



# New Alresford Town Council

## FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NEW ALRESFORD TOWN COUNCIL held on  
TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> May 017 at 7.30PM in the Alresford Recreation Centre, Alresford**

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Cllr Evans	✓		
Cllr E Jeffs	✓		
Cllr B Jeffs	✓		
Cllr Pinch	✓		
Cllr Power	✓		
Cllr Spencer	✓		

Also present: Mrs Karen Ross- Locum Town Clerk, and 39 members of the public

**3538 To elect a chairman for the ensuing municipal year**

Cllr E Jeffs was proposed by Cllr B Jeffs and seconded by Cllr Evans

Cllr Power was proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr Pinch

Cllr Jeffs received 2 votes and Cllr Power received 4 votes. Cllr Power was duly elected as Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

**3539 To select the following committees**

**Finance**

**Recreation and Environment**

**Tourism**

**Facilities**

It was agreed to defer the committee selection for the following committees until the Council is at full strength.

Finance

Recreation and Environment

Tourism

Facilities

It was agreed that all members would be elected to the Planning Committee

**3540 To remind Councillors of their obligations to ensure they have read and fully understood the councils Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct**

Councillors were reminded of their obligations to ensure they have read and fully understood the councils Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct.

**3541 To receive and accept apologies for absence**

There were no apologies **RECEIVED**

**3542 To receive Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items**

There were no Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items **RECEIVED**

- 3543**      **To receive the Minutes of Full Council meeting on 18th April 2017**  
Cllr Power raised a concern issue in the exempt minutes  
The minutes were received, approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting
- 3544**      **Public participation**  
**There is an opportunity for members of the public to make statements or ask questions on items on the agenda or on other items relevant to the Town to which an answer will be given, or if necessary a written reply will follow or the questioner will be informed of the appropriate contact details. Each person is limited to 3 minutes and the total amount of time set aside will be 15 minutes.**  
Mr Witchard asked:  
When the ARC Accounts would be available  
Why his wife (Jane Witchard) received a bonus if the ARC lost money  
How answers to the public session can be notified to the public.  
The responses given were  
The Accounts will be published when available  
The Town Council are only able to discuss staff remuneration with that member of staff  
The Town Council will consider how it can proceed with the public session.
- 3545**      **To note the current financial situation**  
The current financial situation was **NOTED**  
The financial documents can be found as Appendix A
- 3546**      **To receive and approve the list of payments**  
The payments were received and approved
- 3547**      **To consider a payroll services contract**  
it was  
**RESOLVED**  
that the Council would outsource the payroll to Diane Malley at a cost of £165 per annum.  
Proposed by Cllr Power and seconded by Cllr Spencer. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.
- 3548**      **To consider the cleaning contract**  
The Cleaning contract was considered. It was agreed that the contract would cease giving 1 months' notice.
- 3549**      **To discuss the booking system**  
It was  
**RESOLVED**  
to reinstate hall master until end of June. Proposed by Cllr Power and seconded by Cllr Spencer. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution  
It was  
**RESOLVED**  
that those hiring Town Council facilities would be charged for room hire and use of the playing fields subject to their lease agreements. Proposed by Cllr Power and seconded by Cllr Spencer. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.  
It was  
**RESOLVED**  
that the set-up time would be billed as part of the hire charge. Proposed by Cllr B Jeffs and seconded by Cllr Pinch. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.

