

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD ON MONDAY 17 MARCH 2014**

**PRESENT:** Councillor N. Shepherd – Town Mayor  
Councillor Mrs L. Walsh – Deputy Town Mayor  
Councillor Mrs D I Allen  
Councillor A. Emmett  
Councillor Mrs V G Head  
Councillor Mrs A. Lamont  
Councillor H. Newton  
Councillor MJ Phillips  
Councillor H. Trevette  
Councillor A. Williams

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Janet Wheeler (Town Clerk)

147. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs J. Heydon; M. Vivis; A. Seymour and Mrs M. Harker OBE.

148. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no Declarations.

149. **MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS:** The engagements were circulated and noted.

150. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2014:**

It was	Proposed	Councillor Mrs V. Head
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs L. Walsh

**RESOLVED to:**

Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 January 2014.

151. **MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr Mrs Head queried the progress with the Bowls Club. A meeting had been held the previous Wednesday and some notes from the meeting had been delivered but there was no time to consider these notes from the Club. The Council was currently exploring the possibility of issuing the Club with a lease just for the bowling green.

ACTION: JW

152. **COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

a) **Community Services Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor Mrs L. Walsh
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs V. Head

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Community Services Meeting held on 03 February 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

**b) Planning and Footpaths Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor H. Newton
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs D. Allen

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 20 January, 10 February and 03 March 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

**c) Finance and General Purposes Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor A. Williams
	Seconded	Councillor MJ Phillips

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

**d) Establishment Committee Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor N. Shepherd
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs L. Walsh

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Establishment Committee held on 16 January 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

153. **MATTERS ARISING:** From the Community Services meeting, Cllr Mrs D. Allen requested information on the lights in St Mary's Churchyard; the chains in the Memorial Gardens and the cycle racks. From the Planning and Footpaths meetings, there was detailed discussion on the hearing next week. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Mrs D. Allen could present a statement on behalf of ATC and the residents. There were no matters arising from the Finance Meeting or the Establishment Committee meeting.

154. **FINANCE MATTERS:** To approve the following:

- (i) Income and Expenditure for the period ending 31 January 2014
- (ii) Cash flow as at 31 January 2014
- (iii) Balance sheet as at 31 January 2014
- (iv) Accounts paid to 31 January 2014

It was	Proposed	Councillor A. Williams
	Seconded	Councillor N. Shepherd

**RESOLVED to:**

Approve the financial reports although the Councillors request that the Finance Officer attend meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to explain the figures. It was also **AGREED** that she would be expected to give a small monthly report with each set of figures.

155. **TO CONSIDER THE RE-APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF USE FOR FLINT BARN COURT:**

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that the reason for the withdrawal was that the bought maps contained an error and also it was felt better to experience the property first to fully understand the problems. Since working from Flint barn Court, the TC had noted that the problems were mainly in the evenings when parents were dropping children off for functions in the Church rooms. The TC expressed concern over the risk of children getting knocked over with parents entering and exiting the courtyard.

It was	Proposed	Councillor MJ Phillips
	Seconded	Councillor H. Trevette

**RESOLVED to**

Re-apply for change of use for Flint Barn from B1 offices to D1/D2 community use. It was also AGREED to consider the use of barriers in part of the Courtyard and mirrors on the exit. Costings to be brought to the Finance Meeting if available.

156. **TO REVIEW THE HALL BOOKING RATES FOR 2014-2015:** Cllr M. Phillips felt that the rates should be kept as low as possible for Amersham residents. Cllr Mrs Allen sought clarification that each market pitch included two tables. It was AGREED that the prices would remain as agreed at the Community Services meeting but customers would be allowed to hire for a minimum of two hours for each booking. ACTION: JW/JP/AA

157. **TO CONSIDER JOINING THE CHILTERN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:**  
It was Proposed Councillor N. Shepherd  
Seconded Councillor Mrs L. Walsh

**RESOLVED that**

Amersham Town Council will join the Chiltern Chamber at a subscription cost of £100.

158. **TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A COMMUNITY CAR:** The Town Clerk suggested that a Community Car would be useful kept at Flint Barn Court for office members who had need of a car for their work. Mark Richardson needed a car to visit clients and quote for work and Steve Catanach was using his own car for the street light scouting. After a discussion on the problems of tax implications, it was AGREED that office workers would either use one of the Depot vehicles if available or they could claim their mileage at the appropriate rate. It was felt that this rate was quite generous and covered both petrol and wear and tear. ACTION: JW/AA

159. **TO DISCUSS THE START OF A REGULAR SURGERY:** Some members wanted to hold a regular surgery at Flint Barn Court. Other members were happy to make use of the offered space in Amersham Library to hold a surgery in Amersham on the Hill. It was left to individual Councillors to organise their own sessions but to let the office know if they wanted any publicity.

160. **TO DISCUSS SUGGESTIONS ON TIDYING UP THE ENTRANCES TO AMERSHAM:** Cllrs Williams and Trevette were concerned on the scruffy entrance to the Old Town from the Shardeloes roundabout. Their ideas to tidy up the approaches could also be carried out in top town such as the general tidy up, cutting grass and hedging and perhaps looking to put up some welcome signs. The Town Clerk was gathering quotes to bring to Council. Concern was also expressed at the half barrier humps put in for traffic calming. There was a wish for a 20mph speed limit and dummy cameras – however Cllr Phillips cautioned the Council to be realistic on what they could hope to achieve. Cllr Trevette was due to conduct a walkabout with the Depot Manager to discuss the tidy up in the Old Town.

161. **TO AGREE A PROPOSAL TO LOBBY DCLG FOR A RETURN OF A PERCENTAGE OF THE BUSINESS NON DOMESTIC RATES TO BE USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF AMERSHAM:** The motion as tabled by the Town Clerk was AGREED unanimously – this is a nationwide initiative. ACTION: JW

162. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** Apart from the ongoing consultation on the DDPD, there was also the Open Space and Recreational Review.

163. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:** The Town Clerk mentioned the session on Community Rights held at AVDC. Cllr Mrs Walsh said that she would attend and the Town Clerk would also attend. ATC had also been made an offer to take over more footpaths from Bucks. This item would feature in the Finance meeting.

164. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** The Chiltern Cycling Festival would need some help to man the road closures. They were hoping for ATC staff to provide the expertise but were not sure they would be able to pay for the overtime. The Councillors came up with several options but felt that ATC staff would be entitled to be paid if used. Other Councillors felt that this event should be supported as it was a good thing for Amersham. Cllr Phillips said that they had not applied to LAF for funding. It was suggested that ATC meet with the organisers before the next Community Services meeting.

Part 2

**EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**That under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they include the likely disclosure of exempt information, stated to be confidential.**

165. **ITEM CONCERNING A POSSIBLE JOB SHARE OPPORTUNITY:**

166. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC DEPOT STAFF:**

167. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC WORKING CONDITIONS:**

168. **ITEM CONCERNING THE ATC STAFF HANDBOOK:**

169. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC PROPERTY:**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Chairman ..... Date .....