	Call charges 05.12.17-21.12.17	5.42
383681742	Moore's Cleaning	Cleaning services Dec 17	141.28
274986544	Pitney Bowes	Franking Machine Rental Dec 17	19.15
265448801	Restore Datashred	Removal of confidential waste	24.00
DDSageJan18	Sage UK Limited	Payroll software Jan 18	7.20
486571801	Test Valley BC	Hire of Guildhall 11,25 Jan 2018	109.80
93955287	WPS Insurance	Additional Premium for xmas lights	22.55
DDBESJan18	BES Commercial	Electricity charge 15.12.17-15.01.18	126.57
978708834	Business Stream	Water Supply Vigo 10.10.17-10.01.18	103.22
DDICO2018	Info Commissioner	Data Protection Registration 2018	35.00
105776819	Test Valley BC	50% contribution Town Centre Man	5,125.00
636634280	Test Valley BC	Business Rates 68b Sep17-Mar18	896.84
	Payroll	Payroll	6419.96
TOTAL up to 23 January 2018			19,367.49

C 092/17 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no questions received from Councillors.

C 093/17 REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

The following reports were received from Town Councillors:

Councillor Barbara Long attended Parish briefing 13 Dec on Highways. She also attended a Test Valley Northern Area Planning Meeting on the demolition of the George Yard toilets. Members were told that a decision had been made in committee. The decision had been made as an operational decision as

they could not be operated safely. The decision would be brought before another committee prior to final decision of demolition. The arguments against the demolition that Cllr Long put forward were based on a central government white paper. It was agreed at a Planning Committee meeting that Cllr Long would represent the Town Council at any future discussion of the George Yard toilets.

Councillor Revd Andy Fitchet reported that Rev Cannon John Harkin was retiring and thanked him for his service.

Councillor Richard Kidd met with Borough Councillor Jan Lovell regarding ward issues, he also spoke to constituents regarding the demolition of the toilets and most were against.

Councillor Len Gates attended Abbots Ann & Smannell parish council meetings where the Community Governance Review was discussed. The parishes had agreed that Burghclere Down should remain in their parish

Andover Town Centre Management Board will publish all the events that they will be supporting this year. An additional event will be held in April and will be reported to the Allotment Committee.

Councillor Katherine Bird thanked Cllr Long for her efforts with regard to the toilets at George Yard.

C 094/17 DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting was noted, 29 March 2018, location to be confirmed.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.41pm.

Chairman

Date