- 3550 To discuss Arlebury Park Building damage**  
Cllr Spencer updated the Council on the damage that occurred.  
It was  
**RESOLVED**  
To obtain quotes to paint the building and to replace the name sign. Proposed by Cllr Pinch and seconded by Cllr Jeffs. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution  
Cllr Jeffs raised the issue of pot hole in the Car park. It was confirmed that at the moment that a temporary fix was being considered.
- 3551 To discuss the petition received regarding the closure of ARC Bar facility**  
The petition was received and accepted. It was noted that in line with the Town Council's standing orders item 7a the resolution 3516.01.02 could not be reversed within 6 months unless by special motion. It was agreed that the current statement on the closure would be removed and a new one issued which can be found as Appendix B
- 3552 To consider the request to move the dog bin from outside 9 Spring Gardens**  
It was  
**RESOLVED**  
that the Town Council would approve the request to move the dog bin from outside 9 Spring Gardens at the resident's cost. Any damage should be covered by the resident. Proposed by Cllr Power and seconded by Cllr Spencer. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.  
It was agreed that Cllr Power and Cllr Spencer would liaise with the resident.
- 3553 To note Reports from outside bodies**  
These were **NOTED**
- 3554 To note the date of the next Council meeting as 20th June 2017**  
The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as 20th June 2017
- 3555 Exempt Meeting Resolution: To exclude Public and Press in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972 S100A**  
**RESOLVED**  
to exclude Public and Press in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972 S100A to discuss confidential items

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm







## **Appendix B**

### **NATC Statement of closure**

#### **NATC Official Statement – Closing of the ARC Bar**

New Alresford Town Council recently closed its Bar at the Alrebury Park Recreation Centre (ARC).

The Alresford Recreation Centre remains open and at the centre of sporting life in Alresford. Historically NATC have put enormous focus on the sporting activities at this venue, and over the past decade and more, have matched this with substantial investment. Over the past two years, the Council has undertaken a review of its, core objectives, income, expenditure and operating procedures; aided by its new Internal and External Auditors.

As part of this process, the Council considered the income stream generated by the ARC bar, its place in the community, and how this operation conformed to Local Government policy. The Council examined in depth all aspects of the ARC bar operation, and considered the most effective ways in which the business could be supported. The Council also tried to find solutions to the issues raised by the Auditors. These issues relate to procedural difficulties which occur when you have an active business, wishing to make instant decisions, whilst being part of a regulated public body that is required to fully follow due process.

The Bar operation, managed by NATC, has been monitored at Monthly Full Town Council meetings since the Council took over running the Bar some years ago. The ongoing financial viability and risk of running this Bar to the Council and therefore the residents of Alresford has gradually been increasing over the past 2-3 years. This risk has become clearer through a phase of improved Accounting practices partially advised by BDO, the Council's External Auditors.

To more closely manage and monitor the Bar and its operations, NATC set up a dedicated ARC Bar committee to work with the Bar Manager.

As you are aware in November of last year the Council decided that it could not reconcile the differences between the role of an independent business and the core role of the Council, working as a public body. It was decided that the business of the ARC bar would be offered for lease. This was agreed by Full Council as a route to manage and limit risk to the tax payers of Alresford. The Council embarked on a full marketing campaign and invited expressions of interest. Unfortunately, following examination of the offers, and indeed one party's decision to withdraw from discussions, the Council were unable to pursue this option.

It was therefore, with considerable regret and the unanimous agreement of Full Council that the decision was made to close the Bar with immediate effect. This decision was not taken lightly as people's jobs were involved. The decision was based on the continuing and rising financial risk to NATC and therefore the New Alresford tax payer. The remainder of the Alresford Recreation Centre remains open and accessible as before.

- 3555 Exempt Meeting Resolution: To exclude Public and Press in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972 S100A**  
**RESOLVED**  
to exclude Public and Press in accordance with Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972 S100A to discuss confidential items
- 3555.01 Bar Financial summary**  
A draft Bar financial summary was issued. It was agreed that this statement would be made public once approved by the Internal Auditor
- 3555.02 The cleaning contract**  
It was  
**RESOLVED**  
That the Council would seek to reemploy the Cleaner and extend the contract to 15 hours a week at £10 per hour to include administering the booking system. Providing the cleaner's existing contract allowed this. Proposed by Cllr Evans and seconded by Cllr Power. All members voted unanimously to accept this resolution.
- 355.03 Litter Warden**  
It was agreed that the litter warden would be paid a set number of hours each month (10) at £8.20 per hour and would no longer require submitting a time sheet enabling timely payroll.  
Proposed by Cllr Power and seconded by Cllr Spencer.  
This was agreed on a proposal of 4 FOR and 1 Against (Cllr B Jeffs)