



# ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

# A

## Minutes Council

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### Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 29 November 2018

### Place

The Town Council Offices, 68B High Street, Andover

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Cllr B Long - Town Mayor (P)

Cllr M Mumford - Deputy Town Mayor (A)

Cllr C Bartholomew (A)

Cllr K Bird (P)

Cllr L Bird (P)

Cllr V Pond (P)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr S Hardstaff (P)

Cllr A Cotter (P)

Cllr Revd. A Fitchet (P)

Cllr L Gates (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 R Hughes (P)

### Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk)

Tor Warburton (Deputy Town Clerk) (Training)

Michelle Young (Committee Officer) (Training) (Taking the minutes)

### Borough Councillors Present:

Cllr J Cockaday

Cllr Z Brooks

Cllr J Lovell

### Borough Councillor Apologies:

Cllr C Boiles

### Members of Hampshire Police Present:

Inspector Cath McDonald

Members of the Public: 3

Members of the Press: 2

Prior to the start of the Council meeting, Cllr G McBride gave a presentation on Sustainable Development Goals.

**C 083/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs R Rowles, P Crossman, M Mumford and C Bartholomew.

**C 084/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C 085/18 MINUTES**

Cllr R Kidd proposed and Cllr A Fitchet seconded that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 October 2018 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record. A vote was taken which was 13 for and 1 against.

**RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 October 2018 be signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public made the following statement:

*"I am disappointed and concerned that national issues are put as motions at a Parish Council meeting. Can the Clerk explain to the public why frivolous blatantly political motions are allowed on the agenda?"*

*Parish Council meetings are the vehicle for **local issues/business**, to transact those issues & concerns. I feel that the Town Clerk should not have included these two motions into the agenda this evening.*

*Meetings have limited time and appropriate time should be given for those local issues to be considered. Not for issues from Cllrs wish to grandstand, to seek attention from media/public as we get closer to local elections! There are other platforms available for them to do that on.*

*It is time Council get on with the job of responding to what local people want on Local Issues> Example is, as you seem to be **still paying rent/rates on an empty office build until May 22019**. Why not make better use of it and allow homeless people to have somewhere safe and warm to stay and sleep over the winter months? Maybe in conjunction with one of the local Church's/charities? I.e. the Bridge? At least the £12000 of public money, wasted on renting an empty building could be seen to put to a good use.*

*Note to clerk, there are two questions here!*

*With reference to the motion on the EU, I would hope that the 2 cllrs are reminded that **Test Valley voted out!** In fact 39091 people did, compared to the 36170 who voted stay. **Get over it!***

*Unless Cllrs McBride and Gates have suddenly found a crystal ball, they have no idea how things will work out. Even the prime minister and her cabinet are not privy to that yet!*

*I also feel that you are scaremongering over job losses, one large local company are having to resort to bussing people in as they cannot fill all vacancy's. Also another company are offering a £500 bonus to their workforce if they can manage to get people to accept a job where they are employed.*

*It's Time to get back to local issues or elect those that will!"*

The Town Clerk responded, that with regard to Motions put to Council, unless there is a legal reason not to do so, Motions must be presented for Council or Committee to debate.  
In this instance there was no legal reason not to include it on the agenda.  
The other questions would be answered in writing.

**C 086/18**

**REPORT FROM HAMPSHIRE POLICE**

**Inspector Cath McDonald gave a report on Andover which included the following:**

The police have been working with Test Valley Borough Council to address homelessness and finding more permanent places to provide shelter.

Regular patrols identified that the homelessness figures have increased and attempts are being made to identify those who are most at risk.

The police have been working alongside Street Pastors for the provision of a safe hub for the homeless people.

Work relating to drug issues is continuing. Any information gathered would assist in creating an intelligence picture to formulate patrol areas.

Operation Scrooge has been up and running since 24 November 2018 with the set up of a fake stall in a proactive attempt to catch out any shoplifters.

Members were given an opportunity to ask Inspector McDonald questions which included:

**Councillor:** Do you know if any of the churches are making provisions of hot meals this year?

**Inspector Cath McDonald:** I am currently not aware of any.

**Councillor:** Are you investigating every theft?

**Inspector Cath McDonald:** As Hampshire Constabulary, we have not said we will not provide support. We assess every reported situation on a risk basis, in particular, high value theft.

