



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

A

Minutes Council

Constantia Basis Virtutum

Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 26 January 2017

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 (P)

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 (P)

Cllr A Cotter (P)

Cllr S Hardstaff (P)
(arrived 7:50pm)

Cllr B Long (P)

Cllr M Mumford (P)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr K Hughes (P) (arrived
7.04pm)

Cllr D Marriner (A)

Cllr V Pond (P)

County Councillors

Cllr Z Brooks (P)

Cllr Rolt (P)

Borough Councillors

Cllr I Andersen (P)

Cllr J Lovell (P)

Cllr S Hawke (P)

Alabare

Vanessa Bedford +1

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

Members of the Public: 5

A statement regarding the Leisure Centre development was read prior to the start of the meeting by the Chairman.

C124/16 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

C125/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C126/16 Minutes

The chairman to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 1st December 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Proposed by Cllr R Kidd and seconded by Cllr B Carpenter a vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting of 1st December 2017 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C127/16 Public Participation

Vanessa Bedford from Alabare informed Members that as there had been a change of funding from Hampshire County Council and the Junction would be closing its doors on 31 March 2017. The Junction had over 7,500 visitors per year and cost £108,000 to run per year. The Junction helped many young people in Andover and many with low level mental illness.

David, a young person from The Junction, stated that he used it on a daily basis and starting when he was 17, he is now 23 years old. He felt he could be himself there and could talk to them about anything. He suffered from mental health issues and The Junction have helped him. He was very grateful for the work they had done and did not know how to repay them. He depended and relied upon the service.

Mr Nigel Long stated that he was pleased the microphones were being used for the meeting. He was pleased to see that there was no proposed increase to the Precept. Last year the Town Council increased the Precept significantly, are they going to publish on the website their achievements from last year?

C128/16 Reports from Borough and County Councillors from the Andover Wards

Cllr T Rolt – Hampshire County Councillor gave a verbal report covering the following topics:

Roman Way School Crossing – officer meeting to discuss options.

King Arthurs Way – school crossing patrol person has retired, a new crossing patrol person is being recruited.

Picket Twenty – Picket Twenty Lane – Persimmons have produced drawings of plans for the roadway, it had to be re-drawn to Highways criteria.

Salting – the County Council has many salt routes, encouraging the salt routes to be along the Bus Routes. Will ensure the Town Council is kept up to date with progress on this matter.

Pilgrims Way – concerns about lighting levels, if there are any concerns, please let Cllr T Rolt know.

Alabare – fully support the Town Council's motion, asking HCC what can be done.

Batchelors Barn Road – pot holes, please inform HCC when vehicles are not parked along the road so that pot holes can be filled.

Cllr I Andersen – Test Valley Borough Councillor gave a verbal report covering the following topics:

Thank Cllr Rolt for his support.

Leisure Centre – 23 people have spoken about it so far, asking Test Valley Borough Council to consider the concerns

The Junction – support all the working being done to try and save the service.

Cllr Z Brooks – Hampshire County Councillor and Test Valley Borough Councillor gave a verbal report on the following topics:

Concerns about Harroway School and Portway, there are safety issues. Working with safety officers to teach the children road safety.

Charlton Road – safe crossing.

Saxon Road to Charlton – speed limit down to 40mph.

C129/16 Questions from Town Councillors to Borough and County Councillors

Cllr Ecclestone asked Cllr Anderson if she could confirm if Test Valley Borough Council thought that 2 years for the redevelopment of the Leisure Centre was acceptable. Was it an Officer's decision? How long will the closure be? Cllr Ecclestone also asked then the users of the leisure centre would be informed. He brought to Members attention that the proposed panoramic windows would leave children exposed to passers-by.

Cllr L Gregori asked Cllr Brooks is there was anything personally she could do for The Junction?

Cllr Brooks responded that she had investigated, there was currently a service available across a number of overlapping providers and Hampshire County Council is already funding; Andover Mind, Family Lives, Kim Frances Sunrise Family Support. There is support already available that young people need.

Cllr Fitchett asked Cllr Brooks if she felt that there was adequate provision for the young people of Andover, as he did not believe that the existing services overlap with the service The Junction provides.

Cllr Brooks responded that she would go to The Junction and find out what it is they offer.

Cllr Rowles asked Cllr Brooks what cost benefit analysis had been done to qualify withdrawing the funding.

Cllr Books responded by asking Cllr Rowles to email the question.

C130/16 Youth Council Update

Cllr A Fitchet gave a report which included the following:

The Youth Council met before Christmas, discussions were about how to move the Youth Council forward. The Advisory Panel would meet the week commencing 30 January 2017. The Panel was monitoring the Young People.

C131/16 Committee Minutes

The following Minutes were noted.

