

ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8th JULY 2020 AT 7.00PM
Due to current government regulations this meeting was held remotely using video conferencing

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 (from 7.25 p.m.)
Lisa Hillan – The Kings Arms
3 Members of the public

Town Clerk
Finance & Admin Manager

011 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies as all councillors were present.

012 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor made the following announcement:

1. He wished to formally convey his and his fellow councillors' gratitude to the staff in their support of the community in providing a continuing service on behalf of the council both from the Town Hall and maintenance of the council's open spaces.

013 Leader's Announcements

The Leader, Councillor Pam Jones, made the following announcements:

1. Our Community has shown its caring side during the Covid pandemic and the Alton & District Community Resilience Fund (ADCRF) is one result. This fund aims to provide support and assistance to local residents and groups who find themselves in exceptional circumstances and in need of help. Thanks to the generosity of many people and organisations, this fund now stands at more than £15,000 and was recently

boosted by a £2,500 donation from the Grain House Trust at the Harvest Church. The first grant of goods was made last Monday.

2. Alongside all the positivity, however, there have been some negatives. One negative aspect, sadly, has been the increase in litter; a problem seen nationwide...Alton too has seen an increase in this thoughtless behaviour. We debated whether to put up some standard posters, but decided we would ask our young people to design some as part of a competition. Details of the competition will be publicised soon...
3. The opening of the play area in the Public gardens has been delayed due to its refurbishment which is underway. I am delighted to see that our other play areas are open again and tonight we consider the refurbishment of another one.

014 **Minutes of Last Meetings**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 29th April and 3rd June 2020 were approved and will be signed by the Mayor at a later date due to current restrictions in place.

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

No Declarations of Interest were declared.

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

Mr Quincey sought clarification on the definition of "Remedials" in respect of the pathway at Kings Pond and questioned the % completion as indicated on the Project Planner. It was confirmed that 90% refers to the remedial work and additional drainage work required. The additional drainage works required are outside of the original scope of works and will be started within the next two weeks.

017 **Covid-19 Risk Assessment for Town Hall and Council Staff**

Members received details of the Covid-19 Risk Assessment for the Town Council to enable the Town Hall to re-open for staff which will be reviewed on an on-going basis as government advice changes with a full review to take place at the end of August. There were several suggestions as to whether further checks needed to be included. Members requested that all staff should be required to have their temperatures taken prior to attending work and this needed to be included in the Risk Assessment. It was requested by Members that before there are any amendments to the opening of the Town Hall to the general public, the matter will be referred to Full Council for decision.

On the proposal of Councillor Christopher Lawrence, seconded by Councillor Richard Platt it was

RESOLVED

To approve the draft Risk Assessment as presented with an additional requirement for Town Hall staff to have their temperatures taken prior to attending work.

018 Covid-19 updates for approval

Members received updates on the re-opening of Play Areas and Public Toilets with effect from Saturday, 4th July with full risk assessments having been undertaken. The report also included rentals for the Town Council's commercial tenancies, Yuletide and an updated Project Plan. Members agreed that requests for rent deferrals would be considered on a case by case basis, month by month with decisions based on whether trading had recommenced. All rent invoices for Q2 have been issued and any agreements for rent deferrals/waivers will be undertaken by way of credit notes against invoices raised. A further review will be undertaken for rent invoices issues for Q3.

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

RESOLVED to

- 1. Consider requests for rent deferrals/waivers on a monthly case by case basis for Q2 invoices issued.**

Members agreed that a different type of Christmas offering would be required in 2020 due to Covid 19 restrictions and therefore:

On the proposal of Councillor Matthew Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Suzie Burns it was

RESOLVED to

- 2. Approve a re-imagining of Yuletide with a smaller outdoor market spread over 4 Saturdays in the run up to Christmas and no Christmas Lights Switch-on event (lights will be illuminated directly after installation).**

019 Placemaking – Summary Report from meeting on 29th June 2020 with EHDC

Members received a Summary Report on the current status with monthly meetings being undertaken going forward rather than every six months.

NOTED**020 Alton & District Community Resilience Fund Panel Terms of Reference**

Members discussed the Town Council's representative on the Panel and whether it would be possible to have two representatives. As this is not possible councillors agreed that the current representative would continue until the end of September and would then hand over to a nominee put forward by the Mayor of the Leader.

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill, seconded by Councillor Suzie Burns it was

RESOLVED

To approve the Terms of Reference as tabled.

021 Treloar Heights Play Area Replacement for Approval

The Town Council had sought the opinion of the Treloar Heights Residence Association on the tenders received for the play area and discussed their preferences.

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

RESOLVED

To approve the appointment of company E (Sawscapes) as the contractor to undertake the Treloar Heights Play Area replacement.

022 Alton Town Council Calendar of Meetings 2020/21

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

RESOLVED

To approve the revised Calendar of Meetings for 2020/21

Members requested the Town Clerk to send out meeting invites for the next 3 months to all councillors to secure the dates and times in their diaries. All meetings to the end of 2020 will be via Zoom.

023 Youth Project

Members had received a comprehensive report from the Lisa Hillan on behalf of the Kings Arms within their bundles. A number of questions were raised for clarification which were satisfied and Members expressed their gratitude for the work that is being undertaken by the Kings Arms team.

