

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Councillor

**Graham Titterington
Matthew Bayliss
Ginny Boxall
Pam Bradford
Suzie Burns
Gideon Cristofoli
Paul Crossley
Sharon Cullen
Amanda Durley
Graham Hill
Pam Jones
Christopher Lawrence
Richard Platt**

Town Mayor

In attendance:

**Leah Coney
Patricia Harris
County Councillor Andrew Joy
District Councillor Steve Hunt
Jen Hammersley – The Kings Arms
4 Members of the public**

**Town Clerk
Finance & Admin Manager**

217 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies as all councillors were present.

218 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor made the following announcements:

1. Please turn off or silence mobile phones
2. A hearing loop is in operation and please turn devices to the "T" position
3. Reminder councillors that the Pancake Race will be taking place on 18th February in the Public Gardens with registration at 10.30 a.m. and the first race at 11.00 a.m.
4. The Local Plan Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan - Public Engagement Survey will be taking place between 10th February and 22nd March 2020.
5. Councillor Matthew Bayliss had apologised for breaching dress code for this evening's Meeting.

219 Leader's Announcements

The Leader made the following announcements:

1. I commend to you the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan which is included on the agenda tonight. It is the end result of hours of collaboration and hard work by ACAN, Alton councillors and officers. I am delighted the way Altonians have got behind us on this new and vital initiative.
2. Hopefully you will have heard of ACE - the Alton Community Emporium initiative where we are calling local small business owners to consider supporting a new project to help rejuvenate Alton's High Street. The council is looking to secure the 5-year lease for a retail unit in the Town Centre then offer short term licences to small business owners and start-ups to create pop up shops. There is more information on social media, in the press and on our website. there is also a Survey Monkey expression of interest form.
3. We have continued to engage with both EHDC and HCC to discuss matters relating to roads and parking... watch this space
4. In my role as the Chair of Chawton Park Surgery PPG, the Clerk, Councillor Bradford, myself and other PPG members met this morning with Lynne Hunt, the Chair of Southern Health Trust. This on-going dialogue with health providers is important in assessing the health needs

220 **Minutes of Last Meetings**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair. On Matters Arising, County Councillor Andrew Joy was asked whether he had an update on the question raised with him at the last meeting of the Full Council which was on the County provision to provide Independent Living for young adults in their own home independent of their parents. He was able to confirm that there is no specific buildings (built or manged in Alton) for this although there is support available from Adult Social Services.

221 **Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

No Declarations of Interest were declared. The Town Clerk granted Dispensations to all Town Councillors in respect of Agenda Item 8 Budget and Precept request 2020/21 for ratification.

222 **Questions to the Council from Members of the Public**

County Councillor Andrew Joy advised that former Town and District Councillor and Mayor of Alton, Robert Saunders will be leaving Alton and the end of this week. The Chair on behalf of all town councillors wished to formally record their thanks and appreciation to Robert Saunders for the years and contribution he devoted to the town in both his roles as town and district councillor and wished him well for the future.

Jenny Griffiths speaking on behalf of ACAN wished to thank Town Councillors and the Town Clerk for the very close and developing partnership formed over the last 8/9 months announcing that ACAN will be presenting at the Annual Electors Meeting on 18th March.

223 Community Grants for Ratification

Members received details of the Community Grants approved by the Policy & Resources Committee for Ratification.

On the proposal of Councillor Pam Jones, seconded by Councillor Graham Hill it was

RESOLVED

To ratify the following Community Grants:

Holybourne Village Hall: £1,000 plus officer resource to assist with external grant sourcing.

Hampshire Cultural Trust Curtis Museum: £1,000.

HART Wildlife Rescue: Officer resource to assist with external grant sourcing.

Bushy Leaze: £10,000

Alton Community Association: £8,000

Alton Climate Action and Network: £5,000

Home Start Hampshire: £5,000

224 Budget and Precept request 2020/21 for Ratification

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill seconded by Councillor Richard Platt it was

RESOLVED to

(i) Approve the budget and precept request for 2020/21 in the sum of £713,565.

