

## AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

To: The Chairman and Members of  
The **Community Services Committee** at their  
Meeting on Monday 03 February 2014

### **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

1. **To approve the installation of hanging basket brackets on lamp posts in Old Town** (Agenda item 5) The Community Services Committee approved the cost of the hanging baskets – both supply and watering – at the last meeting. However the addition of brackets from the lamp posts of Old Town was not discussed. We already have brackets in Amersham on the Hill and it would make an attractive addition to have something similar in the Old Town. There are 16 columns in the stretch between The Swan PH and the Market Hall. The cost of the brackets would be £798.40 – excluding the cost of the actual baskets.

2. **To consider the swing chain around the memorial and the quote for lighting** (Agenda Item 6) It was agreed some time ago to install something to keep the children away from the war memorial. It was suggested that roses may be the best idea however Steve would prefer a chain that can protect the memorial and be removed to allow wreaths to be laid at certain times. Costs are still being gathered and will be presented to the meeting. We have a quote from Sparkx for lighting the Memorial – please see attached.

3. **To consider the adoption and replacement of six columns in St Mary's Churchyard** (Agenda Item 8) ATC maintain St Mary's Churchyard in Old Amersham. As part of the maintenance, we look after the five lights in the churchyard. We replaced one last year and we have a further two lights that need replacing – one is very rusty (outside the Rectory) and the second one is an old column (actually situated in Church St) that is old and currently has no power which means that the light is not working.

It is recommended that the light outside the Rectory is replaced with an LED column similar to the one that has previously been replaced, while the light in Church Street is replaced with a black ornate column similar to the other lights in Rectory Hill/Church Street.

#### **Costs**

L/C outside the New Rectory - **£754** including LED lantern, the transfer of power and removal of old column

L/C on Church Street - **£1000** replacement Column. Plus new cabling (between **£150-350**) to provide power to the light. There is now way of knowing where the problem in the existing cable lies until some groundworks are undertaken.

4. **To consider the cost of up-grading the existing burglar alarm and fire alarm at Flint Barn Court** (Agenda item 10) Mark and I are gathering quotes for up-dating the current burglar alarm in Flint Barn Court and the fire alarm. The burglar alarm dates from 2009 and is more than adequate for the building so the quote will be for an up-date only. The fire alarm is more dated and currently there are no smoke detectors. Prices from three

different companies will be presented to the meeting – or circulated prior to the meeting if available. We are looking to use as much existing kit as we can to keep costs down.

5. **To consider the charges for our sports facilities and halls for 2014** (Agenda item 11)

Please see the chart of comparison costs. We seem to be fairly competitive for the football but we are much more expensive for the cricket. My recommendation is that keep our prices unchanged for this year. The pavilion at Barn Meadow is in reasonable condition although it does annoy the teams that they have to share the space with the nursery stuff all over the walls. The pavilion at Hervines is barely fit for use and improvements will have to be made this year. Sporting use of the pavilions is charged at around £7 per hour for non-commercial use and double for communal use.

*Deferred from the Council meeting – 27 January 2014*

**To review the rental prices for ATC halls and pavilions** The difficulty with comparing prices for halls and pavilions is the huge variety of sizes and facilities on offer. Furthermore, Hervines and Market Hall do not command such high rates due to the need to refurbish and decorate. Having looked at our sheet of hall charges – the different hire rates seem very complicated and I propose rounding up to make things easier:

Market Hall – set a standard hire charge of £10 per hour from 9-5pm (up from £9.85)  
Market Hall – 5pm to midnight – week day £15 per hour (up from £9.85)  
Market Hall – Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays - £20 per hour (up from £14.30 Sat 9-5pm and £19.75 Sat 5pm – midnight)

I propose charities and not for profit hirers get a 25% discount.  
The same hourly rate to apply to non-sporting hire of Hervines and Barn Meadow.

**POTENTIAL HIRE CHARGES FOR FLINT BARN COURT**

Chesham Town Council Chamber is a similar size to Flint Barn Court – their charges are:

|                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Council Chamber                     | £50.40 per hour |
| Lowndes Room                        | £16.40 per hour |
| Community Hall                      | £33.60 per hour |
| Small meeting room (8 people)       | £8.40 per hour  |
| In addition, Chesham charge:        |                 |
| Microphones (Full layout boardroom) | £28.50          |
| Microphones (Top table only)        | £17.50          |
| Data Projector                      | £28.50          |
| Laptop                              | £17.50          |
| Internet Connection                 | £11.50          |

**PROPOSAL FOR INITIAL CHARGES AT FLINT BARN COURT**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Council Chamber – ground floor of offices block | £15 per hour |
| Small meeting room –up to six people            | £8 per hour  |
| River Room for meetings                         | £10 per hour |
| Flint Barn Court                                | £35 per hour |

Please also note that Amersham Community Centre charge:  
Drake Hall (50 x 37 ft) £47.40 day/£63.00 evenings  
Large Barn (37 x 19 ft) £26.40 day/£39.80 evenings

Saturdays are individually charged and can be up to £200 plus.

6. **To consider the charges for our cemeteries in 2014** (Agenda item 12) Please see the separate report.

7. **To consider the cost for CCTV at Barn Meadow** (Agenda item 13) Steve has gathered three quotes ranging from £975 to £2360. The quotes look quite complicated but Steve says that once you understand them – it is really quite simple. I suggest that we set up a small group of Councillors to work through and understand these quotes and bring this back to Council

Mrs J. Wheeler  
Town Clerk

28 January 2014