



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

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Constantia Basis Virtutum

Minutes Council

Time and date

8.04pm on Thursday 28 July 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 (P) (Left at 9.00pm)

Cllr A Fitchet (P)

Cllr R Hughes (P)

Cllr J Msonthi (P)

Cllr B Carpenter (P)

Cllr L Gregori (P)

Cllr B Long (P)

Cllr M Mumford (P)

Cllr A Cotter (P)

Cllr S Hardstaff (A)

Cllr D Marriner (A)

Cllr V Pond (A)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr K Hughes (P) (left at 9.00pm)

Cllr G McBride (P)

Cllr R Rowles (A)

County Councillors

Cllr Z Brooks (P)

Borough Councillors

Cllr I Andersen (A)

Cllr K Hamilton (P)

Cllr J Cockaday (P)

Cllr J Lovell (P)

Cllr S Hawke (P)

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

Members of the Public: 4

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Town Council received a presentation from Chris Munns, CEO of the Museum of Army Flying at Middle Wallop. Mr Munns gave a background to the Museum and informed Members that the Museum, in conjunction with the Army Air Corp were undertaking a project to install a memorial to all those from the Army Air Corp who had lost their lives since the formation of the Air Corp on 4 September 1917.

He explained to Members that the Museum and Army Air Corp were raising money for the installation of the memorial and that it was partly funded by the Lottery Fund.

C045/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors S Hardstaff, V Pond and R Rowles.

C046/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C047/16 Minutes

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 June 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting of 23 June 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C048/16 Hampshire Devolution

Members received a presentation from Stuart Jarvis and County Councillor Rob Humby on possible Devolution plans for Hampshire.

The presentation slides are attached to **Record Minutes**.

Members noted that a consultation on the Devolution was being published on 29 July 2016 and would run until the end of September 2016. The consultation would be published widely throughout Hampshire asking for people's opinion on the options for Devolution in Hampshire.

Cllr Humby made it clear that it was central government's decision to roll out devolution across the country. There were many options as to how it could be done but ultimately it was the Secretary of State's decision. He urged as many people as possible to complete the Consultation.

At the end of the presentation questions were taken.

Members raised questions regarding the re-drawing of the boundaries for Hampshire and Andover. It was noted that the Boundaries would need to be redrawn but there were details as yet.

Concerns were raised about the services provided by the different tiers of local government.

It was confirmed that if devolution happened, the services would be covered by one council in Hampshire and more local services would be taken on by Parish and Town Councils.

C049/16 Public Participation

Mr R Kidd – Andover Resident

Had received a reply to his letter to Hampshire County Council regarding the amount of compensation given to those who had fallen over on pavements. £1,500 for Andover, £12,000 for Basingstoke.

He praised the Borough Councillors for attending the Town Council meeting, would have liked to see more attending. Suggested that the Borough Councillors operate a rota system for attendance.

Mr N Long – Andover Resident

The recent P&R agenda of the 14th July 2016 shows allotment rents bring an income of £22,512.01, yet you have spent £38,381.62 in running them.

A deficit of £15,869.61 plus a huge sum of £5,400 for pest control for a four month period. If you carry on spending at this rate, it will be £15,000 just for pest control.

Will all these overspends by this council be taken out of your already depleted reserves?

Also what are you doing to control this continued overspend?

Why should a service that is enjoyed by a few hundred people of Andover be paid for by the whole town?

Cllr Len Gates

The Town Council is working with Test Valley Borough Council with regard to the pest control. It is not just a problem on the Town Council's allotment sites, it is an Andover wide problem. The Town Council must deal with the pest control on its allotment sites, mainly for health and safety reasons.

The Chairman of the Town Council

Regarding your comments about the cost of running the allotments, we will send this back to the Allotment Committee for consideration.

Mr N Long – Andover Resident

I would like to know when I can expect a full answer to previous questions that I have asked at earlier Town Council meetings, like the list of Community Right to Bid list to be published on the Council's website (12 May 2016). Similar the Councillor Training and Attendance that the Chairman said would be published, as I still cannot find the relevant information.

Finally, when can we expect the update of what is happening about the Andover Levy? This has dragged on for years now.

The Chairman of the Town Council

When the Community Right to Bid applications have been sent to Test Valley Borough Council they will be published on the Town Council website.

