



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

A

Minutes Council

Time and date

7.00pm on Wednesday 28 January 2015

Place

The Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover

Details of Attendance:

Cllr G McBride (Chairman) (P)

Cllr V Pond (Vice-Chairman) (P)

Cllr K Bird (P)	Cllr Z Brooks (P)	Cllr B Carpenter (A)	Cllr A Cotter (P)	Cllr D Drew (A)
Cllr A Fitchet (A)	Cllr K Hamilton(P)	Cllr S Hardstaff (P)	Cllr S Hawke (P)	Cllr K Hughes (P)
Cllr M Kerley (A)	Cllr R Khuman (A)	Cllr B Long (P)	Cllr C Lynn (P)	Cllr P North (P)
Cllr B Page (A)	Cllr R Shukri (A).			

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

Members of the Public: 5

C 65/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs B Page, B Carpenter, D Drew, A Fitchet, M Kerley and R Shukri.

C 66/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C 67/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 November 2014 were agreed and signed

by the Chairman as a correct record.

C 68/14 Public Participation

No Members of the public asked a question or made a statement.

C 69/14 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman Councillor G McBride reminded all present that the Town Council would be going to the Elections in May 2015. He encouraged anyone with an interest in the Town to stand as a Councillor.

Cllr McBride called for a minutes silence to commemorate Holocaust Day.

Cllr McBride further reported that the Health and Wellbeing Group had sent a letter requesting that an Orthodontist be set up in Andover.

C 70/14 Youth Council Update

Youth Councillors Jordan Simcox and Theo Youds made a presentation to the Town Council on the progress of the Projects of the Youth Council.

They were pleased to announce that the Youth Council had received £6,300 from the Big Lottery fund towards the A-Fest. Confirmation was also awaited for funding from 2 Wards from Test Valley Borough Council.

Dates had been fixed for auditions for performers at the A-Fest and Youth Councillors would be sitting on the panel of judges.

They reported that the Hampshire Association of Local Councils had been informed of the Youth Council's formation and that HALC were actively promoting the work of the Youth Council.

Cllr Youds informed Members that he was standing for the United Kingdom Youth Parliament Elections for the Test Valley and New Forest Area and that the Youth Council was supporting him as much as possible by getting local schools to vote for him.

The Youth Councillors reported that Andover Leisure Centre was actively supporting the Youth Council by allowing them to use one of their meeting rooms on a regular basis free of charge, Yth Cllr Simcox and Youds extended their thanks to Kevin Patterson and Mark Raithby for all their continued help and support.

C 71/14 Committee Minutes

The following Minutes were received and noted:

27 November 2014 – Amenities and Town Development Committee

15 January 2015 – Amenities and Town Development Committee

10 December 2014 – Policy and Resources Committee

10 November 2014 – Planning Committee

1 December 2014 – Planning Committee

15 December 2014 – Planning Committee

19 January 2015 – Planning Committee

C 72/14 Town Council Budget and Precept 2015/2016

Members considered the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee for the Council Budget 2015/2016. The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Cllr Steven Hardstaff gave Members the following information in support of the Budget:

Following amendments made during the Policy and Resources Committee meetings the

Town Council's proposed budget is £163,033 for 2015/2016. Leaving a deficit of - £138,293.

In 2014 the Town Council received a Business Rates rebate of £9,906.13.

It is suggested that the rebate be transferred to the 2015/2016 Budget to offset the deficit to £128,386.87.

The figures for the Tax Band D income have been received from Test Valley borough Council. The Tax Band D household's level is: 12,522.

The Policy and Resources Committee have recommended that the Precept remain the same at £10.58 per Band D Tax Household, therefore the Precept for Andover Town Council will be £132,482.76

The Town Council currently has General Reserves of £49,768.79.

Cllr Hardstaff proposed and Cllr Bird seconded that the Andover Town Council Budget for 2015/2016 should be £163,033 that the Precept for 2015/2016 should be £132,482 leaving an estimated Reserve of £49,768.79.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council Budget for 2015/2016 should be £163,033 that the Precept for 2015/2016 should be £132,482 leaving an estimated Reserve of £49,768.79

C 73/14 Town Centre Map

Members considered a proposal from the Town Centre Manager regarding a contribution from the Town Council of £300 towards the production of a Town Centre Map.

Cllr Hardstaff, the Town Council's representative on the Town Centre Partnership reported that a project had been suggested between the Town Centre Manager, Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council and local businesses to update the maps that were currently displayed in the Town Car Parks.

The Map will also be available in a website version which the Town Council would have access to.

Members discussed the proposal and agreed that the Town Council should support it. It was agreed that £300 would be given towards the project on the understanding that the Town Council's logo be included on all advertising and promotion of the Maps.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the Town Council approve the funding of a Town Centre Map in partnership with the Town Centre Manager, Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.
- b. That £300 be released from the Development of the Town Centre Budget.

C 74/14 Hampshire Police – Precept

Members were asked to consider a consultation from Hampshire Police which was as follows:

“Simon Hayes, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, is inviting members of the public across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to have their say on the level of council tax precept for the policing budget in 2015/2016.

The commissioner is proposing a nominal increase of 1.99 percent. For an average Band D household, this equates to a rise of just £3.07 per annum (or 26p per month, or 6p per week) from £154.26 to £157.33. This increase would generate an additional £2 million for 2015/2016, which is the cost of employing 43 police officers”.