**C 087/18**

**REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS FROM THE ANDOVER WARDS**

**Cllr Z Brooks:**

- The mobile library has ceased operating. This is being replaced with a "Home Library Service", whereby someone volunteers to retrieve and return books for you.
- The microfiche service in the library will be up & running again in due course.
- The library currently has a manual pin board; however, Hampshire County Council will be replacing it with a LED screen.
- Hampshire County Council are taking charge of on-street parking. A few surveys of other areas are being carried out in other areas, i.e. Bournemouth, to ascertain the price differences.
- Street lights are now set to be switched off between 1.00am and 4.00am.
- Salt bins will be refurbished.
- New procedure for recycling of household waste. Go online and register your vehicle's registration number in order to dispose of your recycling waste for free. Non-Hampshire users will be charged £5 to use the facility.

Cllr Jan Lovell will speak to Winton Ward regarding joint consultation events as there is still £8,000 in the budget and work in partnership to sort priorities accordingly.

**C 088/18**

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS TO BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

**Cllr L Bird to Cllr Z Brooks:** Is there any furniture available in the library that Andover Town Council offices could use?

Councillor Brooks would investigate.

**Cllr C Ecclestone to Cllr Z Brooks:** The Andover Railway Station area needs to be reviewed. There are always problems in the pick-up and drop-off points in the evenings. The pedestrian and vehicle numbers have increased.

The question will be forwarded to Cllr M Boiles.

**Cllr R Kidd to Cllr Z Brooks:** When does the library close?

The library closed on 01 December 2018 and will reopen on 06 January 2019.

**Cllr S Hardstaff to Cllr J Lovell:** Thank you for the donation of the Christmas Tree.

The Christmas Tree commemorates the Christmas of year 1914 and the football match between Germany and Britain.

**Cllr B Long to Cllr Z Brooks:** The wayfinding maps are already out of date. How easy are these to update?

This question will be forwarded to Cllr M Boiles.

**Cllr J Cockaday:** Cllr P North has been approached regarding the wayfinders being out of date. Stickers will be produced as updating the glass maps is too expensive.

**Cllr K Bird to Cllr Z Brooks:** Is there any information on alternative services whilst the library is closed?

Also, the Andover Town Council has always been in the wrong place on the wayfinders maps.

This question will be forwarded to Cllr M Boiles.

**C 089/18**

#### **TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Since the last Council meeting the Town Mayor has attended:

- Pride of Andover on 24<sup>th</sup> October
- Remembrance Service on 11<sup>th</sup> September
- Christmas Lights Switch-On on 16<sup>th</sup> November
- Spotlight Concert on 10<sup>th</sup> December

**C 090/18**

#### **COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The following Committee Minutes were noted:

12 July 2018, Assets & Amenities Committee

02 August 2018, Policy & Resources Committee

30 July 2018, Planning Committee

20 August 2018, Planning Committee

10 September 2018, Planning Committee

1 October 2018, Planning Committee

**C 091/18**

#### **MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

##### **Motion on Slavery**

This was proposed by Cllr A Fitchet and seconded by Cllr K Bird.

The Council resolves to adopt the Charter against Modern Slavery to ensure our procurement practices don't support slavery.

##### **The Charter against Modern Slavery**

Andover Town Council will:

- 1) Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
- 2) Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a possible sanction for non-compliance.
- 3) Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
- 4) Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
- 5) Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
- 6) Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.

- 7) Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
- 8) Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
- 9) Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
- 10) Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

Members discussed and considered the motion.

A vote was taken which was:

In favour: Cllrs A Fitchet, A Cotter, G McBride, R Hughes, B Carpenter, R Kidd, S Hardstaff, L Gates, L Gregori, V Pond, K Bird.

Abstentions: Cllrs B Long, L Bird, C Ecclestone.

**Motion carried.**

### **Motion on Brexit**

This was proposed by Cllr L Gates and seconded by Cllr G McBride.

Cllr L Gates presented the following speech:

"The purpose of this motion is, I hope, evident from the text. Firstly, we must respect the views expressed in the referendum two years ago but the world has now moved on. Since then this country has gone from being one of the most admired and respected to a laughing stock, a basket case, the former United Kingdom – with Independent Trading Status.

