

# Amersham Town Council

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## AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 05 AUGUST 2014

**PRESENT:** Councillor A. Seymour (Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs J. Heydon (Vice Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs L. Walsh (Town Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs V. Head  
Councillor H. Trevet  
Councillor M. Vivis

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  
One member of the public  
Mrs J. Wheeler (Town Clerk)

18. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs A. Lamont and A. Emmett. Cllr Tony Williams also sent his apologies although he is not on this Committee.
19. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no Declarations.

Cllr Seymour adjourned the meeting to allow the visitor, Mr Gary Gotch, time to speak. Mr Gotch spoke of the plans of the Amersham Museum to expand into the property next door currently known as The Lemon Rooms. It was AGREED that the Town Council would write a letter of support, in principle, for the grant application. There were no members of the Planning Committee at the meeting so it would not compromise the Town Council's ability to comment on any forth-coming planning application.

The meeting continued.

20. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** There were no matters arising from the approved Minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2014.

21. **UP-DATE ON AMERSHAM IN BLOOM:** Steve Catanach provided an up-date on the Bloom activities to date and that of the volunteers. There followed a discussion on whether the Town Council would continue to support Bloom competition next year or whether it could be handed over to the Community to lead. It was AGREED that we would need to start promoting and recruiting now whilst the town looked so good. It was AGREED to run an interest meeting after the regional awards presentation and invite all this year's volunteers plus anyone who may be interested for another year. The idea was to encourage the community to bring their ideas to the meeting and perhaps take on more ownership. Other ideas were to put magnetic advertisements for next year on ATC vehicles. It was also AGREED to contact the water board and see if an improvement could be made to the water pressure in the Gardens of Remembrance.

22. **TO REVIEW THE DESIGN BOARDS FROM PCMS RE: HERVINES:** Even though the major issues of parking and access was yet to be resolved, it was agreed to allow PCMS to go ahead with design boards. The concepts were presented but it was clear that only part of the brief had been answered and there was no provision for accommodation. Options for the Depot was discussed along with the different access suggestions. It was AGREED to take the information that PCMS had provided and contact another company that may be more capable of meeting the brief. ACTION: JW/CLLR

23. **UP-DATE ON THE PLAYGROUND AT KGV AND AMERSHAM FUN DAY:** The Deputy Town Clerk and Zoe were prepared to display the playground designs at the Fun Day on KGV. It was hoped that this would provide valuable feed back and perhaps a steer as to the most popular design. The Fun Day was attended by around 50 children last year and would be a good chance to show the designs to parents and children. Once the results have been evaluated, a design will hopefully emerge as the best and a decision will be made in order to start campaigning for funding from grants and business sponsorship. ACTION: LR, ZR, JW

24. **UP-DATE ON AMERSHAM CARNIVAL:** The Mayor had been in talks with Jack Gocher from Chiltern Youth Project; Mark Brown of Round Table and Chris Wilson of Amersham Action Group. The proposal was that the Carnival would be a community event owned by the community. There would be a separate bank account and any monies would go into that bank account and be ploughed into the following year's carnival. The field could be zoned to allow the Round Table, the Action Group and the Town Council space to pursue their different activities but there should be one theme. The schools and scouts groups would be involved in the activities. Amersham Action Group has stated that they wished their section to include the Town Show. The proposed date was Saturday 27 June 2015.

The Round Table still wanted to hold a Beer Festival on KGV on an alternative date. The Town Clerk made it clear that she would not endorse any decision to hold a Beer Festival on KGV as it could not be enclosed and therefore numbers could not be controlled. The decision and responsibility would be entirely left with the Councillors.