There has been progress on the Andover Levy, we made a proposal to Test Valley Borough Council, which was rejected, and we are now exploring further options. As soon as we have more information that can be shared, it will be.

The Clerk is working on making all of the training and attendance records available.

Mr Davis – Andover Resident

Reported that a couple of the pot holes he reported last time had been filled in. Cllr Tim Rolt had been in touch with him to say that he had photographed the pot holes and reported them to the Highways Team. However, nothing had been done about them yet.

Mr Davis asked if Cllr Drew's suggestion of a Town Councillor responsible for Highways reporting had been considered yet.

The Chairman confirmed that it had not been given consideration as yet.

C050/16 Reports from Borough and County Councillors from the Andover Wards

County Councillor Z Brooks reported that Hampshire County Council were reducing Children's Centres from 54 to 11. Hampshire County Council were looking at each 'hub' for instance Spring Meadow in Andover, other suggestions for meeting places were requested.

Borough Councillor K Hamilton reported that the shop in Saxon Fields that had a fire was re-opened. The resurfacing work due in Saxon park would now be taking place from Spring 2017.

C051/16 Questions from Town Councillors to Borough and County Councillors

Cllr C Bartholomew asked Cllr Brooks what the 'hubs' would be?

Cllr Books answered that if families could not get to Spring Meadow, the social services team would meet them elsewhere and have a one-to-one.

Cllr B Long thanked Cllr Cockaday for his recent updates regarding the trees, in Vigo Road Recreation Ground and St Mary's Church.

C052/16 Chairman's Announcements

Since the last Full Council meeting, I have attended a HALC meeting where the main item on the agenda was Devolution, which led to inviting them to speak here this evening.

The Chairman met with Richard Kidd to discuss a number of civic issues, including the book that he is interested in writing on significant figures who have affected Andover's history.

On 3rd July The Chairman was honoured to join the Freedom of the Borough event, to witness the march, attend the service held at St Mary's Church, and meet a number of the Freemen of the Borough in the drinks reception held in the Guildhall afterwards.

On 6th July The Chairman attended at Charing Skills course run by HALC, to make sure that she was doing it right!

On Saturday 23rd July The Chairman joined fellow councillors, and a number of allotment holders to join in with the community tidy up day so beautifully organised by Lisa Laing, our Allotments' officer. A significant amount of rubbish was cleared from a number of plots, and it was a great opportunity to talk with allotment holders and get to know them better. Many thanks to Lisa for all of the hard work she has put into the event, and into building the communities up around the various allotment sites.

Finally, on Sunday just gone, 24th July The Chairman was delighted to attend the Mayor's Civic Service at Andover Baptist Church, wonderfully led by our very own Cllr Rev Andy Fitchet – who had been ordained the day before in Whitchurch.

The Chairman received a letter from Richard Kidd with an update on finding significant figures in Andover's history, due to the length of the meeting, I hope he will forgive me if I don't read it out in full.

The Chairman also received a very lovely letter from Graham Burgess congratulating Andover on its bedding plants and window boxes. A copy of the letter is attached, and will be forwarded to those responsible.

C053/16 Youth Council Update

Cllr G McBride reported that the Youth Councillors were now on their summer holidays. They have met to consider the 'Lessons Learnt' from A-Fest in 2016. A report would be issued to the Youth Council on their return after the summer break.

In September the Youth Council would again be visiting Westminster, some of the Town Councillors had volunteered to go as well as qualified Youth Workers.

C054/16 Committee Minutes

The following Minutes were received and noted:

7 July 2016 – Assets & Amenities Committee

9 June 2016 – Policy & Resources Committee

20 June 2016 – Planning Committee

C055/16 Air Conditioning Units for Council Offices

Members considered a report on the purchase of 2 air conditioning/heat transfer units for the Town Council Offices.

Members noted that the approximate maximum cost of each unit was £470.00.

It was agreed that delegation should be given to the Town Clerk to purchase the units up to a maximum value of £1,000 for both units, to be taken from general reserves.

Proposed by Cllr B Long and seconded by Cllr A Fitchet and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: That delegation be given to the Town Clerk to purchase the units up to a maximum value of £1,000 for both units, to be taken from general reserves.