NOTED

024 Statement of Accounts to 30th June 2020

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

RESOLVED to approve:

- 1. Balance Sheet dated 30th June 2020**
- 2. The Income & Expenditure account to 30th June 2020**
- 3. Bank Reconciliations for the Unity Bank Account and the CCLA Deposit Account**
- 4. Payments over £500 from 1st April to 30th June 2020**

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

County Councillor Andrew Joy provided a verbal report covering:

- All meetings at County are via video conference. Cabinet and Full Council meetings will be taking place next week and will include a statement on County's position with local lock downs.
- A Draft Statement on Modern Slavery will be taken to Cabinet next week.

- Appointment system now in place for household waste at County's Recycling Centres
 - Traffic Management – a meeting to be arranged and invitations extended to police, councillors and key officers to review the strategy for traffic flows in the town which will also play into the Placemaking Strategy which includes the Station Forecourt project.
 - An update to be provided on the Test and Trace Programme shortly
 - An update on Travellers sites to be provided shortly
- In response to questions asked Councillor Andrew Joy confirmed he will provide an answer in due course:
- Councillor Pam Jones – what is the purpose behind the Budgets Bridge closure scheduled in August?
- Councillor Suzie Burns – how do residents access an appointment to go to the recycling centre if they are not car owners i.e. take their bicycles?
- Councillor Christopher Lawrence – why is the Selborne Road going to be closed and for what period of time?

The Town Clerk clarified that there will be an Extra-ordinary Full Council meeting on 5th August to consider the Town Council's response to the Veolia Planning Application.

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.

The Chairman thanked County Councillor Andrew Joy and District Councillor Steve Hunt for their attendance.

NOTED

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

The Minutes of the following committees were received and noted without comment:

Open Spaces Committee – 6th May 2020
Planning & Transport – 20th May and 17th June 2020.

NOTED

The meeting finished at 9.09 p.m.

APPENDIX 1

EHDC Council Report for Alton Town Council Full Council 8th July 2020 7.00pm

Covid-19 Response and recovery

East Hampshire District Council has published the draft report on the response and recovery plan for the Covid-19 crisis. It is very detailed and was sent to Overview & Scrutiny for review before the final edition is published. EHDC Cabinet on 9th July will consider the report and the initial findings of O&S which will be being complied by a Task and Finish Group comprising Cllrs from all council groups.

It is premature to issue a commentary on the report until it is finalised and approved by EHDC Cabinet.

EHDC meetings

Some meetings have been resumed by means of virtual conferencing. EHDC rely heavily on Skype for Business, although some meetings have been held via Microsoft Teams and Zoom. There is an ongoing discussion about the choice of platform. So far, the following Committees have met:

- Planning
- Local Plan Working Group
- Overview & Scrutiny
- O&S Task and Finish Group (Covid-19)
- Audit
- Licensing
- Place-making Alton Strategy Group

EHDC Cabinet have not met as the planned meeting on 10th June had to be abandoned due to a failure of technology. So, it remains the case that EHDC Cabinet have not met since lockdown, however decisions are still being made by the Leader and Executive under delegated powers in EHDC Constitution. Next Cabinet is 9th July with a very long Agenda, including retrospective noting of Executive decisions, Covid-19 draft report, outturn of 2019-2020 Budget, Climate Emergency and an Exempt report on the future of Penns Place.

Full Council is on the EHDC Calendar for 16th July. It is very possible that this may be changed. Havant Borough Council are holding a 'pilot' Annual Council followed immediately by a 'business' Council on 22nd July. I understand that EHDC Council meetings may follow a week later.

EHDC Political Groups and Committees

Cllr Neville Taylor (Lindford) has resigned from the Independent Group at EHDC and has joined the Liberal Democrat Group. The current political make up of EHDC is now: Conservatives 32 Liberal Democrats 8 Labour 2 Independent 1. The new group numbers will affect the allocations to committees which are allocated according to political balance. This will be made known to Group Leaders who will then nominate their representatives for specific committees according to the new allocations. Until EHDC Council meets the current make-up and membership of committees remains unchanged. A new reference list of Alton Councillor Committee positions will be issued as soon as possible.

Local Plan

After a long consideration of all the feedback of the two 'Regulation 18' public consultations the large-scale development sites have now been evaluated by planning officers. It was decided that only one of the ten large scale sites can continue in the Local Plan albeit with some mitigation measures. As reported in the Press this is the further development of Bordon, which will receive an additional 1300 dwellings. However, it is worth noting that many sites along the A31 corridor may re emerge as the Local Plan now includes a large "area of search" which although not yet defined will include at least the areas considered for large scale development. There will also be a series of smaller scale development sites allocated in order for the local Planning Authority to reach the housing numbers required. There is as yet no timetable for the Local Plan to be made.

Climate Emergency Strategy

After 8 months and ten versions the final draft EHDC Climate Emergency Strategy has been put forward for Cabinet Approval. Like the Covid-19 Report this may be changed before becoming the official strategy, so it is hard to comment until after Cabinet approval. It is however a very comprehensive document and a huge amount of work has gone into it. Please however note that this is the Strategy, not the Action Plan, which will be developed to meet the aims in the Strategy.

Place-making Alton Strategy Group

Cllr Robert Mocatta chaired a meeting of the Alton place making group on 29th June via Zoom. It was a very constructive meeting and all Alton Councillors from Alton Town Council, East Hampshire District Council and Hampshire County Council were invited. The Alton Town Clerk, EHDC officers and HCC officers were in attendance. A way forward is emerging involving more regular meetings of the Alton Strategy group and supporting Task & Finish Group and a Stakeholder Focus Group. Meetings (including outcomes and actions) will however be closed to the public due to possible sensitivities.

Cllr Steve Hunt, Alton Amery Ward Sunday 5th July 2020

DRAFT