

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.00PM AT THE TOWN HALL**

Present: **Councillor** **Ben Hamlin (Mayor)**
 Annette Eyre (Deputy Mayor)
 Don Hammond
 Graham Hill
 Matthew Kellermann
 Barbara Tansey
 Janice Treacher
 Peter Wadman
 Jonathan Waugh

In attendance: **Pat Harris** - **Town Clerk**
 Hayley Carter - **Deputy Clerk**
 9 Members of the public

80 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Matthew Bayliss, Mark Boyce-Churn, John Chubb and Nick O'Brien

81 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor:

- (i) Welcomed all members of the public who were attending the meeting.
- (ii) Advised the meeting of the launch of a new Council on-line directory for Health and Well-being for the town and surrounding area and thanked Emily Messenger who had done a great job on putting this together
- (iii) Requested Councillors to agree to move item 12 up the agenda so it could be dealt with after item 5 – public questions. All agreed.

82 Minutes of the last meetings held on 10th January 2024

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill, seconded by Councillor Janice Treacher, it was

**RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held
on 10th January 2024**

All in favour

83 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

No Declarations of Interest were noted.

84 **Questions to the Council**

- 84.1 Lisa Hillan from the Kings Arms wanted to say a huge thank you to the Council. Almost six years ago the Council asked what was needed in Alton and the answer was a Youth Centre. In September 2018 the Kings Arms entered into their first Service Level Agreement and a few months later started using the Community Centre for after-school sessions. On 1st November 2019 they signed the lease with ATC on the building they now occupy running numerous sessions and providing support to over 150 young people from the town.

Dom Clarke from the Kings Arms provided the meeting with an information sheet which showed the many positive ways in which the Kings Arms has been able to develop their services, thanks to the support of the Town Council and added his thanks. He told the meeting that they have young adults coming to the end of their formal education who are now becoming youth workers themselves and are helping them to run their invaluable services.

The Mayor added that it is a pleasure to visit the Kings Arms and see the work they are doing.

Councillor Hill also offered his thanks to all the staff and volunteers at the Kings Arms – what they do has already made a huge difference to the town and is incredibly valuable – and asked what more the Town Council could do to help.

Lisa replied: money. This is always needed! And volunteers! The more people who are able to help, or who can spread the message to get more volunteers or to let young people who need support know where to get it the better.

- 84.2 Anthony Furnival stated that with regards item 7 on the agenda, he personally has a major issue with funding a private enterprise using public money. The results would be a very small percentage increase in NHS Dental care provided and there would be no guarantee that it is for people from Alton, as people travel a long way to a dentist. According to his research with Companies House, Alton Dental is a profitable company who could afford to fund the expansion themselves and there is not enough information about what the money would be spent on.

- 84.3 Jerry Janes, Chair of the Holybourne Village Association, made a representation to Councillors and spoke about his concerns with the Alton Neighbourhood Plan (ANP) and the Steering Group (ANPG). Mr Janes stated that he is very much a part of Alton and, as then-Mayor of Alton, signed the Concordat with Holybourne in 1989, in which Alton Town Council agreed to do all it could to support the village of Holybourne and to protect its special village character, in return for Holybourne not seeking parish status. People of Holybourne do feel very much a part of Alton and rely on ATC to represent them.

He, therefore, felt acute disappointment when hearing from developers that they have been speaking to the Town and District Councils, and the ANPG had kept the village in the dark about it. He stated that he is here tonight to ask the council to honour what they promised all those years ago now that the village is facing an existential threat in the form of a planning proposal to build more than 220 new properties in the

village. There are only 650 houses in Holybourne so that represents a significant expansion of the village.

Mr Janes went on to say that he was disappointed by the secrecy which had surrounded the ANP steering group's meetings, and that this completely contravenes the Government's advice on how Neighbourhood Plan groups should work. He noted that, in the role of a parish or town council in neighbourhood planning, "the terms of reference for a steering group or other body should be published and the minutes of meetings made available to the public."

Mr Janes said that clearly the ANPG has not done this, and the Holybourne Village Association would request that ATC immediately rectify this and would ask ATC to instruct the ANPG to supply all that he has asked for in a list that he then passed on to the Mayor. He quoted a Freedom of Information decision in which Goring on Thames Parish Council had been told by the Commissioner that "under regulation 3(2)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), any information falling within the scope of the request, that is held by the volunteer working group, is held by the council."

He then noted that the former Town Clerk is now employed by the consultant helping the ANPG, and that ATC officers were recommending that further funding be approved for them to prepare a response to the EHDC Local Plan, which presents an incomplete picture and leaves a 700 house 'hole' in the Alton housing allocation.

Mr Janes ended his representation by handing a list of written questions to the Mayor.

Councillor Hill noted that Mr Janes had made some very important and very strong points, which he felt must be addressed.

85 **Event Grant: Victorian Cricket**

On the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor Eyre, it was

RESOLVED to approve an Event Grant for Victorian Cricket in the sum of £500 (five hundred pounds)

All in favour.

