

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs L. Walsh – Town Mayor
Councillor Mrs A. Lamont – Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Mrs D I Allen
Councillor A. Emmett
Councillor Mrs M. Harker OBE
Councillor Mrs V G Head
Councillor Mrs J. Heydon
Councillor H. Newton
Councillor N. Shepherd
Councillor M. Vivis

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

OPEN FORUM

Mr Chris Wallace from Proludic presented the revised design for the new infant playground at King George V Playing Field. Chairman of Amersham Bowls Club, Mr John Barber, spoke about the grievances of the Club and their pending lease. It was confirmed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the ATC Property Working Group. Their recommendations would then be forwarded to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

77. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillor A. Williams; M. Lacey; MJ Phillips; H. Trevette and A Seymour.

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

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

80. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2014:**

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 September 2014.

81. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 12 MAY 2014 AND 20 OCTOBER 2014:** It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Council Meetings held on 12 May 2014 and 20 October 2014.

82. **MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr Mrs D. Allen read out a response to a letter from the TC recommending which Councillors should be chosen to speak for ATC at Planning meetings. It was noted that any Councillor who speaks at a Planning Meeting should only give the messages agreed and minuted at the ATC Planning Meetings.

83. **COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

a) Community Services Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Community Services Meeting held on 06 October 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

b) Planning and Footpaths Minutes

It was

Proposed	Councillor H Newton
Seconded	Councillor Mrs D. Allen

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 29 September and 20 October 2014 be confirmed as a true record. The Minutes of 10 November 2014 will be deferred to the next full Council meeting.

c) Finance and General Purposes Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 03 November 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

d) Establishment Committee Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Establishment Committee held on 10 November 2014 be confirmed as a true record.

84. **MATTERS ARISING:** No matters were declared.

85. **TO CONSIDER WHETHER ATC WISH TO PUT UP CROSS-STREET CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR NEXT YEAR:** The Councillors were informed that putting cross street lights in Amersham on the Hill for next year would mean increasing the budget by £1000 per banner. The current budget for Christmas lights for both Amersham on the Hill and Old Amersham is £17,000. The Councillors did not wish to commit to increasing the budget to accommodate cross-street lights for next year. The budget therefore will not include any additional cost for cross street lights. The Town Clerk was asked to get permission from the shops but this would prove confusing if Council then backed down at the last minute – and the budget should be as close to actual spend as is possible to do so.

86. **TO CONSIDER THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S REQUEST FOR FLOOD LIGHTING IN THE SKATE PARK IN EARLY EVENINGS:** The Street Team have been speaking to the young people and this was a popular request. CDC apparently have some portable lights that could be used. The Police are also in favour of providing this facility. Some Councillors felt that there was sufficient light from the MUGA; others were concerned that the residents in the Kings Lodge would be disturbed; other Councillors were in favour. It was **AGREED** to trial the lighting. The Town Clerk would talk to CDC and ensure that they were in favour.

ACTION: JW/ZR

It was **AGREED** to debate item 10 on the agenda in the Part two section of the meeting.

87. **TO APPROVE THE QUOTE TO BEGIN POLLARDING THE WILLOWS IN BARN MEADOW:** Following the flooding last winter, this work is considered to be urgent. The willows have been allowed to get to a considerable height and the quote received comes to a total of £2,875 plus vat. This price includes the pollarding of four willows and a crown lift on one – the work can be done by the second week in December.

RESOLVED that

It was AGREED to go ahead with the work rather than spend time gathering more quotes.

ACTION: JW/MR

88. **TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON UTILITY BILLS FOR ATC PROPERTIES:** With energy prices unstable on wholesale prices, the recommendation of our broker is to synchronise the contract end dates to one date; aim at eventually getting one supplier which will speed up payment of bills and give us greater negotiating power on rates. A pile of reports on all the ATC properties was provided and the recommendation was made on a 30 month contract with SSE. This would give the Council a total saving of £779 per annum. Renewal would be 31 August 2017. This was AGREED. ACTION: JW

89. **TO REVIEW THE REVISED PLAYGROUND DESIGN FROM PROLUDIC:** The Councillors liked the design overall and were happy to go ahead with any changes that the officers may need to make. Cllr Head was concerned that the design would take up too much space. The Town Clerk explained that the quote did not include any fencing at this stage as we may be able to apply for a grant to cover some of the groundworks.

ACTION: LR/ZR

90. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** Cllr Shepherd informed the Council that the DDPD of the Local Plan had been refused by the Government Inspector. The Town Clerk spoke of a letter received accusing ATC of a breach in planning rights for Flint Barn, The Deputy Town Clerk had been in touch with the Planning Department. We do not yet know whether they wish to visit the Council Offices but we have nothing to hide and will be applying for permission for possible change of use very shortly. Aston Hearing Services may also have a plan for the ground floor of Flint Barn – a proposal may be put to Council at some stage in the future. The Town Clerk indicated the Minutes of the Council meeting in June where it was stated that we would re-apply for change of use once we had determined the actual use of the building.

91. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:** Cllr Head commented on the re-surfacing works.

92. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** Steve Poulson's request for live music on three Sunday nights in December at Flint Barn was rejected due to the lateness of the show and the thin nature of the listed windows. Hervines was possible but this may clash with the football teams using the pavilion on Sunday afternoon. The Town Clerk gave an up-date on the Polish War Memorial at Stanley Hill Cemetery.

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.

93. **ITEM CONCERNING AN ATC PROPERTY**

94. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC STAFF**

95. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC PROPERTY**

96. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC PROPERTY**

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Chairman Date

Council