



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes Extraordinary Council

Time and date

7.00pm on Friday 9 August 2019

Place

The Town Council Offices, High Street, Andover, Hampshire

Cllr R Rowles - Town Mayor (P)

Cllr L Banville - Deputy Town Mayor (P)

Cllr S Blackmore (P)

Cllr G Davis (A)

Cllr K Farrer (P)

Cllr R Meyer (P) (Arrived at 5.33pm)

Cllr D Treadwell (P) (Arrived at 5.35pm)

Cllr D Coole (P)

Cllr D Day (A)

Cllr Revd. A Fitchet (A)

Cllr P Scott (A)

Cllr A Watts (A)

Cllr J Coole (P)

Cllr C Ecclestone (P)

Cllr M James (P)

Cllr V Harber (P)

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk) (Taking the minutes)

Borough/County Councillors Present:

Cllr I Anderson

Cllr Z Brooks

Cllr T Burly

Members of the Public: 4

Members of the Press: 1

C 065/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Davis, Cllr D Day, Cllr Revd. A Fitchet, Cllr P Scott, and Cllr A Watts.

C 066/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C 067/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of Public 1:

Reference Item 4, was this not to be reviewed after 2 months? Why has an Extraordinary meeting been called a week prior to the ordinary meeting next week?

Reference Item 5, object to a verbal report, the public should be given sight of any reports and information.

Town Mayors' response: There will not be a report as such at this meeting as a written report will be given at the full Council meeting next week.

If an Extraordinary meeting had not been called, 2 Councillors could have called the meeting as per Standing Orders.

Member of Public 2:

What are the reasons for the Town Councillors not attending this meeting?

(Cllr R Meyer arrived)

Member of Public 3:

With regard to the dates of the meetings, the decision cannot be overturned for six months.

With regard to 66C I thought you were going to review it in 2 months?

What is the legality of overturning meetings?

(Cllr D Treadwell arrived)

Town Mayor's Response: The Extraordinary meeting can overturn the motion because an extraordinary meeting can be called at any time as per the Standing Orders.

C 068/19 MOTION

Members were asked to consider the following motion, proposed by Cllr C Ecclestone and seconded by Cllr D Coole:

"After consideration of the cost, inconvenience and unpopularity of the current meeting schedule, myself and Cllr Coole would like to propose a change to the arrangement laid out below:

They are all on a Wednesday. All are a week apart except for the January meetings as that will give time for staff to make any last minute changes to the Budget, if needed. All the Planning meetings remain the same on Mondays.

September

Budget & Staffing 11th

Council 18th

October

Allotments 9th

Council 16th

November

Budget & Staffing 6th
Council 13th

December

Allotments 11th

January

Budget & Staffing 8th
Council 22nd

February

Allotments 12th
Council 19th

March

Town Electors Meetings 11th
Council 18th

April

Budget & Staffing 15th
Council 22nd

May

Annual Council 6th"

The Town Mayor asked Cllr Ecclestone if he would like to speak to the motion, which Cllr Ecclestone responded that he would. The Town Mayor asked Cllr D Coole if he would like to speak at the beginning of the debate or at the close. Cllr D Coole confirmed that he would speak at the close.

Cllr Ecclestone spoke to the motion and asked the Town Clerk if she had been asked about the costs before the meetings were changed in May 2019 and the Town Clerk confirmed that she had not.

Cllr Ecclestone stated that previously the Council had operated 9 Council meetings per year and during the summer there were no full Council meetings.

There has not been such low attendance at Council meetings since 2012/2013. Friday evenings were social and family nights. Having 12 meetings per year was an imposition. The true costs of changing the meetings were not done in advance. The concept of having 2 meetings on one night was a huge strain on staff and an imposition on all.

The Town Mayor opened the motion to debate.

A report was presented at the meeting which had been prepared by the Town Clerk at the request of the Town Mayor indicating staff costs for the meetings from the previous year and the current year. The costs were based on the equivalent of staff time. Costs for the hire of venue were not included as the meetings had been held in the Town Council offices during the past year and could not be compared to current costs.

Members debated the motion. It was indicated that discussions to change the meetings to Fridays had been discussed prior to election results.

Members discussed the effect of the meeting frequency on staff.

Members discussed whether more members of the public were attending the meetings.

The costs of the meetings were discussed and it was stated that the cost of venue should also be included.

The Town Mayor asked if there was any further discussion, he then invited Cllr D Coole close.

Cllr D Coole explained that the Town Council was entitled to review its meeting dates. There was genuine concern about the public and their complaints about the meetings being on Fridays. He raised concerns about the ½ hour break being little time to eat and closed by saying that family and social time was important and Friday evenings were not a good evening to hold meetings.

The Town Mayor re-read the Motion to the members of the Council and called for a vote.

4 for, 6 against and 1 abstention.

The Motion was not carried.

C 069/19 REVIEW OF UPTAKE AND CHARGE FOR HIRE OF 66C

The Town Mayor explained that there was a full written report that had been included in the Council Agenda for 16 August 2019 and therefore this item would be deferred to the meeting on 16th August 2019.

It was noted that to date one organisation had shown interest.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 6.00pm.

Town Mayor

Date