

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs L. Walsh – Town Mayor
Councillor Mrs D I Allen
Councillor Mrs M. Harker OBE
Councillor Mrs V G Head
Councillor Mrs J. Heydon
Councillor M. Lacey
Councillor MJ Phillips
Councillor M. Vivis
Councillor A. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Janet Wheeler (Town Clerk)
2 members of public

46. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs A. Lamont; H. Newton; H. Trevette; A Seymour, N. Shepherd and A. Emmett.

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

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

49. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2014:**

It was	Proposed	Councillor Mrs J. Heydon
	Seconded	Councillor MJ. Phillips

RESOLVED to:

Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 July 2014.

50. **MATTERS ARISING:** There were no Matters arising. NB: the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 12 May 2014 will need to be approved at the next Council Meeting.

51. **COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

a) Community Services Minutes

It was	Proposed	Councillor M. Vivis
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs. L. Walsh

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Community Services Meeting held on 04 August 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

b) Planning and Footpaths Minutes

It was Proposed Councillor Mrs D. Allen
Seconded Councillors Mrs L Walsh,
M. Lacey and A. Williams.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 07 and 28 July, 18 August and 08 September 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

c) Finance and General Purposes Minutes

It was Proposed Councillor A. Williams
Seconded Councillor Mrs V. Head

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 11 August 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

52. **MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr Mrs V Head raised a query regarding the reason why Cllr Mrs D Allen was asked not to represent the Town Council at a recent planning meeting. Cllr M. Phillips raised concerns over the Planning Minutes of 08 September where the Committee voted to co-opt a member of a pressure group to help them with their response to the planning application for a waste transfer station. It was AGREED to remove this item from the Minutes. There followed a long discussion on this item. Cllr Williams stated that ATC wanted to see as many people as possible in their quest to understand the facts behind this application. Cllr Mrs Walsh proposed cancelling the meeting scheduled for Thursday 18 September due to many Councillors being unavailable. Both the applicant for the waste site and the opposers would be invited to attend a meeting before the Planning Meeting on 29 September. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs J. Heydon.

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

- (i) Income and Expenditure for the period ending 30 June 2014
- (ii) Cash flow as at 30 June 2014
- (iii) Balance sheet as at 30 June 2014
- (iv) Accounts paid to 30 June 2014

It was Proposed Councillor M. Phillips
Seconded Councillor A. Williams

RESOLVED to:

Approve the financial reports for June.

54. **TO DISCUSS THE QUOTE TO PURCHASE SOME TABLES AND CHAIRS FOR FLINT BARN AND REPLACE THE EXISTING TABLES AND CHAIRS IN MARKET HALL:** It was AGREED to defer this item to the next meeting of the Finance Committee at the request of Cllr Williams.

55. **TO REVIEW THE QUOTES FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND APPROVE A CONTRACTOR OVER A NEW THREE YEAR TERM:** It was AGREED to delegate this item to a meeting of the Christmas Committee.

56. **TO CONFIRM THE NAME OF THE NEW BUILDING IN BARN MEADOW:**
It was AGREED to name the new building: Barn Meadow Community Hall.

57. **TO COMMIT TO THE DEVOLVED OFFER FROM BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE AMERSHAM AREA:** Mark Richardson prepared a report assessing

the monies on offer from Bucks and the cost for the work. Bucks are offering a total budget of £25,585.45 for 2015/16 falling to £20,989.30 for 2016/17. This would include all the current devolved work (removal of fly posters; footpath trimming; sign cleaning etc) but also grass cutting in 30/40mph areas; hedge cutting; siding out and weed killing. Mark has worked out that ATC's current organisation can do most of the work in Amersham with a shortfall of 540 hours divided by 24 weeks – approx 22.5 hours extra or three men for one day. Our current devolved arrangement with Gerrards Cross is covered in this calculation. There would be a small profit of £3,457 the first year and a deficit of £1,138 for the next year.

