



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

A

Minutes Council

Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 6 September 2018

Place

The Town Council Offices, 68B High Street, Andover

Cllr B Long - Town Mayor (P)

Cllr M Mumford - Deputy Town Mayor (P)

Cllr C Bartholomew (P)

Cllr K Bird (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 L Gates (P)

Cllr G McBride (P)

Cllr K Hughes (A)

Cllr R Rowles (P)

Cllr B Carpenter (P)

Cllr L Gregori (P)

Cllr R Kidd (P)

Cllr P Crossman (P)

Cllr R Hughes (A)

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk) (Taking the minutes)

Tor Warburton (Deputy Town Clerk) (Training)

Michelle Young (Committee Officer) (Training)

Borough Councillors Present:

Cllr J Cockaday

Borough Councillor Apologies:

Cllr I Anderson

Members of Hampshire Police Present:

Inspector Cath McDonald

Members of the Public: 5

Members of the Press: 1

Prior to the start of the Council meeting, the Town Mayor presented a grant cheque to Bruce Randall, from the Harmonium Singers for a WW1 concert, which took place on 14th July 2018.

The Town Mayor and Mr N Long presented the Countess of Brecknock Hospice with a donation cheque following monies raised at the Shilling Fair 2018.

C 052/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr C Ecclestone.

C 053/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C 054/18 MINUTES

Cllr S Hardstaff proposed and Cllr R Kidd seconded that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 June 2018 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

A vote was taken which was 15 for with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 June 2018 be signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

C 055/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of the public commented they were pleased to see police attendance at the meeting.

Member of the public raised the following:

- When are the police proposing to enforce an alcohol-free zone?
- Disappointment that 2 Andover Town Councillors have been brought into dispute.
- When will confidential minutes of excluded items be made available to the public?
- How can the Town Council justify an extra £2,000 for the Andover Town Manager?

The Town Mayor responded that a written reply would be sent to member of the public.

A Member of the public asked questions regarding the Business Improvement District in Andover.

The Town Mayor responded that questions raised would be answered during the meeting.

C 056/18 REPORT FROM HAMPSHIRE POLICE

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

Issues with street drinking – Andover Town Centre is not a designated alcohol-free zone. Noted that signs were still visible on the High Street, a request would be sent to the Borough Council to remove them.

Under the Public Space Protection order, anyone found to be causing disruption in the town would be asked to surrender their alcohol.

There are patrols within the Town centre area.

Begging & Homelessness – there is a tent outside the old Marks & Spencer's shop. The police cannot remove this as it is on private land.

The owners of the property have been contacted and have been asked to remove the tent or board up the outside.

The police can remove beggars; however, they do rely on the public reporting these incidents for the police to be able to act.

Homelessness is not a police matter. All enquiries should go through Test Valley Borough Council.

The police can only intervene by moving homeless people on, if they are causing an offence or being anti-social.

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

Councillor: Has there been an increase in racial hatred attacks?

Inspector Cath McDonald: Not aware of it. There has been an increase in refugee families.

Councillor: How are you responding to complaints of people taking drugs on the streets within the community?

Inspector Cath McDonald: The public are advised to report these incidents to the local police station. The opening times are 09:00 hrs to 18:00 hrs daily (closed between 14:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs). Alternatively, call 101. The information gathered would help in creating an intelligence picture to formulate patrol areas.

Councillor: Do you have any posters to increase the public's awareness?

Inspector Cath McDonald: Not at the moment. We will look into this.

Councillor: The 101 service is very good.

Councillor: In recent months, how many cases of crime have involved mentally ill people?

Inspector Cath McDonald: There are no specific details on this.

Councillor: With regards to modern slavery, i.e. long working hours or lack of safety equipment, have there been many reports of cases in Andover?

Inspector Cath McDonald: These types of cases are not often reported to the police and would encourage people to call 101 if concerned.

Inspector Cath McDonald agreed to pass the questions to Detective Chris Taylor in order to provide an update at the next ordinary council meeting.

