

Amersham Town Council

Flint Barn Court, Church Street, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0DB

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 31 MARCH 2014

PRESENT: Councillor A. Williams (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Mrs D. Allen
Councillor Mrs V. Head
Councillor M. Lacey
Councillor H. Newton
Councillor MJ Phillips
Councillor A. Seymour
Councillor N. Shepherd (Town Mayor)
Councillor H. Trevette
Councillor Mrs L. Walsh (Deputy Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J Wheeler – Town Clerk

84. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs Heydon and M. Vivis.

85. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr H. Trevette declared a pecuniary interest in item 19 and Cllr A. Seymour declared a pecuniary interest in item 18 on the agenda.

86. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2014:** There were no Matters arising.

87. **FINANCE MATTERS:** To approve the following:
(i) Income and Expenditure for the period ending 28 February 2014
(ii) Cash flow as at 28 February 2014
(iii) Balance sheet as at 28 February 2014
(iv) Accounts paid to 28 February 2014

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

RESOLVED to:

Approve the financial reports for February 2014.

88. **TO CONSIDER THE OFFER OF £1050.80 FROM BUCKS CC TO TAKE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF 7505.70M OF FOOTPATHS:** This is the first of the services which Bucks CC will look to devolve down to the parishes. Cllr Mrs Head felt that the offer of 0.14p per metre was not enough to do the job properly. She also queried whether this included the re-surfacing of some footpaths.

It was Proposed Councillor H. Trevette
Seconded Councillor M. Lacey

RESOLVED to:

Accept the offer for one year only and measure the real cost.

ACTION: JW

89. **TO CONSIDER AMENDING OUR INSURANCE TO ALLOW OUR YOUNGER EMPLOYEES TO DRIVE THE ATC VEHICLES:** The Town Clerk explained that there was a need for the younger staff to have the variety of being able to drive our working vehicles including our tractors as soon as possible. The Councillors were concerned that reducing the qualifying age could add to the risk of an accident. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would draw up a policy which would be brought back to Council. ACTION: JW

90. **TO CONSIDER THE QUOTE TO RE-PROGRAMME THE CCTV IN THE COURTYARD:** The quote had not been received. If available, the item would be deferred to the Community Services meeting.

91. **TO CONSIDER THE QUOTE FOR A POSSIBLE BARRIER IN THE COURTYARD:** A quote had been received for a remote controlled barrier at a cost of £3,560 plus vat. The consensus was that this was expensive and may not be the answer to the parking. It was agreed to look at other options such as chains; bollards; signage; lighting and CCTV. The Town Clerk stated concerns that children being dropped off for classes at the Church Rooms may get knocked over with vehicles entering and exiting the courtyard. Cllr Mrs Walsh said that an occasional chain restricting access may work better than a permanent barrier. The Town Clerk would look at other options, in particular improving the lighting. ACTION: JW

92. **TO CONSIDER THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES IN THE CHILTERN FOR 2014/2015:** The consensus was that the quality of the report was poor. There was no differential between allowances and expenses or the civic duties of a Mayor over a Chairman. The Councillors were happy to continue with the small budget that the Mayor used to claim expenses in carrying out engagements.

93. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** Cllr Mrs Allen reported on the hearing on The Pheasant Public House.

94. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:** Cllr Phillips mentioned the Parish Conference to be held on 27th May. This was a chance for more services to be offered to parishes and also for parishes to bring suggestions to the table. The venue would be confirmed in due course.

95. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** HS2 Action Group were using Flint Barn for a fund-raising evening – it was agreed that a small charge would be made. The Town Clerk wished to clarify the possible link with a youth worker and St Mary's Church. It was agreed that negotiations would be continued but the Council would seek a graduate in a full time post.

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.

96. **ITEM CONCERNING AN ATC MEMBER OF STAFF:**

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98. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC PROPERTY:**

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Cllr A. Seymour left the meeting.

100. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC PROPERTY:**

101. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC PROPERTY:**

The meeting closed at 21.10pm.

Chairman.....

Date

F&GP