It was AGREED that this report was just a start and that a full review of how much work each man can get through each day needs to be done. It was AGREED that the review may mean that the figures and possibly the profit will change.

It was	Proposed	Councillor A. Williams
	Seconded	Councillor M. Lacey

RESOLVED that

It was AGREED that Amersham Town Council would take on these extra devolved services. The devolved agreement with Gerrards Cross Parish Council would also continue. The next job was to look at how we can take on works from other parishes who wish to cluster with us.

ACTION: JW/MR

58. **TO CONSIDER WINTER PLANTING:** It was AGREED to allow Steve Catanach to organise a reasonable display over the winter months.

ACTION: SC

59. **TO CONFIRM THE CHOICE OF SUPPLIER FOR THE NEW CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND:** After consultation, there was a short list of three suppliers and designs which were preferred. It was AGREED that we should visit some existing playgrounds – both old and new – to see how the equipment weathers.

ACTION: LR/ZR

60. **TO APPROVE THE QUOTE FOR A SECOND COPIER:** A second copier was necessary as we have been existing on one since we changed our computers almost a year ago. The Deputy Town Clerk had quotes from several companies but our existing supplier gave us the best price for lease and copies. It was AGREED to remain with Ricoh and the officers were asked to make the final decision on model.

ACTION: LR

61. **UP-DATE ON THE CARNIVAL:** The Town Mayor reported that discussions were going well and the Town Carnival would take place on Saturday 27 June 2015. Cllr Walsh hoped that the Round Table would want to join with the other stakeholders but a final decision from them was due to be announced by the end of the week.

62. **TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FOR ANOTHER CHILTERN CYCLING FESTIVAL NEXT YEAR:** The proposal was for more involvement from ATC on making their properties available; staffing the road closures; road closure admin; risk assessment; signage; bollards; barriers and other background help. The use of Barn Meadow Community Hall; Market Hall and the courtyard at Flint Barn would be needed along with parking on Barn Meadow. There was also a proposal to put part of the racing in Amersham on the Hill. The Councillors were concerned at the cost of providing this support free of charge. The staff over time alone for this event was in the region of £1700 – and not all staff were paid overtime. There had also been complaints from some residents and businesses affected by the road closures. It was AGREED that if the Cycle Festival was to go ahead, it should not cost the Amersham residents any money. Therefore the road closure, overtime salaries and use of the properties would be chargeable.

ACTION: JW

63. **TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FROM SIGNHEALTH TO RUN A GREAT CHRISTMAS PUDDING RACE IN OLD AMERSHAM:** The charity Signhealth wishes to run a sponsored fun run or walk in the Old Town. They have approached the Town Council for support of any kind but will essentially run the event without ATC needing to close the road and the staff this entails. The idea is that we could encourage the shops to get involved as part of the route would be along the High Street. This event could also link with our Community Carol Service. The Councillors liked the idea and were happy for ATC to lend support. ACTION: ZR/JW

64. **TO AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT TO FILL POTHoles SUBJECT TO ATC ATTAINING APPROVED SUPPLIER STATUS FROM BUCKS:** It was AGREED that the Town Council would purchase the Nuphalt machine as soon as Bucks gives their approval for us to become an approved contractor. We may need to offer a trial of pothole filling for this to happen.

65. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** Cllr Mrs Harker mentioned a planning consultation: Changes to Permitted Development. This was not a consultation that we had been notified about and there was very little time left to comment. The Deputy Town Clerk would talk to CDC about the fact that they did not pass this on to parishes.

66. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:** A consultation on Parking was now in circulation with a response date of the end of October.

67. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** There were no matters for report.

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.

68. **ITEM CONCERNING AN ATC PROPERTY**

69. **ITEM CONCERNING AN ATC PROPERTY**

70. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC STAFF WORKLOADS**

71. **ITEM CONCERNING A POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR A LOAN**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Chairman Date