C 057/18 REPORTS FROM BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS FROM THE ANDOVER WARDS

Cllr J Cockaday: The football pitches at Picket Piece were been refused planning permission to build on.

Members noted the 2 reports from Cllr K North and Cllr Z Brooks, read out by Cllr B Long, attached to record minutes.

C 058/18 QUESTIONS FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS TO BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr K Bird: Please can we have figures for schools' attendances for Andover and not the whole of Hampshire?

The question would be sent to Cllr Z Brooks.

Cllr B Long to Hampshire County Council: The wayfinding boards are already out of date. How easy are they to update?

Cllr B Long: During the library's refurbishment, the microfiche may be there and will be readable only as the printer is not there and will not be replaced.

The questions would be forwarded to Hampshire County Council.

C 059/18 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since the last Council meeting the Town Mayor has attended:

- Hampshire County Council Service at Winchester Cathedral, Armed Forces Day and Gardening Fete on 24th June
- Transport Forum 27th June
- Electric Vehicles Workshop in Romsey 29th June
- Presented a long service award to a staff member at Roman Way School 20th July
- QC Foundation Charity Fete and Dinner in July
- Older Peoples forum AGM 26th July
- Steven Lugg HALC Chief Executive Funeral 17th August
- Opening of Andover Branch Embroiderers Guild Exhibition 25th July

Future events the Town Mayor will be attending:

- Peace Day Procession and Jane Goodall Foundation Day at Harmony Woods organised by Andover Trees United 21st September
- Hosting a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer at the Andover Town Council offices 28th September
- Pride of Andover Awards 24th October
- Project 215 will be marking the Centenary of the Great War in Vigo Road Recreation Ground 10th November and a service is being held on 11th November

The Town Mayor thanked all Councillors, officers and friends who supported the Andover Shilling Fair on 12th August. Despite the weather, it was well attended. It recorded the highest footfall for Sundays in August.

The dancers, Dandy Chargers, street theatre, musicians, heritage tour, horse carriage, donkeys and funfair were all well received and was an event to put Andover on the tourist map.

C 060/18 YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE

There were no updates on the Youth Council.

C 061/18 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The following Committee Minutes were noted:

7 June 2018, Assets & Amenities Committee

14 June 2018, Policy & Resources Committee

18 June 2018, Planning Committee

9 July 2018, Planning Committee.

C 062/18 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

Members considered the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee to refuse the offer from Test Valley Borough Council and not have Member's Allowances for the Town Council.

It was proposed by Cllr L Gregori and seconded by Cllr B Carpenter that the Town Council refuse the offer within the letter and not have Member's Allowances for the Town Council.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council refuse the offer within the letter from Test Valley Borough Council and not have Members' Allowances for the Town Council.

C 063/18 OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Members considered the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee to release £2,000 from reserves to allow an Air Quality Test to be carried out in the Town Council offices and that the Town Clerk be assisted by Cllr L Gates to ensure the correct company be employed and values for money is achieved.

Cllr L Gregori proposed and Cllr L Gates seconded that up to £2,000 be released from Reserves to allow an Air Quality Test to be carried out in the Town Council offices and that the Town Clerk be assisted by Cllr L Gates to ensure the correct company be employed and value for money is achieved.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That up to £2,000 be released from Reserves to allow an Air Quality Test to be carried out in the Town Council offices and that the Town Clerk be assisted by Cllr L Gates to ensure the correct company be employed and value for money is achieved.

C 064/18 REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

Members considered the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee to adopt the revised Officer/Member Protocol.

It was proposed by Cllr V Pond and seconded by Cllr A Fitchet that full Council adopt the revised

Officer/Member Protocol.

A vote was taken which was 14 for, 1 against and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That full Council adopt the revised Officer/Member Protocol, attached to record minutes.

C 065/18 RECORDING MINUTES FOR MINUTE TAKING

Members considered the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee that all meetings be recorded to assist with minute taking and the policy for recording meetings be adopted.

