

Amersham Town Council

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AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 07 APRIL 2014

PRESENT: Councillor A. Seymour (Deputy Chair)
Councillor A. Emmett
Councillor Mrs V. Head
Councillor Mrs A. Lamont
Councillor N. Shepherd (Town Mayor) Part time
Councillor H. Trevette
Councillor Mrs L. Walsh (Deputy Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor MJ Phillips
Councillor Mrs D. Allen
Councillor Mrs M. Harker OBE
Laura Mowat Bucks Examiner
Two members of the public
Mrs J. Wheeler (Town Clerk)

83. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs J. Heydon and M. Vivis.

84. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr A. Seymour and Cllr H. Trevette declared a pecuniary interest in item 11. Cllr Mrs Head declared a pecuniary interest in item 9. None of the Councillors left the room for these items.

85. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** There were no matters arising from the approved Minutes of the meeting held on 03 February 2014.

86. **UP-DATE ON AMERSHAM IN BLOOM:** The Town Clerk read out a report from Steve Catanach. Items to note: * £1570 in sponsorship from local businesses including three new sponsors; *105 baskets sold for Old Amersham and 65 in Amersham on the Hill; *Serco working in partnership with ATC to re-develop the Bury Field grassy area; * The Brownies are celebrating their centenary by taking over a signature flower bed; * The WI will help Stony Dean School to maintain the flag beds in the gardens along with Cllr Lamont and Cllr Heydon; * 30% more schools and nurseries are taking part in our competitions; * 24 fruit trees will be ordered for Pondwicks.

Item 5 on the agenda was deferred until Cllr Shepherd arrives.

87. **TO REVIEW THE OFFER LETTER FROM PCMS RE HERVINES:** The next stage following the feasibility report was to draw up a more progressive use of the Hervines Park site. The sum of £1400 plus vat was quoted to include two meetings, two site visits and time to produce the design work and visuals.

It was

Proposed

Councillor A. Emmett

Seconded

Councillor Mrs L. Walsh

RECOMMENDED to

Accept the quote for the next stage of developing ideas on Hervines.

88. **TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL STRATEGY:** It was AGREED that all interested parties would meet to progress this the following Thursday.

(Councillor Nigel Shepherd enters the meeting.)

89. **TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE PETITIONING OFFER FROM BUCKS CC:** Cllr Shepherd outlined the principal of petitioning against HS2 and the offer from Bucks CC to employ the services of a London barrister to represent the Council. The cost would be around £8k but if four Councils clubbed together the cost would come down to around £4,500 each. The benefit would be a stronger case presented against HS2 and against the specific effects that Amersham would suffer. Several Parish Councils were considering using the barrister. Concerns were expressed over the possible cost and there was the reminder that not all residents were against HS2. Cllr Shepherd stated that the petition would concentrate on the specific impact that Amersham and the surrounding area would suffer.

It was

Proposed

Councillor H. Trevette

Seconded

Councillor A. Emmett

RECOMMENDED that

The Jubilee Monies be used to match fund up to a cap of £2,750.

Cllr Mrs Harker OBE leaves the meeting with two members of public. Cllr MJ Phillips also leaves the meeting.

90. **TO CONSIDER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ASSET REGISTER:** The Community Right to Bid is part of the Government's Localism Bill. It gives Councils or Community Groups the right to add buildings of interest; land; village shops; public houses; former schools; sports centres and parks to an asset register. Should the asset come on the open market at any time, the community will have the right to make a bid. The first step is to map the community assets and get them added to a list being held by CDC. This list would be considered at the meeting for the Open Spaces Consultation.

91. **TO REVIEW THE PLANTERS IN AMERSHAM ON THE HILL:** The Town Clerk reviewed the limited success of the planters and the difficulty in achieving a colourful display. Cllr Trevette suggested that the Amersham Action Group could look after the planters but there was no agreement. The Councillors AGREED to contribute another £175 towards the new planting. ACTION: MR/PI

92. **TO CONSIDER THE COSTS OF UP-GRADING THE MEMORIAL GARDENS TEA HUT:** The Tea Hut was in need of renovation to achieve a basic standard of hygiene. The main costs came to £636 but a small sink may also be needed. The labour would be supplied by Buckinghamshire UTC who were looking for work to gain experience.

It was

Proposed

Councillor A Emmett

Seconded

Councillor Mrs L. Walsh

RECOMMENDED to

Go ahead with the up-grade of the Memorial Gardens Tea Hut using the students from the college.

93. **TO CONFIRM THE LONG TERM RENTAL OFFERS FOR MITCHELL WALK PLAYGROUPO AND THE JUDO CLUB:** The letters had been sent to both groups with a preferential rate for regular booking of Seymour Hall. It was noted that the parking would have to be clarified. The Town Clerk stated that the offer letters was just the first step. If both groups accepted, our solicitors would be asked to draw up legal agreements which would detail the other aspects of the site including the parking. It was agreed that the legal agreements would be brought to another meeting should this all go ahead. ACTION: JW

94. **TO CONSIDER THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A FAIRTRADE TOWN:** Some Councillors were under the impression that a member of public would promote the project on behalf of the Town Council. Others thought that the businesses should take the lead. It was AGREED to support the ideal in principle. The Town Clerk would contact the member of public who was interested in Amersham becoming a Fairtrade Town and invite him to organise the promotion. ACTION: JW

95. **ITEM CONCERNING DEMENTIA:** This item was requested by Cllr Mark Vivis. Unfortunately, the Town Clerk could not read the newspaper article to work out the agenda item.

96. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** Cllr Shepherd stated that CDC's Planning Officer had done a good job in defending the refusal for The Pheasant Public House. There was nothing new apart from the Consultations already noted.

97. **BUCKS COUNTY MATTERS:** The problems with the parking at Raans Road was currently being looked at by Bucks CC. A Flood Fair was being held in Market Hall on date – to do.

98. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** A series of up-dates was given.

The meeting ended at 21.12pm

Chairman Date