Councillors C Bartholomew and K Hughes left the meeting at 9.00pm.

The Chairman proposed that the meeting be extended for half an hour beyond the 2 hour limit to conclude the meeting. It was seconded by Cllr A Fitchet and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council meeting be extended beyond 2 hrs to conclude the business of the meeting.

C056/16 Bus Shelters

The Town Council noted that further discussions had taken place with Test Valley Borough Council regarding the possibility of Andover Town Council taking over the ownership and management of the Bus Shelters in Andover. Members noted that due to complications within the current contracts, the Town Council would be unable to take over the Bus Shelters in September 2017. Members noted that negotiations would be continuing with Test Valley Borough Council.

C057/16 Committee Membership

It was noted that Councillor L Gates had resigned from the Planning Committee.

C058/16 Finance

The following list of payments up to 26 July 2016

July 2016 Payments				
BACS/Cheque No	Date of Inv	Description	Supplier	Amount (£)
DDBESJuly16	14.07.2016	Electricity Charges 15.06-17.07.2016	BES Commercial	7.86
300313	21.07.2016	Admirals Way Allotment Grass Cut	Mr D Bolland	6.25
682466540	25.07.2016	Reimbursements July16	Town Clerk	52.03
613391996	13.07.2016	Update to finance, Cllrs sections – website	Custom Studio	225.00
54664727	19.07.2016	Training cllrs – chairing skills	HALC	216.00
354162828	14.07.2016	Backup old lap-top + create new acct	AB Computers	224.99
300315	11.07.2016	Detect water leak & repair – VR allts	Shakespeare Gen Builders	308.40
305858625	15.07.2016	Hire of Guildhall	Test Valley Borough Council	60.00
300316	18.07.2016	Water supply Vigo Road	Southern Water	82.93
132534332	23.06.2016	Suspension files	Viking Supplies	40.78
Various	02.08.2016	Salaries and pension payments + tax	Staff, NEST, HMRC	5439.85
TOTAL				6664.09

Members received the reconciled bank statements for April, May and June 2016.

C059/16 Questions from Councillors

There were no questions from Councillors.

C060/16 Reports from Town Councillors

Cllr L Gates reported that he had attended the Allotment Community Day and had been impressed by the involvement from the allotment holders. He suggested that the Town Council should do something similar again in 2017.

Cllr C Ecclestone reported that the Office Working Group had drawn up Terms of Reference which would be reported back to the Assets and Amenities Committee on Thursday 4 August 2016.

He also confirmed that the cost of each of the Community Right to Bid Applications was £3 per application, and that some had previously been researched.

Cllr B Long reported that she had attended Andover Vision Workshops. Each strand of was asked to put forward a 'quick win' project, one of which would be given £5,000 from Test Valley Borough Council. The public have been asked to vote on which they would chose.

Cllr B Long attended the Freedom March and the recent Test Valley Borough Council Cabinet meeting. CIL will be collected from 1st August 2016, a public consultation had been released on the Regulation 123 List.

Cllr B Long reminded Councillors that the Reg Presley Heritage Plaque would be unveiled at midday on Sunday 31 July 2016. She asked if Members were available, that she needed some help with setting up the display boards.

Cllr A Fitchet reported that he had a meeting with the Mayor of Test Valley and other Faith Leaders in Romsey to discuss Inter Faith Week from 13 to 20 November 2016.

Cllr G McBride reported that he had contact cards from Mr C Munns CEO of Museum of Army Flying and he also reported that he had thanks from local residents with regard to a recent planning application.

Cllr A Cotter reported that he had attended the Allotment Community Day and had visited Mylen Road Allotment site.

Cllr M Mumford reported that he had attended the Andover Vision workshops on the High Street and Town Centre, he added that the facilitators had been excellent.

Cllr J Msonthi reported that she had also attended the Freedom March.

Cllr B Carpenter reported that there had been only 1 bus running to Basingstoke on Sundays, there were now 4 running.

Cllr K Bird reported that she had attended the Andover Vision workshop on 'jobs' and thanked Cllr Carpenter for all her had work with regard to the bus services.

C061/16 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the date of the next full Council meeting was Thursday 8 September 2016 at 7pm in the Upper Guildhall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Chairman

Date