It was proposed by Cllr K Bird and seconded by Cllr C Bartholomew that all meetings be recorded to assist with the minute taking and the policy for recording meetings be adopted.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That all meetings be recorded to assist with the minute taking and the policy for recording meetings be adopted. Policy attached to record minutes.

C 066/18 WATER FOUNTAINS

Members considered the Motion approved and recommended to full Council for endorsement by the Planning Committee; that Andover Town Council calls upon the Test Valley Borough Council to provide public water fountains in order to reduce unnecessary plastic waste and supply clean and readily available drinking water.

It was proposed by Cllr L Gregori and seconded by Cllr K Bird that Full Council endorse the motion.

A vote was taken which 15 was for and 1 abstention.

RESOLVED: That Full Council endorse the motion;

That Andover Town Council calls upon the Test Valley Borough Council to provide public water fountains in order to reduce unnecessary plastic waste and supply clean and readily available drinking water.

C 067/18 ANDOVER TOWN REGALIA

The Town Council Members noted that the Policy & Resources Committee had approved the additional cost of £90, for insurance to cover the Town Regalia for use outside the Town Council offices and that the Town Clerk had been authorised to sign the agreement with Test Valley Borough Council for the loan of the Regalia.

C 068/18 ANDOVER TOWN CREST

Members noted that the Town Council had been granted the Royal Licence and Authority to bear and use the Arms Crest and Supporters granted and signed unto the Borough of Andover on the fourth of April 1949. Anyone wishing to use it, must seek prior permission first.

Cllr S Hardstaff expressed Thanks on behalf of Andover to Cllr K Bird for all the effort that was made to secure the Royal Licence.

C 069/18 ANDOVER TOWN CENTRE MANAGER/ANDOVER BID

Members noted the report on the Andover Town Centre and the Andover BID.

The following points were clarified for Members:

- Business Improvement District – a private company. To provide additional services.
- There are several hundred operating in the UK.
- Winchester was entering its third term.
- Andover Town Council and Test Valley Borough Council continued to support and fund a Town Centre Manager.
- There are updates on BID on the website.
- 2nd consultation Feb – June this year.
- 350 businesses surveyed, a return of 53%
- All action taken has complied with and met all legislation.

- Information has been given to all eligible businesses. 384 eligible to vote.
- Consultation: the document was hand delivered to all the businesses.
- There is a legally presented timetable and the vote will go ahead.

Members discussed the proposals for the BID and raised the following points and questions:
An up-to-date Map should be used. Andover is small enough that the boundary could be drawn accurately.

The amendments proposed seem reasonable.

Why was ASDA not included within the BID area?

Feed back to the steering group that the map is not clear.

Ask for clarification on the map & why the decision was made on the businesses to be included and where the boundary lines have been drawn.

It was confirmed that it was the local businesses that decided which were to be included.

The funding for the Town Centre Manager was discussed. The following concerns were raised:

There are a significant number of businesses that are concerned about the money going to the Town Centre Manager. The Town Council has already given a significant amount of money.

Agree that the Town Council had already given a significant amount of funding but there are events that need to be administered.

Members discussed whether the Town Council could contribute financially to the BID.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council could not contribute financially as it did not fall within the Powers of the Town Council. In addition the Town Council is only funded by local tax payers, it does not received any business rates.

Further concerns were raised about the BID process:

The BID was asking for money but there is no plan.

The results of the survey are on website.

Most of the things that are proposed to be covered by the BID are already provided by Test Valley Borough Council and Town Council. These services are provided in addition to the services provided by the Test Valley Borough Council and Town Council. We can comment but can't implement.

Can the Town Council take a position on a referendum?

We are local government authority.

Clarification was requested on the difference between the Business Rates and the Rateable Value.

Business have opportunity to make Andover unique.

The BID does not belong to the Town Council. Test Valley Borough Council are leading on it.

The detail is down to the businesses.

A recorded vote was requested for each recommendation within the report.

It was proposed by Cllr L Gates and seconded by Cllr B Carpenter that:

1. Andover Town Council reaffirms its support for the TCM project and ATCP and the principle of a BID for Andover.

A Recorded vote was taken.