8 December 2016 - Assets & Amenities Committee.

5 January 2017 - Community Engagement Committee.

17 November 2016- Policy & Resources Committee

15 December 2016- Policy & Resources Committee

12 January 2017 - Policy & Resources Committee

5 December 2016- Planning Committee

19 December 2016- Planning Committee

9 January 2017 - Planning Committee

C132/16 MOTIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Proposed by Cllr R Kidd and Seconded by Cllr C Ecclestone

Andover Town Council resolves to contact Aster Properties and invite them to a future meeting to give a presentation on their operations in Andover and answer questions on local issues.

Cllr Kidd spoke to the motion, indicating that he was concerned about the number of complaints he was receiving from Aster Tenants.

Members discussed the motion and agreed that Aster should be invited to a future Town Council meeting.

A vote was taken, which Cllr L Gregori requested was recorded:

Voted For: L Gregori, R Hughes, B Carpenter, A Cotter, C Bartholomew, K Hughes, R Kidd, G McBride, a Fitchet, B Long, V Pond, R Rowles, C Ecclestone, L Gates, K Bird.

Voted against: None

Abstentions: M Mumford

RESOLVED: That Andover Town Council contact Aster Properties and invite them to a future meeting to give a presentation on their operations in Andover and answer questions on local issues.

Proposed by Cllr C Bartholomew and Seconded by Cllr L Gregori

Andover Town Council resolves to:

Encourage and support public attempts to raise funding for the running costs of The Junction. Write to the Chief Executives of Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council putting forward a case for continued public funding for The Junction.

Cllr C Bartholomew spoke to her motion, explaining that she had sent a briefing note to Town Councillors regarding the situation at The Junction.

(Cllr S Hardstaff arrived)

Members discussed the motion, concerns were raised that public money was being spent where it was really needed. It was noted that discussions had been taking place with The Junction to try and find a solution to the situation. All Town Council members expressed their deepest concerns about the closure of The Junction.

A vote was taken and it was agreed UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council encourage and support public attempts to raise funding for the running costs of The Junction. The Town Council would write to the Chief Executives of Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council, putting forward a case for the continued public funding for The Junction.

C133/16 Town Council Budget and Precept 2017/2018

Members considered the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee for the Council Budget 2017/2018. The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Cllr Steven Hardstaff gave Members the following information in support of the Budget:

“The Budget and the Precept must be considered in two separate parts. Firstly Members are asked to consider and agree the Budget.

Once the Budget has been agreed, it is the Council’s duty to agree how the Precept should be funded.

It has been extremely difficult to manage the budget, however the Policy and Resources have recommended that for 2017/2018, there will be no increase in the Precept. Residents will not see an increase this year”.

Members discussed the proposed budget and questions were asked, including:

The Chairman’s Regalia has been included again in 2017/2018?

The Town Centre Management Budget has been reduced, why?

Is funding included in the Assets & Amenities Budget for Tourist Information kiosks?

Only £1,000 has been set aside for Grants, is this enough?

There is a budget for a New Building, as well as increasing the budget for rent, this is inconsistent.

The Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee, Cllr S Hardstaff, responded to the questions:

The Town Council has not spent the funds for the Chairman’s regalia in 2016/2017, by putting aside monies in the 2017/2018 Budget as well, there will be sufficient for the Vice Chairman.

The Town Centre Managers contract was for 3 years, which will end in May 2017. Funding has been provided until May and a short transition period.

Monies for offices – the landlord has the right to increase the rental and the Town Council is looking for alternative premises, there is likely to a crossover from one property to another.

Grants – yes, the £1,000 is used, however there are monies set aside in Earmarked Reserves for Grants.

Tourist Information Kiosks are covered in Projects.

Members noted that the figures for the Tax Band D income had been received from Test Valley Borough Council. The Tax Band D household's level is: 13,380.

Cllr Hardstaff proposed and Cllr A Fitchet seconded that the Andover Town Council Budget for 2017/2018 should be £268,002.00

A vote was taken, 15 for and 1 abstention. The vote was carried.

RESOLVED: That the Andover Town Council Budget for 2017/2018 be £268,002.00 (Two Hundred and Eight Thousand and Two Pounds).

It was proposed by Cllr S Hardstaff and seconded by Cllr A Fitchet that the Precept for 2017/2018 be £268,001.40 or £20.03 per Band D Tax household.

A vote was taken which was UNANIMOUS.

RESOLVED: that the Precept for 2017/2018 should be £268,001.40 (Two Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand and One Pounds and Forty Pence).

C134/16 Neighbourhood plan for Andover

Members received and noted the Report given on the Neighbourhood Plan, members discussed three potential options:

1. Continue with the Neighbourhood plan as it stands
2. Suspend the current Neighbourhood Plan
3. Consider further options.