All this because of a badly constructed, fraudulent referendum mired in false claims, illegal practices and possible foreign interference. For years successive governments and their cheer leaders have failed to deal with the problems facing this country choosing instead to blame others for their failures. This culminated in a referendum which was more about which old Etonian faction got to run the country rather than what was best for it. The failures were transferred to the scapegoat of Europe.

The future facing this country is very different from the promises of two years ago. There is no pot of gold, nor any fluffy unicorns. The impending reality is a very different country to the one we all know. The reality is a government and parliament paralysed with fear of what it has done and unable to provide the leadership needed. A government, and opposition, desperately trying to sell us snake oil in the hope of keeping their jobs.

I recently had the dubious pleasure of discussing all of this with our MP who couldn't produce a single argument to justify the government's current course of action. The philosophy has become that democracy ceased in 2016. You have made your choice now face the consequences. If I go into a restaurant and order a steak, I do not expect to be served up a cold burger. And I certainly don't expect to be told (a) I must pay for it and (b) to eat it or go without. But this is the deal now being foisted on this country.

We have recently been commemorating the centenary of WW1. A senseless slaughter initiated and prolonged by arrogant, jingoistic politicians on all sides. Twenty years later it happened again. Because the virulent strains of nationalism were allowed to fester and grow. Since 1945 Europe has known relative peace but the cancer of nationalism still lurked in the background.

Pro-Brexit politicians have fanned the flames of this nationalism and legitimised intolerance while our government of charlatans and chancers has been shown unfit and unable to lead. It is time for them to pass power back to the people. There is just one reason why they won't do so – they know there is no longer support for their actions.

The Brexit deal on offer will affect everyone in this country for generations. It is too important to be entrusted to self-serving politicians. It must be submitted to the country with a straight choice between the substandard deal on offer and cancelling Brexit altogether.”

Council notes that in common with the rest of the UK, 48% of local residents voted to remain in the European Union and that since that vote:

- 1) The performance of the UK economy has fallen behind our competitors to become the slowest growing economy in Europe with productivity slipping further and competitiveness reliant on the declining value of the pound;
- 2) Andover residents, particularly those on lower incomes, are being hit hard by rising inflation and squeezed pay rates;
- 3) Confidence amongst investors and established businesses is ebbing with jobs moving away from the UK;
- 4) Many non-UK EU national’s resident in Andover have had their lives, and those of their UK-national families, destabilised by the uncertainty of Brexit;
- 5) On top of the social impacts, local businesses and above all the NHS are losing vital staff;
- 6) New investment, on which Andover relies for future prosperity, is being jeopardised and new job opportunities are being lost.

Council respects the vote cast in the 2016 referendum but believes the promises made in 2016 to be unachievable and that a ‘hard’ or ‘no deal’ Brexit will seriously harm the long-term prosperity of Andover residents.

Council calls on the government to abandon plans for a hard Brexit and to give the people of Andover a vote on any final deal it negotiates. Any such vote must include the option to keep the irreplaceable benefits Andover residents currently enjoy by staying in the European Union.

Members discussed and considered the motion.

Cllr L Gates proposed and Cllr G McBride seconded that the Council instruct the Town Clerk to write to the Prime Minister and our local MP, informing them of the result of the vote and our views.

A vote was taken which was:

In favour: Cllrs A Fitchet, A Cotter, G McBride, R Hughes, B Carpenter, R Kidd, S Hardstaff, L Gates, L Gregori, K Bird.

Against: Cllrs C Ecclestone, V Pond, B Long, L Bird.

**Motion Carried.**

**C 092/18**

#### **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY**

Members noted the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and External Audit for the year ending 31 March 2018.

Cllr A Fitchet proposed and Cllr K Bird seconded that the completed AGAR and External Audit for the year ending 31 March 2018 be accepted and approved.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED: that the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return and External Audit for the year ending 31 March 2018 be accepted and approved.**

Cllr L Gates expressed his congratulations to the Town Clerk for her hard work in providing the reports with no matters raised.

Cllr K Bird expressed her thanks to all the officers in achieving an approved AGAR with no reports which is not common and unusual.

