

# Amersham Town Council

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## AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 02 FEBRUARY 2015

**PRESENT:** Councillor A. Seymour (Chair)  
Councillor Mrs J. Heydon (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor Mrs A. Lamont (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs L. Walsh (Mayor)  
Councillor M. Vivis

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs J. Wheeler (Town Clerk)  
Miss Z. Richardson (Community Services trainee)

#### **Open Forum**

Jan Atkinson from the Amersham Society wanted to clarify the requested road closure in the Old Town for Friday 04 December 2015. The Councillor felt that three Civic events in five days would be too much for the staff at a busy time of the year. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would email the other Councillors in order to get a fair view.

73. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Head; H. Trevette and N. Shepherd.

74. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations.

75. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APPROVED MINUTES OF 08 DECEMBER 2014:** There were no matters arising.

76. **NOTES FROM THE LAST BLOOM MEETING:** An email from Steve Catanach had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that Steve and Jill Mace were making good progress with their plans. The Town Clerk commented that the higher standard of planting was bringing the benefit of more interest and sponsorship to the Bloom programme.

77. **TO CONSIDER THE BEST VALUE ITEMS FOR THE NEW INFANT PLAY AREA AND POSSIBLE CHANGE OF SUPPLIER:** The Officers had been struggling to work with the current contractor for some time. The company seemed to offer very little in terms of creativity or ideas. They wanted firm direction for changes but did not seem interested in making suggestions themselves. The proposed equipment was not only very dull but also very expensive – the main feature was around £20,000 including installation costs. They admitted that they over-loaded the installation costs on our quote. Officers had major concerns with the height of the main feature which was around 4ft off the ground with very

little to stop children falling through. With all these concerns – and many more – Officers felt that we would not be comfortable making a major investment in this playground with a company that we were struggling to work with.

The Town Clerk then circulated some playground ideas from one of the other companies that we had used to put a train in Barn Meadow. This equipment had stood the test of time very well and was robust. The Councillors were impressed with the ideas and were happy to change the supplier with a view to opening the new play area at the Fun Day in August.

ACTION: JW/LR/ZR

78. **TO NOTE THE CONSULTATION DATE FOR PHASE ONE OF THE HERVINES PROJECT:** The main consultation for the project will be in the Drake Community Room on Thursday 05 March 2015 from 7.30pm. In addition we will attend the consultation event organised at the Amersham Free Church by Amersham Action Group on Saturday 28 February. We will also follow up both these events with our Town Meeting at Market Hall on Monday 09 March 2015. There will be some visual displays of the Hervines site. There will be questionnaires compiled by Nigel Moore for residents to complete or take away. The Town Clerk is also looking to provide some maps of the site so that residents and sports groups can draw the facilities straight on to a visual – this will be for those people who do not like completing questionnaires. The Town Clerk showed the logo that has been designed especially for the Hervines Park Project and she is currently working on a new page for this project on the ATC web site.

ACTION: JW

79. **TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO KRYNICA:** A letter had been received from the Mayor of Krynica-Zdroj, Dariusz Resko. He expressed interest in encouraging the Amersham schools to forge links with the schools in Krynica. It was AGREED that the Town Clerk would write to the Amersham schools to see if there was any interest in an exchange programme.

ACTION: JW

80. **TO CONSIDER THE UP-GRADE OF SEVEN STREETLIGHTS ON SYCAMORE ROAD:** The street lights along the residential section of Sycamore Road consist of seven ageing lanterns. We have had one request for up-grading the lighting and there was a fatality on this stretch of road last year although police said that the lighting was not a factor. The new LED lanterns would increase the light splays and visibility as well as reduce maintenance costs. Three quotes had been received:

Company A £2635

Company B £4021

Company C £4277

It was AGREED to give the work to Company A – Sparkx at a cost of £2635 plus vat.

ACTION: SC

81. **TO CONSIDER AN ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON THE FOOTPATH FROM THE STATION TO THE COPSE:** This is a request from a resident and the footpath is very well used. However the quote is just under £3000 (£2990) and this is a considerable sum for one light. It was AGREED not to proceed but would review if the Council receives more complaints.

82. **TO CONSIDER LAYING A NEW CABLE TO A STREET LIGHT OUTSIDE THE CHURCH SO THAT IT IS LIT ALL NIGHT:** ATC repaired this light earlier in the year but the power supply to the column could not be traced. The contractor wired the streetlight to the flood lights outside St Mary's Church – this was the cheaper option to digging up the pavement. The church flood lights work on a timer from dusk to 12 midnight. We have had a number of enquiries to ask if we can re-wire the streetlight to stay on all night

– but the cost is just over £1000 and would involve laying a cable through the church yard some 20 metres from the lamp. It was AGREED that there were very few people around after midnight to justify this expense and that the light up to midnight should be enough for most people.

83. **TO CONSIDER THE REVISED CHARGES FOR OUR HALLS AND PAVILIONS:** The Town Clerk circulated some revised charges with the intention of simplifying the price structure to an hourly rate. This will make it easier to have bookings made direct from our re-vamped web site. It was AGREED to approve these revisions.  
ACTION:JW

84. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** The Local Plan was discussed – it was noted that there is a session being organised at CDC on 24 February 2015. It was also considered whether the Councillors should use a professional to help with the response but this was considered to be an expensive exercise with little guarantee that CDC would take any notice.

85. **BUCKS COUNTY MATTERS:** The Town Clerk reminded Councillors of the Devolved Conference at Adams Park on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

86. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** The Town Clerk reported little progress with The Platt wall and the Market Hall Clock Tower- she is reviewing the contractors appointed. The levels of the Misbourne are normal and the trash pins have been installed at Barn Meadow. It was agreed that we should change our regular ice cream lady.

The meeting ended at 21.10pm

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