25. **TO DISCUSS THE LITTER ON KGV AND THE HEDGE ALONG THE SKATE PARK:** The constant litter problem on KGV was discussed and the Town Clerk stated that she had no further man hours to give to litter picking. The bins could be increased on KGV and would be looked into. There were already bins now around the Outdoor Fitness area. Cllr Trevette suggested replacing the hedge along the St George V Road side as it was a magnet for litter and was broken away where short cuts were needed to enter the park. Cllr Head warned that the hedge acted as a sound barrier to the elderly people living in Kings Lodge and helped lower the sound of the skate park. It was AGREED to forward suggestions for replacing the hedge and securing the park at the next meeting. ACTION: JW/SC

26. **TO DISCUSS THE RECENT FLOODING MEETING HELD BY CDC:** Paul Isom had attended this meeting set up by CDC. It was noted that most of the actions were for the EA and ATC! Trash pods were discussed which were to be maintained by ATC but no one had approached the Town Clerk formally about this and there could be a cost to us. There was also the question of liability – would ATC be held responsible for any further flooding if we had to do the maintenance? It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would write to CDC to ask for more information before we commit to this additional expenditure and responsibility. It was also noted that several bridges over the Misbourne had become dislodged during the winter flooding. The EA now wish to be consulted before any new bridges are installed. It was also AGREED that ATC would withdraw their decision to charge £500 for new bridges. However evidence of public liability insurance and strict controls over access to Barn Meadow would be kept in place along with a £50 charge for our inconvenience. ACTION: JW

27. **TO AGREE A FAIR RENTAL CHARGE FOR THE NEW ART SCREENS:**  
Due to the low beams in Flint Barn, it was necessary to make some art screens to fit the room. Mark Warren and Vic were both competent with their carpentry skills to make some new screens. We are now in a position where we may wish to rent out the screens. The Councillors AGREED with the suggestion from the Town Clerk for charging £100 per five screens which works out at £20 per screen per week. It was also AGREED that we would keep the screens in ATC buildings unless the hirer was prepared to pay a refundable deposit of £250. ACTION: JW/JP/AA

28. **TO RATIFY THE NEW ELECTRICAL AND LIGHTING WORKS IN SEYMOUR HALL:** The sum of £20,000 had been approved at the last Finance Committee meeting as the ATC share of works on Seymour Hall. Bucks County Council are putting in £25,000 and the nursery themselves are putting in around £10,000. The electrical works including the lighting is necessary to make sure that the building complies with the latest EU regulations. It was AGREED to approve the final quote of £29,936 to ensure that the building is safe and meets all the regulations for electrics and lighting. ACTION: JW

29. **TO DISCUSS TWO POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF LAF MONIES:** Cllr Seymour wished to extend the pavement of School Lane so that cars can park off the road. It was AGREED to explore the possibility of making the pathway to school inside the chain link fence of Barn Meadow. This would keep the children safe and give cars more space to get off the road. There was also a request for a new pedestrian crossing on the Rickmansworth Road – but Councillors said that there was not enough funding for this project. Cllr Seymour would talk to Mark Richardson about the new pathway. ACTION: AS/MR/JW

30. **TO DISCUSS THE REQUESTS FROM AMERSHAM MUSEUM:** It was AGREED to write a letter of support for the Museum's plans for the Lemon Rooms with the proviso that the Town Council would support in principle but would still be able to make impartial comment on any forthcoming planning application. ACTION: JW

31. **UP-DATE ON HS2 PETITION AND THE PROPERTY CONSULTATION:** The Councillors noted that the barrister was due to visit the Chilterns over a two day period in the next week. Amersham would be on the second day of the visit. The consultation was discussed and it was AGREED that property holders themselves must respond to any consultation on compensation levels. ACTION: JW

32. **TO DISCUSS THE NU-PHALT POT-HOLING EQUIPMENT AND THE TRIAL/LEASING PROPOSAL:** Everyone was agreed that the Nu-phalt machine was the best kit for the work. However the recent meeting with Bucks CC had not progressed any thing and felt like a waste of our time. The Town Clerk would do a few notes from the meeting and circulate these to all Councillors. ACTION: JW

33. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** Nothing to report.

34. **BUCKS COUNTY MATTERS:** Nothing to report.

35. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** A letter of thanks had been received from Sir John Johnson thanking the Town Council for the WW1 commemoration event on Monday night. The Councillors wished to record a vote of thanks for both the Monday event and the opening of Flint Barn and the Art Exhibition on the Friday night.

The meeting ended at 21.33pm

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