Members discussed the proposal.

Cllr North made the following observation; Hampshire County Council have frozen their council tax for the last 6 years, Test Valley Borough Council have frozen their council tax for 3 out of the last 4 years, and Andover Town Council has frozen its council tax for 4 out of the last 5 years. Why have the police out it up every year for the past 3 years?

In 2013/2014 the police precept went up by 3.4% - £5 on Band D

In 2014/2015 the police precept went up by 1.99% - £3.01 on Band D

In 2015/2016 a further 1.99% proposed - £3.07 on Band D

Essentially an £11.08 rise in 3 years.

Mr Hayes is only proposing a 1.99% increase, if it were to increase by 2% or more (the Government Cap) a referendum would have to be called.

Members considered Councillor North’s observation and agreed that the following statement should be sent on behalf of the Town Council with regard to the consultation:

“Andover Town Council would like to see more restraint with regard to Hampshire Police’s Precept, having increased it over the past 2 years would like to see a freeze this year.”

It was agreed that the Town Clerk would write a letter on behalf of the Town Council in response to the consultation.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk write to Hampshire Police in response to the consultation on the Precept for 2015/2016 on behalf of Andover Town Council with the following statement: “Andover Town Council would like to see more restraint with regard to Hampshire Police’s Precept, having increased it over the past 2 years would like to see a freeze this year.”

C 75/14 Finance

BACS/Cheque No	Date of Inv	Description	Supplier	Amount (£)
300109	12.01.2015	Removal of xmas lights	Blachere	3291.30
300104	05.01.2015	Allotments Assist Pension Jan ‘15	Hampshire Pension Fund	162.16
300105	05.01.2015	Tax contributions Jan ‘15	HMRC	1085.82
300106	23.12.2014	Mrs B Long	2 Litter pickers	15.98

300107	04.12.2014	Water supply – AW	Southern Water	21.27
300108	09.01.2015	Road Closure fee A-Fest	Test Valley BC	25.00
980676869	21.01.2015	Rent difference Council office	Garry Hatto	375.03
536142683	30.12.2014	3 mths service charge – recycling	Baxter Confidential	78.00
DD1536817	12.12.2014	Electricity 15.11.2014-15.12.2014	BES Commercial	85.79
DD1580934	15.01.2015	Electricity 15.12.2014-15.01.2015	BES Commercial	81.14
DD4402911753	16.12.2014	Photocopier Rental 01.01.15-31.03.15	CIT Vendor Finance	308.53
886504268	31.12.2015	Allotments – Toilet Hire	Convenient Hire	614.39
648026334	01.01.2015	Website hosting & email provision	Custom Studio Ltd	224.70
245608568	27.01.2015	Reimbursements January 2015	Town Clerk	86.55
BACS16.01.2015	06.11.2014	Design Logo for YC A-Fest	Joshua Hush	60.00
DD MainsNov	30.11.2014	Phone call charges 01.11.2014-28.11.2014	Mainstream Digital	7.35
DD MainsDec	31.12.2014	Phone call charges 02.12.2014-19.12.2014	Mainstream Digital	6.54
202054898	29.12.2014	Cleaning Services 1-28 Dec'14	Moores Cleaning Services	130.00
458030083	19.12.2014	Heritage Plaque Planning app	Spencer Architecture	761.00
20432046	01.01.2015	Hire of halls	Test Valley BC	95.40
600810197	01.01.2015	Hire of Guildhall 08.01.2015	Test Valley BC	58.00
328360940	09.01.2015	Hire of Guildhall 28.01.2015	Test Valley BC	58.00
217286648	28.01.2015	Salary February 2015	Allotment Administrator	907.59
113274274	28.01.2015	Salary February 2015	Town Clerk	2270.50
300110	28.01.2015	Allotment Admin Pension Feb'15	Hampshire Pension Fund	194.01
300111	28.01.2015	Tax contributions Feb 2015	HMRC	1102.13
TOTAL				12,106.18

C 76/14 Questions from Councillors

There were no questions received from Councillors under Standing Order No 8.

C 77/14 Reports from Councillors

Members received a report from Cllr Pond on the National Association of Local Council's Annual Conference that she attended on 3 December 2014. She confirmed that Andover Town Council was still the youngest Council with the largest population. Cllr Hawke reported that the Encounters Project results were stored at The Lights and were open for public viewing.

Cllr Hawke further reported that the new Trauma Centre for Hampshire would be located off Junction 7 on the A303 at Dummer, it would have a birthing centre but Andover would not lose its birthing centre.

Cllr Hardstaff thanked the Mayor of Test Valley for attending the Town Council's Commemorative football match on Christmas Day.

Cllr Bird reported that there appeared to be no trace of the original floral clock, however, senior officers at Test Valley Borough Council were in support of the project. She asked

that if there were any other organisations that wished to be involved they contact either herself or Mr James. Test Valley Borough Council had confirmed that they would continue to plant flowers and tend the beds.

Cllr Long thanked all those who had assisted with the turning on of the Christmas Lights. She further reported that Hampshire County Council had installed a Grit Bin at Leighton Way.

Cllr McBride expressed an intention to investigate the creation of 'Friends of Andover Railway Station' further details would follow.

C 78/14 Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Cllr I Andersen reported that Andover Framing had won an award and that there was a display in Test Valley Borough Council's reception, she urged everyone to have a look.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

Chairman

Date