

Amersham Town Council

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AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 03 FEBRUARY 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs J. Heydon (Chair)
Councillor A. Seymour (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Mrs V. Head
Councillor Mrs A. Lamont
Councillor N. Shepherd (Town Mayor)
Councillor H. Trevette
Councillor Mrs L. Walsh (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor M. Vivis

IN ATTENDANCE:
Mrs J. Wheeler (Town Clerk)

67. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillor A. Emmett.

68. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations.

69. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Cllr Mrs L. Walsh wanted to ensure that Christmas activities in Amersham on the Hill received the same monies as activities in the Old Town. It was AGREED to include this in the budget item for the Finance Meeting. Free parking was requested for 06 December when the Christmas Extravaganza will be held in Amersham on the Hill. The Town Crier was discussed and it was AGREED that monies could be made available from the Jubilee cost centre to purchase some robes and civic regalia. The HessenTag in Bensheim would be held from 06-15 June and was the largest State festival in Germany. There would be over a million visitors and Bensheim wanted to show its international links with its twin towns. Five representatives were invited to form the official delegation from the Town Council to attend from 06-09 June 2014. Attendees must be confirmed by beginning of April 2014. The second letter was inviting the Amersham Fire Service to attend and help with the emergency services at the event. A sum of money had been organised to help with travel costs. The Clerk would make contact with the fire service.

ACTION: JW

70. **NOTES FROM THE LAST BLOOM MEETING:** These had been circulated to all Members along with the agenda for this meeting.

71. **TO APPROVE THE HANGING BASKET BRACKETS ON STREET LAMPS IN THE OLD TOWN:** The hanging basket brackets make an attractive addition in Top Town and it would be good to install some brackets in the Old Town. There are 16 columns

between The Swan and Market Hall. The cost of the double brackets would be £49.90 each – a total of £798.40. The Committee queried whether a cheaper bracket could be sourced. It was AGREED to report back to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

ACTION: SC/JW

72. **TO CONSIDER THE SWING CHAIN AROUND THE MEMORIAL AND THE QUOTE FOR LIGHTING:** It was necessary to put something around the Memorial to stop the children playing on the steps. Prices for wooden and metal bollards were presented. The Councillors preferred the metal bollards but felt that the price of £123.20 each was too high. It was AGREED to review any new prices at the Finance Meeting. The quote for lighting the Memorial was also considered too high and new prices would be sought.

ACTION: SC/JW

73. **TO CONFIRM THE MEETING DATES FOR 2014 - 2015:** The dates were approved with one amendment – moving the Finance Meeting from 9th June to 02 June to avoid the HessenTag. This will however be too soon for the end of year financial report in which case it will be necessary to have this meeting after the Planning on 16 June.

ACTION: JW

74. **TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION AND REPLACEMENT OF SIX COLUMN LIGHTS IN ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD:** ATC maintains the Churchyard and look after five lights. We replaced one light last year and another two are in urgent need of replacement. It was recommended that the light outside the Rectory is replaced with an LED column at a cost of £754 and the light in Church Street is replaced with an ornamental light similar to those in the Memorial Gardens – cost £1000 plus cabling between £150 - £350. The Councillors felt that if the Council did not own the lights – we should only maintain them and the Church should pay for the replacement columns. (*In the office move, Steve came across paperwork indicating that ATC is responsible for these lights.*)

ACTION: SC/JW

75. **TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST TO REMOVE THE LEYLANDI FROM OUTSIDE AMBERS:** The conifers had recently been reduced in height but did not look attractive. The area belongs to Bucks County Council but we could do the work under the Devolved Services agreement. It was AGREED that this could be a good project for the Bloom competition and would improve an important corner of Amersham. It was also AGREED to try to attract sponsorship for this project.

ACTION: SC

76. **TO CONSIDER THE COSTS OF UP-GRADING THE EXISTING BURGLAR ALARM AND FIRE ALARM AT FLINT BARN COURT:** The Matters Group installed the burglar alarm in 2009 and therefore offer a more competitive quote to re-programme the existing system rather than purchase a new system. The current fire alarm is a manually operated system which needs to be up-graded to enable smoke detection to take place. The two alarms can be linked to allow 24/7 protection. The Matters Group can take advantage of the equipment already installed whereas the other quotes would require new equipment and are more expensive. The combined quotes for both burglar and fire alarms are:

Matters Group	£3,756.65
Sparkx	£7,798.36
Falcon Security	£8,664.44

It was AGREED to retain the existing equipment and contract the Matters Group to un-grade and re-programme where appropriate. The smoke protection would use 14 wireless detectors thus saving on cable costs.

ACTION: MR/JW

77. **TO CONSIDER THE CHARGES FOR OUR SPORT FACILITIES AND HALLS FOR 2014:** The Councillors agreed to amend the charges as per the attached sheet. It was agreed that charities and not for profit organisations can negotiate a reduced price.

ACTION: JW/JP

78. **TO CONSIDER THE CHARGES FOR OUR CEMETERIES FOR 2014:** The Councillors agreed to amend the charges as per the attached sheet.

ACTION: JW/JP

79. **TO REVIEW THE COSTS OF CCTV AT BARN MEADOW:** This item would be reviewed as part of the Budget approval at the Finance Meeting on 17 February 2014.

ACTION: JW

80. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** The Delivery Development Plan Document for Chiltern District Submission Document was to go to consultation – the period to run from 20 February – 04 April 2014.

ACTION: LR

81. **BUCKS COUNTY MATTERS:** Nothing new to announce.

82. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** TC was asked to find out the closing dates for LAF funding on a range of projects including the KGV Play area and Cycle racks. ATC were in touch with the EA and hoped that the potential flooding would be resolved by the following Wednesday. In the meantime, the Depot team had knocked on doors to offer help with sandbags and to reassure residents.

The meeting ended at 21.25pm

Chairman Date