(Cllr R Kidd left at 8.21pm)

**C 093/18**

#### **ANDOVER LEVY**

Members noted the updated response received from the solicitor, attached to Record Minutes.

(Cllr R Kidd returned at 8.26pm)

Members thanked the Town Clerk for obtaining the response.

Members discussed the next course of action with regards to decision making.

Cllr R Hughes proposed and Cllr K Bird seconded that the evidence gained be assessed by the Town Council's solicitor and if sufficient be passed to Counsel.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED: That the evidence gained be assessed by the Town Council's solicitor and if sufficient be passed to Counsel.**

(Cllr C Ecclestone left at 8.37pm)

**C 094/18**

**CHAPEL ARTS**

Members noted a request for funding of £3,000 towards a Chapel Art Scheme, of which Andover Town Council would become a stakeholder.

It was agreed in principle on the understanding that no funds can be released until more information about the scheme had been obtained.

Cllr L Gregori proposed and Cllr B Long seconded that the Town Clerk be instructed to acquire additional information and add this item to the next Council meeting agenda in January 2019.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk be instructed to acquire additional information and add this item to the next Council meeting agenda in January 2019.**

**C 095/18**

**DATES OF COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEETINGS 2019**

It was proposed by Cllr A Fitchet and Cllr K Bird seconded that the proposed dates of Committee and Council meetings for 2019 be agreed.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED: That the proposed dates of Committee and Council meetings for 2019 be agreed.**

**C 096/18**

**OFFICE CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS**

It was proposed by Cllr A Fitchet and seconded by Cllr K Bird that the following Office Christmas Opening Hours be adopted:

17 December to 21 December – open as normal

24, 25, 26, 27, 28 December – CLOSED

31 December – CLOSED

1 January 2019 – CLOSED

2 January 2019 – normal office hours to resume.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED: that the following Office Christmas Opening Hours be adopted:**

**17 December to 21 December – open as normal**

**24, 25, 26, 27, 28 December – CLOSED**

**31 December – CLOSED**

**1 January 2019 – CLOSED**

**2 January 2019 – normal office hours to resume.**

**C 097/18**

**FINANCE**

The list of payments up to 12 November 2018 and 27 November 2018 were received.

It was proposed by Cllr A Fitchet and seconded by Cllr K Bird that the payments up to 12 November 2018 and 27 November 2018 be approved. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED: That the payments up to 12 November 2018 and 27 November 2018 be approved, attached to record minutes.**

**C 098/18**

**QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Members noted the questions raised by Cllrs V Pond and B Long and the respective answers.

**C 099/18**

**REPORTS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

The following reports were received from Town Councillors:

**Cllr R Kidd** visited The Drove allotment sites. He expressed how wonderful the Allotment Staff have been. Cllr R Kidd has spoken to Cllr P North who confirmed a reply regarding policing issues.

**Cllr S Hardstaff** was very humbled to have been a part of the 215 Project.

Cllr S Hardstaff thanked everyone involved for all their hard work and support with the event.

**Cllr L Gates** attended a meeting with the Town Centre Manager and Test Valley Borough Council officers.

Festival of Motoring will be going ahead next year.

Cllr L Gates will be attending a Small Business event on 1 December 2018. There will be some promotions with names of businesses going into a draw to win a shopping voucher.

Cllr L Gates confirmed the town maps are now updated.

**Cllr V Pond** attended the TVALC

**Cllr K Bird** attended the 215 Project and was very proud to of been a part of it.

Cllr K Bird echoed Cllr S Hardstaff in thanking all the officers, scouts and volunteers for their hard work and support, especially with the painted figures. It was a real community project.

Cllr B Long attended a Transport Forum on 1 November and a meeting regarding Rural Affordable Housing which was useful to know.

Cllr B Long attended a Planning Enforcement Forum at Test Valley Borough Council which was focused on permitted development.

Cllr B Long attended an Annual General Meeting with HALC on 10 November.

Members requested that their thanks to Cllr K Bird for spear-heading the 215 Project, to be minuted.

**C 100/18**

**DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

It was noted that the next Council meeting would take place on **Thursday 24 January 2019**, in the Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover, starting at **7pm**.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.59pm

Town Mayor

Date