

Amersham Town Council

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AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 08 DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs J. Heydon (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Mrs L. Walsh (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs A. Lamont (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr A. Emmett (Part time)
Cllr Mrs V. Head
Cllr M. Vivis

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr A. Williams (Part time)
Mrs J. Wheeler (Town Clerk)

54. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr A. Seymour (Chairman) and Cllr H. Trevette.

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

56. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Cllr Mrs Lamont wanted to know the progress on the hedge around King George V Playing Field – the Town Clerk confirmed that this was still on the list to resolve.

Cllr Mrs Walsh thanked the Depot for their invaluable work manning the road closure for the Christmas event at the weekend. The event was judged to be a success. Cllr Williams and Cllr Emmett joined the meeting.

57. **UP-DATE ON THE AMERSHAM CARNIVAL:** The Mayor reported that all parties were happy for ATC to have a quarter of the Playing Field along with Chiltern Youth Projects; Amersham Action Group and Round Table. Risk Assessments are currently being worked on and will be submitted to CDC and the Town Clerk before Christmas.

58. **TO DISCUSS THE CIVIC EVENT LIST FOR 2015:** The Civic event list was still in an early draft. The Councillors were not keen on the theme of Victory for Bloom. The Town Clerk mentioned that some traders from the Old Town had requested a late night Christmas shopping evening. The Councillors felt that ATC could only support this event as they have done for Top Town. It was agreed that Old Town should have a tree in Market Square next year. The Civic event list would come back to Council in January.

The Town Clerk stated that the Depot may not be able to handle a large tree outside St Michael's for next year. The pit for the tree is in the wrong place which meant that the Depot

had to use man-power which compromised on the safety aspects of this exercise in the high street. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would contact the Church and see if they would consider moving the pit nearer the road. ACTION: JW

59. **TO DISCUSS THE BENSHEIM VISIT FOR 2015:** It was the turn of ATC to invite an official delegation to visit Amersham. It was AGREED to invite the Burgermeister and his team to visit at the end of June for the Carnival. Cllr Mrs Head said that this earlier date for the carnival and the Bensheim visit would not suit the Twinning Club. ACTION: JW

60. **TO CONFIRM THE ROAD CLOSURES AND FREE PARKING:** The regular road closure events consist of:

Saturday 27 June 2014 Amersham Carnival, Amersham on the Hill

Sunday 13 September 2014 Heritage Open Day, Old Amersham

Saturday 05 December 2014 Amersham Showcase, Amersham on the Hill

Plus a possible Christmas event for Old Amersham if residents and businesses want to lead an event. The final list of road closures and free parking days will be confirmed at the January Council meeting. ACTION: JW

61. **TO REVIEW THE TREE PLANTING AND PONDWICKS:** Steve reported a good autumn with trees planted in Highland Road and First Avenue. Consultation is currently ongoing with residents of Stanley Hill Avenue. Donations from Amersham in Transition and the WI has purchased a further thirteen fruit trees for Pondwicks – native cherries; plums; pears and a quince. It is hope to officially open the garden next year. ACTION: SC

62. **REPORT OF THE FLOODING MEETING:** Councillors had received the Minutes from CDC. It was noted that most of the significant actions were for ATC! So far we have agreed to host a set of trash pins on Barn Meadow; some pollarding of willows will be carried out in days and we are monitoring the Misbourne several times a week. The bridges were discussed with Tony Houghton and will need to be resolved as soon as possible. Contact with the bridge owners will be necessary once ATC has agreed what they would like regarding ownership, health and safety responsibilities. ACTION: JW

63. **UP-DATE ON THE PLATT WALL:** The Town Clerk has attended several meetings with Brian Aldridge Associates. It has been established that ATC does not have a large sum to spend on this wall. The next step is to approach the engineering firm who did the first review in 2010 and see how what costs they would suggest to reinstate the wall. Cllr Williams suggested talking to a company who would underpin the wall such as Pinforde. ACTION: JW

64. **REQUEST FOR PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ON STANLEY HILL:** Amersham resident, Nick Huntly, has requested that the Town Council consider making an application for a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Stanley Hill Avenue and Salisbury Close. After much discussion, the Councillors AGREED to fund a feasibility study with Bucks CC which will determine the next step. The Council would also ask the study to consider a pedestrian island as an alternative to the crossing. ACTION: JW

65. **TO CONSIDER A REPLACEMENT CABLE FOR THE CHURCH ST LIGHT:** The Councillors requested a cost before they could make a decision. ACTION: SC

66. **TO CONSIDER UP-GRADING THE LIGHTS TO LED'S IN FIRST AVENUE:** Again the Councillors requested costs before making a decision. ACTION: SC

67. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**: The Town Clerk confirmed that ATC was still waiting to find out the decision regarding the mitigating grant. It was hope to receive this news before Christmas.

68. **BUCKS COUNTY MATTERS**: There was nothing to report other than we are still waiting for the double yellow lines near Mill Lane to be completed.

69. **MATTERS FOR REPORT**: The Crown has requested the support of the Town Council for installing a brown car park sign on the roundabout junction of Whielden Street and High Street to indicate the parking entrance for The Crown customers. It was AGREED to give support to this sign. ACTION: JW

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.

70. **ITEM REGARDING ATC FUEL CARDS**

71. **ITEM REGARDING ATC PROPERTY**

72. **ITEM REGARDING ATC PROPERTY**

The meeting ended at 09.10pm

Chairman Date