Concerns were raised by some Members that the voting of Members on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee were not correctly held.

The Chairman explained that they were originally voted on by full Council and then additional members were voted on at a public meeting.

Members were asked what they wanted to do with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan, with Members noting that at the previous Council meeting a report was received recommending the cessation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Members further noted that a great deal of work was required to look at the options in detail and could not be completed in one Council meeting. It was suggested that a series of meetings be held for Members to consider all the options and formulate a way forward.

Concerns were raised again that new Members should be voted onto the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee with the argument that the newly elected Members in 2015, had not had a chance to vote.

Members further considered the submitted report and it was agreed that a decision on the future of the Neighbourhood Plan could not be made at the Council meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr A Fitchet, that the report be received and noted and that the Chairman and Town Clerk be tasked to find time for a meeting for Members to consider options, before the next meeting of full Council. This was seconded by Cllr M Mumford.

The members discussed this proposal and an amendment was proposed by Cllr R Hughes, to suspend the Neighbourhood Plan before moving forward. This was seconded by Cllr L Gates.

(Cllr K Hughes left at 8.35pm)

A vote was taken on the amended proposal that the Neighbourhood plan be suspended before moving forward, which was requested by Cllr L Gregori to be recorded:

Voting for: R Hughes, C Bartholomew, B Carpenter, L Gates, L Gregori.

Voting Against: A Cotter, S Hardstaff, R Rowles, G McBride, M Mumford, A Fitchet, B Long, R Kidd, C Ecclestone, K Bird.

Abstentions: V Pond.
The Amendment was lost.

A vote was taken on the original proposal that the report be received and noted and that the Chairman and Town Clerk be tasked to find time for a meeting for Members to consider options, before the next meeting of full Council

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

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted and that the Chairman and Town Clerk be tasked to find time for a meeting for Members to consider options, before the next meeting of full Council.

C135/16 Travel and Expenses Policy

The members considered the recommendation from Policy and Resources Committee to adopt a Travel Expenditure Policy for staff.

It was proposed to accept by Cllr S Hardstaff and seconded by Cllr A Fitchet.

A vote was taken which was UNANIMOUS.

RESOLVED: to adopt a Travel and Expenditure Policy for Staff, attached to Record Minutes.

C136/16 Boundary Review

Members were asked to consider re-forming the Boundary Review Working Group because Test Valley Borough Council's ward boundary review was triggered by the LGBCE.

It was suggested that the Working Group be reformed to consider the proposals for the Andover Wards and feed into Test Valley Borough Councils ward boundary review.

The following Members offered to be on the Working Group:

V Pond, L Gregori, B Long, C Ecclestone K Bird, R Hughes, L Gates, S Hardstaff and R Rowles.

It was proposed by Cllr C Ecclestone and seconded by Cllr B Long that the Town Council's Boundary Review Working Group re-convene to consider the proposals for the Andover Wards and feed into the Test Valley Borough Council's ward boundary review.

A vote was taken which was UNANIMOUS.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council's Boundary Review Working Group re-convene to consider the proposals for the Andover Wards and feed into the Test Valley Borough Council's ward boundary review. The Membership of the Working Group to be: V Pond, L Gregori, B Long, C Ecclestone K Bird, R Hughes, L Gates, S Hardstaff and R Rowles.

C137/16 Committee membership

Members were asked to approve the Membership of the Planning Committee to include Cllr B Carpenter. Members were asked to approve the Membership of the Community Engagement Committee to include Cllrs R Kidd and M Mumford.

Proposed by Cllr Fitchett and seconded by Cllr Hardstaff that Cllr Carpenter be accepted on to the Planning Committee and Cllrs R Kidd and M Mumford be accepted on to the Community Engagement Committee.

A vote was taken which was UNANIMOUS

RESOLVED: that Cllr Carpenter be accepted on to the Planning Committee and Cllrs R Kidd and M Mumford be accepted on to the Community Engagement Committee.

C138/16 Finance

Members were asked to approve the list of payments up to 24 January 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr S Hardstaff and seconded by Cllr A Fitchet.

A vote was taken which was UNANIMOUS.

RESOLVED: That the payments up to 24 January 2017 be approved (Listed below).