86 **Response to Local Plan**

Councillor Kellerman proposed an amendment to the original proposal as follows:

"Oneill Homer is retained on condition that former Alton Town Clerk, Mrs Leah Coney, takes no further part in advising the Town Council as a whole – or in part. With Mrs Coney being replaced by another employee agreeable to both ATC and Oneill Homer"

There was no seconder, therefore on the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Eyre, it was

RESOLVED to engage Oneill Homer to prepare the response to the EHDC Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Part II Consultation on behalf of Alton

Town Council for a fee of up to £2,600 plus a £100 in person briefing if required.

In favour: Councillors Hamlin, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Tansey, Treacher, Wadman and Waugh

Against: Councillor Kellermann

87 **Neighbourhood CIL Grants for approval (Alton Dental)**

On the proposal of Councillor Tansey, seconded by Councillor Treacher, it was

RESOLVED to approve the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Grant to Alton Dental for the sum of £20,000, with the application of a condition for a period of three years to read:

“Subject to the submission of evidence to the Town Clerk on a three-monthly basis for a period of 3 years, should Alton Town Council be unsatisfied in that the capacity of the NHS patients has not been maintained, it may request further clarification from the applicant to address any rationale behind this. Should any rationale provided not be sufficient, Alton TC may request repayment of part of the funding to ensure that the funding is spent in line with Regulation 59C of the CIL regulations”

In favour: Councillors Hamlin, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Tansey, Treacher, Wadman and Waugh

Against: Councillor Kellermann

88 **To review the Service Level Agreement for the Kings Arms and to receive its latest report**

On the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

RESOLVED to agree the continuance of a 2-year Service Level Agreement for the Kings Arms with effect from 1st April 2024 and to note the latest Accounts as presented.

In favour: Councillors Hamlin, Eyre, Hammond, Hill, Tansey, Treacher, Wadman and Waugh

Abstention: Councillor Kellermann

89 **Non-Financial Risk Assessments for Approval**

On the proposal of Councillor Kellermann, seconded by Councillor Wadman, it was

RESOLVED to approve the non-financial risk assessments including Health & Safety policy & Procedures; Health & Safety Logs; Individual Risk Assessments – General and Events; Asbestos Surveys; Electrical Systems Log Book; COSHH data sheets; Fire Risk Assessments; Legionella Risk Assessment.

All in favour

90 **Account to 31st January 2024 and Asset Register as at 1st January 2024**

On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Kellermann, it was

RESOLVED to approve the balance sheet dated 31st January 2024

All in favour

On the proposal of Councillor Treacher, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

RESOLVED to approve the Income and Expenditure account to 31st January 2024

All in favour

On the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor Wadman, it was

RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliations for the Unity Account and the CCLA Deposit Account

All in favour

On the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor Wadman, it was

RESOLVED to approve the Payments over £500 covering 1st January to 31st January 2024

All in favour

Councillor Hammond questioned the insurance values on the Tannery and Finnimore Pavilion. The Town Clerk confirmed these had been noted and would be checked with the Council's insurers on Policy renewal date of 1st April.

Therefore, with this noted, on the proposal of Councillor Hammond, seconded by Councillor Kellermann, it was

RESOLVED to approve the Asset Register as at 1st January 2024

All in favour

91 **Landlord's Consent: Edgar hall and Alton Assembly Rooms**

91.1 On the proposal of Councillor Hamlin, seconded by Councillor Eyre, it was

RESOLVED to grant Landlord's Consent to Men's Shed to:

- i) **Insulate the 3 garage doors internally with timber frame to hold insulation in place and fire rated plaster board. Box out around existing roller shutter mechanism and seal between bottom of roller shutters and concrete floor. This to include an access door through one of the openings. The existing roller shutter doors will not be altered in any way.**

- ii) Insulate the workshop floor with 100mm insulation boards covered with tongue and grooved timber boards.
- iii) Insulate loft space above communal areas with 200mm Rockwool Thermal Insulation.

Subject to confirmation from EHDC that either:

- iv) Building Control permission is not required or
- v) That Men's Shed have submitted a planning application for permission to carry out the works requested

All in favour.

91.2 On the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Tansey, it was

RESOLVED to agree to the proposed alterations to the Assembly Rooms and grant Landlords Consent in order to

- i) allow Dementia Friendly Alton to expand the services they can offer by bringing back into use 4 meeting/treatment areas at the rear of the building
 - ii) create a disabled access to the rear of the Assembly Rooms
 - iii) install a roller shutter door in the kitchen
- all subject to them obtaining Listed Building Consent**

All in favour.

The report from DFA was noted.

92 **Calendar of Meetings 2024-2025**

On the proposal of Councillor Eyre, seconded by Councillor Hammond, it was

RESOLVED to approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2024-2025 as tabled

All in favour.

The meeting closed at 20.12