Those For:

Councillors M Mumford, L Bird, L Gregori, P Crossman, C Bartholomew, A Cotter, A Fitchet, B Carpenter, L Gates, G McBride, S Hardstaff, R Kidd, V Pond, K Bird, B Long.

Those Against:

Councillor R Rowles.

No abstentions.

RESOLVED: That Andover Town Council reaffirms its support for the Town Centre Manager Project and the Andover Town Centre Partnership and the principle of a Business Improvement District for Andover.

It was proposed by Cllr L Gates and seconded by Cllr B Long that:

2. Andover Town Council allocates £2000 from reserves to continue funding of the TCM and related projects for the period January - April 2019.

A recorded vote was taken.

Those for:

Councillors M Mumford, L Bird, L Gregori, P Crossman, R Rowles, A Cotter, C Bartholomew, L Gates, G McBride, S Hardstaff, R Kidd, V Pond, K Bird, B Long.

Abstentions:

Councillor A Fitchet.

None against.

RESOLVED: That Andover Town Council allocate £2000 from reserves to continue funding the Town Centre Manager and related projects for the period January - April 2019.

It was proposed by Cllr L Gates and seconded by Cllr P Crossman that:

3. Andover Town Council notes and fully approves the BID proposals and calls on all eligible local businesses to vote in favour of the plans.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr K Bird, which was seconded by Cllr C Bartholomew that:

3. Andover Town Council notes and fully approves the BID proposals.

A recorded votes was taken on the amendment:

Those in favour:

Cllrs M Mumford, L Bird, L Gregori, P Crossman, C Bartholomew, B Carpenter, L Gates, R Kidd, V Pond, K Bird, B Long.

Those Against:

Cllrs R Rowles, A Cotter, A Fitchet, G McBride, S Hardstaff,

No abstentions.

RESOLVED: That Andover Town Council notes and fully approves the BID proposals.

(Cllr R Rowles left meeting at 8.47pm)

(Cllr K Bird left meeting at 8.47pm)

(Cllr K Bird returned to meeting at 8.49pm)

C 070/18

FINANCE

It was proposed by Cllr B Carpenter and seconded by Cllr V Pond that the payments up to 4 September 2018 be approved. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the payments up to 4 September 2018 be approved, attached to record minutes.

C 071/18

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

No questions were received from the Councillors present at the meeting.

C 072/18

REPORTS FROM THE TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr L Gates – Shilling Fair – round of applause to Cllr B Long. Andover In Bloom – the Town Council has been invited to participate next year. Also attended a HALC Meeting – Voice of Councillor, about relationship between officers, Councillors and Borough Councillors.

Cllr Gates proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr B Carpenter for all her hard work on the opening of the pedestrian crossing at Roman Way School on 4 September 2018.

Cllr B Gates reported that the new Parish Boundary Plans under the Community Governance Review had been Approved by Test Valley Borough Council.

(Cllr R Kidd left meeting at 8.51pm)

The plans included a change to 16 members for the Town Council and an increase to 6 wards.

Cllr Gates expressed his thanks to Cllr Jan Lovell and Cllr Graham Stallard for their support.

Cllr V Pond attended the Shilling Fair had a marvellous time. Met 2 people from Canada whom said they had never attended such an event before.

Cllr B Long thanks for all the comments regarding the Shilling Fair, it is a wonderful showcase for Andover.

Cllr K Bird reported that the 215 Project was receiving more interest and was on target for November 2018. The A-Fest event 2019 date had been set, 28 April 2019.

C 073/18 DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Council meeting would take place on Thursday 29 November 2018, in the Council Offices, 68B, High Street, Andover, starting at 7pm.

(Cllr R Kidd returned)

C 074/18 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Cllr B Long and seconded by Cllr G McBride a resolution be passed to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting at item 24 regarding local tax issues.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting at item 24 regarding local tax issues.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

C 075/18 LOCAL TAX ISSUES

Members considered a confidential report on local tax issues.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

Signed by the Town Mayor

29 November 2018