(ii) Approve the revised budget for 2019/20 to enable the appropriate virements to be actioned.

225 Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

The Town Council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan as presented was approved subject to a couple of very minor tweaks. The Town Clerk was thanked for all her hard work in pulling the strategy together for the Council and it was confirmed that the Task & Finish Group established will report progress made to Full Council every 6 months.

On the proposal of Councillor Pam Jones, seconded by Councillor Ginny Boxall it was

RESOLVED

Approve the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

226 **Verti-Drainer**

On the proposal of Councillor Amanda Durley, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley it was

RESOLVED

To approve the expenditure of £7,545 ex VAT towards the purchase of a Charter House Verti-Drain 7521 machine, with the remainder of the funding coming from the Football Foundation.

227 **Amendments to Committee Terms of Reference**

On the proposal of Councillor Pam Bradford, seconded by Councillor Pam Jones it was

RESOLVED

To approve the amendment to increase the membership of the Planning & Transport Committee to 8 councillors.

On the proposal of Councillor Pam Jones, seconded by Councillor Ginny Boxall it was

RESOLVED

To appoint Councillor Richard Platt to the membership of the Planning & Transport Committee.

228 **Enhance East Hampshire**

Officers were thanked for the work that had been undertaken in producing the governance structure for the Enhance East Hampshire Scheme and on the proposal of Councillor Graham Titterington, seconded by Councillor Matthew Bayliss it was

RESOLVED

To approve the governance structure for the Enhance East Hampshire Scheme as presented.

229 **Youth Project**

Members had received a comprehensive report from the Kings Arm Project within their bundles. A number of questions were raised for clarification with Kings Arm representative, Jen Hammersley who was thanked for her attendance at the meeting.

NOTED230 **Appointment to Alton United Charities**

With no response to the Town Clerk's placement of adverts across local media channels to try and encourage potential trustees to Alton United Charities to come forward Members agreed that further efforts should be made.

Members agreed to promote the vacancy across their wards and a copy of the advertisement will be forwarded to all Members by the Town Clerk.

231 **To receive a report from and ask questions of the District and County Council Representatives**

A report from District Councillor Steve Hunt had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and is attached to these Minutes for information.

District Councillor Steve Hunt noted the concerns raised in relation to the Sports Centre fencing off the old centre and advising that a token is required to be able to park at the new sports centre. He advised that the “Let’s Talk” initiative did not include Alton currently, but that its design was to make it flexible and that if requested to be in Alton then it could be, on an as required basis.

The Town Clerk queried the just received poster promoting “On the Right Path” and wished to have clarity on how people would know that the consultation was part of the Local Plan review and how it related specifically to Alton. She was concerned that the document did not take account of the 15-page submission given by Alton Town Council following extensive collaboration with members of the walking and cycling fraternity. Councillor Hunt agreed to take this away and report back directly to the Town Clerk.

County Councillor Andrew Joy provided a verbal report covering:

- 1) the recently held Planning Briefing from County officers, update on the Butts junction;
- 2) the diversion in the High Street for SSE Contracting works.
- 3) the County Budget meeting;
- 4) that he would be making a grant of £1,000 available to the Kings Arms

County Councillor Andrew Joy committed to try and seek out a response to councillors demands that they needed to understand how the debacle of the High Street road closure was able to happen despite the Town Council raising its objections when notified of the Order that had been signed off.

The Chairman thanked both County Councillor Andrew Joy and District Councillor Steve Hunt for their attendance and looked forward to their responses on the specific issues that they agreed to take away.

NOTED

232 **To receive the Minutes from the following Committees**

The Minutes of the following committees were received and noted without comment:
Planning & Transport – 6th November & 4th December 2019 and 8th January 2020.

NOTED

The meeting finished at 8.38 p.m.