BACS/Cheque No	Supplier	Item	Amount (£)
599185132	Alto Digital	Photocopying costs 30.09.16-31.12.16	622.91
7495347	Baxter Confidential	Removal of confidential waste up to 31.12.2016	78.00
436622730	Convenient Hire	Provision of toilets x 7 sites	587.65
515598299	Custom Studio	Website hosting and provision of emails x 25	35.94
373452327	Grass and Grounds	Hedge cutting and grounds maintenance (Allots)	1296.00
126842384	Kevin Justice	Plumbing works + turn off water x 6 sites	210.00
DDMainDec16	Mainstream Digital	Telephone call charges 31.11.2016-22.12.2016	7.68
528087054	Moore's Cleaning	Cleaning services for offices - December 2016	135.19
583842114	Pitney Bowes	Franking Machine Rental January 2017	19.15
DDSAGEJan17	Sage UK	Monthly charge for payroll Jan 2017	6.00
626723770	TVBC	Hire of Guildhall 26 Jan 2017	54.00
DDBESJan17	BES Commercial Electricity	Electricity provision 15.12.2016 – 15.01.2017	124.46
926124903	Blachere Illuminations	Garlands for Town Mills + additional bulbs	1247.04
8628036	Blachere Illuminations	Removal of Christmas Lights (1)	430.00
423665363	Blachere Illuminations	Removal of Christmas Lights (2)	3659.46
DDICOJan17	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration Renewal Jan 2017	35.00
857069755	Lightatouch Internal Audit	Internal Audit services covering April – Dec 2016 + financial risk assess for Allotments	745.25
436890583	M B Pest Services	Pest control services for allotments January 2017	400.00
300348	Valley Leisure Limited	Provision of climbing wall for A-Fest 2016	300.00
DDPEACFeb2017	Pan European Asset Company	Rental of photocopier 01.02.2017 – 30.04.2017	767.18
1742 & 1746	Staff	Salaries for February 2017	3,652.90
1748	NEST	Pension contributions February 2017	83.70
1743	H M R C	Tax contributions February 2017	84.23

Members were asked to approve the Bank Reconciliations up to 30 November and 31 December 2016. It was proposed by Cllr S Hardstaff and seconded by Cllr A Fitchet.

A Vote was taken which was UNANIMOUS.

RESOLVED: That the Bank Reconciliations up to 30 November and 31 December 2016 be approved.

C139/16 Questions from Councillors

Three questions were received from Cllr R Rowles regarding the Andover BID and the Andover Leisure Centre:

Has the Town Council been approached by the organisers of the Andover BID to play our part?

Answer – no not at the current time.

With regard to the sports centre being a community asset of the town centre, were the Town Council made any assurances regarding the scope and availability of services?

Answer – The Town Council were given assurances which were included in the report submitted to the Town Council on Thursday 27 October 2016.

If so what were they?

Answer –

“The papers that have been provided all very clearly state that the contract will only be considered if the following is included:

“Redevelopment of ALC, through either a total replacement or major refurbishment, with a facility mix which meets the needs analysis but in particular should seek to include:

- Enhanced pool provision over and above the existing provision, to address the shortfall in provision identified. This is anticipated to be at least a 6 lane, 25 metre pool, with a learner pool provision as a minimum provision, with the potential to deliver additional capacity for swimming (such as through a moveable floor or through larger water space)

- *Sports Hall provision to deliver on the current programmes of use (recognising the needs for events)*
- *Squash Court provision to meet the need identified, possibly through flexible space (utilizing moveable walls to deliver studios when not being used for squash)*
- *Health and Fitness provision to meet the identified demand, including studios*
- *Possible space allocated for community health provision (this is identified as circa 800 square metres of space)*
- *Supporting facilities to ensure delivery of an effective leisure facility” – ref: TVBC Descriptive Document, Section 2- Outcomes and Objectives, Facility Development”.*

C140/16 Reports from Town Councillors

Cllr K Bird

Attended Icknield Nativity and report that the children were all well behaved.
Test Valley Borough Council Wayfinders projects, thanks to all the Councillors we were able to send back over 60 corrections with special thanks to Cllr Long.

Andover Vision is going to Beech Hurst and happy that feedback is accurate.

Cllr B Long

Attended Andover Stakeholder meeting

Cllr V Pond

Attended Andover Vision on 11 January.

Cllr Gates

Recently attended meeting at Roman Way School, thanks to T Rolt. Town Centre Management Board – specific issues.

Cllr A Fitchett

Met with Peter Pan Club-table tennis. Wished to relay to the Town Council how many lives would be negatively affected if the space was lost at the Sportshall. Very unimpressed with plans.

Cllr M Mumford

Reported that the Proms in the Park Working Group has met 3 times.

Cllr G McBride

Reported that the A-Fest team has met twice since Christmas and that the Andover Challenges team will meet on 9 March.

Cllr R Kidd

Reported meetings with several constituents.

Cllr S Hardstaff

Reported meeting with Andover Vision.

Cllr C Bartholomew

Reported meeting with Andover Vision with The Junction

Cllr B Carpenter

Thank TR and Cllr L Gates Roman Way.

C141/16 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the date of the next Council meeting was, **Thursday 23 March 2017**, in the Upper Guildhall, starting at **7pm**.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm

Chairman

Date