

Amersham Town Council

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AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 JUNE 2014

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Mrs D. Allen
Councillor A. Williams
Councillor H. Newton
One member of the public
Mrs J. Wheeler (Town Clerk)

01. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs J. Heydon and A. Emmett.
02. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no Declarations.
03. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** There were no matters arising from the approved Minutes of the meeting held on 07 April 2014.
04. **UP-DATE ON AMERSHAM IN BLOOM:** Steve Catanach had provided an update to the many successful Bloom projects ongoing for this year. Cllr Seymour recorded a vote of thanks to all the volunteers and special congratulations to Steve. The Councillors agreed that both Amershams looked exceptional this year. Cllr Vivis noted the precision planting to showcase the flags in the flower beds in the Memorial Gardens. It was AGREED to hang some baskets at Amersham Station even though they did not intend to pay.
05. **TO REVIEW AND CONFIRM THE DESIGN BRIEF FOR PCMS AT HERVINES:** The briefing sheets had been circulated to Councillors and there was much discussion. It was noted that the brief was more adventurous than before but Councillors felt they could work with visuals better than the notes produced so far. Cllr Williams reminded the Council that major problems with parking and access must be resolved before Council can move forward. It was AGREED to give PCMS the go-ahead to produce some visuals.
06. **TO REVIEW THE PLAYGROUND DESIGNS AND CONFIRM THE CONSULTATION PROCESS:** The visuals were reviewed at the end of the meeting. The

Town Clerk informed Councillors that memory sticks with the designs pre-loaded would be sent out to targeted companies to encourage sponsorship. The designs would also be put on to the website for children and parents to view.

07. **TO CONSIDER CONTRIBUTIONS TO CDC'S ASSET REGISTER AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID:** This is part of the Government's Localism Bill and gives the right to protect buildings of interest; land; village shops; public houses and much more. The Asset Register means that if a site of interest comes on the market at any time – the community will have the right to make a bid. The Town Clerk suggested the following sites:

- * The Pheasant Public House
- * The Methodist Church, Old Amersham
- * The Maltings, Old Amersham

Cllr Walsh suggested The Pomeroy. It was AGREED that Councillors would send their suggestions to the Town Clerk for submission to CDC. Cllr Shepherd suggested reviewing this list every year.

08. **TO CONFIRM THE LOCATION OF THE CYCLE RACKS:** Following the confirmation that LAF will fund the installation of the racks with a grant of £2,273 – the following locations were AGREED:

- * Barn Meadow; * Hervines Park; * The Broadway, outside the newsagents; * Hill Avenue – bottom end between Post Office and Elm Close (Dentist); * Hill Avenue between fish shop and bank; * Chiltern Avenue – Amersham Business Services * Chiltern Avenue – Community Centre; * Woodside Road – the Business Centre; * Sycamore Road Between chemist and Robert Dyas; * Sycamore Road – Between Timpsons and Iceland; * Sycamore Road – Terrys Newsagents; * Sycamore Road – between HSBC Bank and Woodside Road; * Sycamore Road – Red Cross and Cleaners

The Town Clerk would progress the purchase of the racks and the permissions from Transport for Bucks.

Cllr Mrs D. Allen left the meeting.

09. **TO CONSIDER THE OPTIONS REGARDING CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:** It was AGREED to get three quotes for this year's Christmas lights even though the Council had no problems with our existing contractor. There was also a call to improve the lights on the top town Christmas tree.
ACTION: JW

10. **TO DISCUSS NEXT YEAR'S CARNIVAL:** Cllr Newton spoke to say that he felt this year's Beer Festival was wrong for a family-focused event. He also reported that Round Table made less money than in previous years. Cllr Mrs Head said that it was a PR disaster but the Round Table had always had a Beer Tent at the Carnival. Cllr Trevette said that the police were concerned over the lack of control on numbers. He said that the bad weather saved the event from excess visitors bringing their own drink to the field. Some Councillors were keen for the Council to run the event next year. It was AGREED to call a meeting of all possible stakeholders to discuss next year's event.
ACTION: JW

It was AGREED to bring forward item 14 as the resident had been waiting for some time.

11. **TO CONSIDER RECENT COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE A BOARDS:** Cllr Trevette wanted to see some guidelines established for all businesses to follow. Legally – this is a grey area but businesses are allowed to display boards on the curtilage of their own properties. CDC will be looking at the A boards very shortly and it was AGREED to see what they decide to do regarding controls of the situation.

(Councillors Newton; Williams and M. Vivis leave the meeting.)

12. **TO APPOINT A SMALL TEAM TO FINALISE THE DRAFT CONTRACT FOR THE BOWLS CLUB:** It was AGREED that the Property Working Group assisted by the Hervines Group would finalise the draft contract before presenting to the Bowls Club.

ACTION: JW

13. **TO DISCUSS THE LIGHTS IN THE POND AND ON THE MEMORIAL:** Cllr Trevette stated that the lights on the memorial would be very subdued and not bright at all. The Clerk said that St Mary's Church was already lit at night. It was AGREED to go ahead with the lights on the War Memorial but leave the pond lighting at this time.

14. **TO CONSIDER EMPLOYING A CLEANING COMPANY:** THE Clerk explained that ATC now had more properties to keep clean with the acquisition of Flint Barn. It was AGREED to present three quotes to Council.

ACTION: JW/MR

15. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** There was nothing of special note.

16. **BUCKS COUNTY MATTERS:** The London Road Depot was holding its Open Evening on 24 June – Councillors had been made aware of the event.

17. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** A series of up-dates was given. Due to the WW1 commemoration it was AGREED to move the next Community Services Meeting from Monday 04 August to Tuesday 05 August.

The meeting ended at 21.25pm

Chairman Date