

Present:

Councillor Pam Jones	Town Mayor
Ginny Boxall	
Susie Burns	
Gideon Cristofoli	
Paul Crossley	
Sharon Cullen	
Amanda Durley	
Graham Hill	
Lewis Jones	
Richard Platt	
Graham Titterington	

In attendance via Zoom 2 members of the public (until 7.20pm)
1 member of the press
District Councillor Paula Langley (until 7.20pm)

164 **Apologies for Absence**

165 Town Mayor's Announcements

1. Firstly, a very warm welcome to newly elected Councillor Lewis Jones who is attending his first Full Council. He has already been busy on case work and I know he will prove a valued member of the Town Council team.

2. I am looking forward to meeting Altonians at the COP26 Vigil being held over the weekend in the Market Square. I do hope all Councillors will take the time to attend and show their support.
3. I was delighted to be able to present the 'Outstanding Services to Alton' award to Lesley and James Willis on behalf of the Alton Society.
4. The new Altonian will be dropping through letter boxes very soon and it contains details of all the amazing events for the forthcoming winter months. These events would not happen without the hard work put in by our staff...my thanks to them all for their tireless dedication.

166 **Leader's Announcements**

The Leader, Councillor Graham Titterington, made the following announcements:

1. Welcomed Councillor Lewis Jones and welcomed back Councillor Joy
2. Thanked the Harvest Church for hosting this evening.
3. Commented on our incremental work to improve the hybrid meeting experience
4. Congratulated our staff on the excellence of our accounting procedures, as evidenced by another "clean" auditor's report, and thanked them for their hard work on all ATC's ongoing projects
5. Thanked Councillors for their work on updating Standing Orders
6. Drew Councillors attention to the email regarding LGA response to abusive email and social media being suffered by councillors.

167 **Minutes of the last meetings held on 18th August 2021**

The Minutes of the meetings held on the 18th August were approved and were signed by the Town Mayor, noting the addition of the word "Boxall" under item 97.

Councillor Burns noted that she made amendment to her response to Cllr Langley after the last full council which was subsequently emailed.

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

Councillor Lewis Jones noted a personal interest in Alton Cricket Club and whilst remaining for the debate would not vote on the agenda item relating to the hybrid wicket.

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

None received.

170 **To welcome Councillor Lewis Jones and appoint to committees**

Councillor Lewis Jones signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and on the proposal of Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Graham Hill it was

RESOLVED to

Approve the appointment of Councillors Lewis Jones to the Open Spaces Committee and Community Committee

171 Alton & District Community Resilience Fund including change to the Terms of Reference

On the proposal of Councillor Sharon Cullen seconded by Councillor Ginny Boxall it was

RESOLVED to

Approve the change in Terms of Reference for the Alton and District Community Resilience Fund to allow for applications as a result of "hardship" as well as for those resulting directly from the impact or effects of Covid 19

In advance of the next item Councillor Joy was invited to make the report for the County Council in order that he could be excused thereafter.

Councillor Joy wished to thank Members for their kind words. He had no formal report prepared but wished to note a couple of items.

1. He has been appointed to sit on the liaison panel for the former "Waltet" site on the industrial estate.
2. He noted the disturbing incidents of antisocial behaviour in what is normally such a welcoming town. As he has been appointed to the Crime Commissioners Panel, he will bring pressure on this matter. Cllr Jones noted that the Deputy Crime Commission will be speaking at the next Community Safety Partnership Meeting and requested an invitation be forwarded to Councillor Joy. Councillor Cristofoli noted that that he and his wife, Councillor Langley had recently met with local residents affected by antisocial behaviour and took them for a walk around King's Pond to show them some of the nicer parts of town.
3. The £80m saving required by HCC was noted, with proposals coming forward to Full Council on the 4th November – if anyone cares to read the 880page supporting document on the website.
4. He also wished to raise the matter of the EHDC Spatial Strategy in relation to the proposed development at Chawton Park Farm and the 2016 Transport Study which sought to safeguard land for the proposed western by-pass and has not yet been borne in mind by the planning department.

172 Hybrid Cricket Wickets for Jubilee Fields

A number of questions were asked of Richard Myers (Alton Cricket Club) who was in the public gallery to confirm that another club has signed up to this locally to ensure the 10% discount offered was available and to confirm that there would be no adverse impact on Manor Colts Football Club as a result of the upgrade to the wickets.

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

RESOLVED to

Approve an expenditure from the Capital Improvements Reserve of £7,750 to part fund the installation of hybrid wickets on pitch 1 at Jubilee Fields with a further contribution of £2,000 from working capital to be paid, recovered from the cricket club over the next 2 years. All remaining costs to be met by Alton Cricket Club.

173 Changes to Standing Orders for ratification

On the proposal of Councillor Ginny Boxall, seconded by Councillor Graham Hill it was

RESOLVED to ratify the approval of the revised Standing Orders as tabled.

174 Youth Project – updated report by Lisa Hillan

The report by Lisa Hillan was noted by Members, who commended the programme and the facility. Lisa commented that she was looking forward to continuing the private tours of the facility with Members as there is to be no “grand opening” and appreciated Members patience in waiting for their tour. Additionally, in response to the question of what more can be done to assist, Lisa commented that as always, money, but also that Members are aware of the issue of mental health problems in young people, who are really struggling. The King’s Arms is working hard to set up programmes and train staff in response to this.

NOTED

175 Statement of Accounts to 30th September 2021

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

RESOLVED to approve:

1. The Income and Expenditure account to 30th September 2021
2. The balance sheet dated 30th September 2021
3. The bank reconciliations for the Unity Account and the CCLA Deposit Account
4. The Payments over £500 covering 1st April to 30th September 2021

176 Conclusion of Audit

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill, seconded by Councillor Amanda Durley it was

RESOLVED to approve the conclusion of external audit for 2020/21 from PKF Littlejohn which was returned with nil comment.

177 To receive a report from the County/District Council

Councillor Hill tabled his report on behalf of the District Council.

Councillor Burns asked if there was any update over the highways improvements proposed for the Lidl site. Councillor Hill confirmed they are going back to the officers as surprising the “island crossing” in the approved scheme reflected that previously consented when the application was for Tesco some years ago.

The Clerk confirmed she had an update on the toilets in Lady Place Car Park and read out an e-mail from the responsible officer at EHDC to note that the toilets at Lady Place car park have been out of action for longer than they should have been for which an apology was offered. A

contractor has now been identified to undertake repair works which means that the toilets should be fully open once again within the next couple of weeks.

Councillor L Jones asked Councillor Hill about how EHDC were going to ensure that the people and businesses attending the EHDC COP26 would actually be committing going forward? Councillor Hill responded that absolutely all attendees, councils and organisations need to follow through with actions and doing rather than talking.

178 **To receive the Minutes from the following Committees:**

Members received the Minutes of the following meetings which were noted.

Open Spaces Committee – 25th August 2021

Planning & Transport Committee – 8th September and 6th October 2021

Community Committee – 15th September 2021

Policy & Resources Committee – 13th October 2021

NOTED

179 **Exclusion of the Press & Public:**

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

RESOLVED

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded

180 **Community Facility Brewery Site – update**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

181 Freehold disposal of Property

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The meeting finished at 8.20pm.

DRAFT