

# Amersham Town Council

Flint Barn Court, Church Street, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0DB

TOWN CLERK: MRS J WHEELER, CILCA MILCM

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## DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 13 APRIL 2015

PRESENT: Councillor M. Vivis (Chairman)  
Councillor A. Williams (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillor Mrs L. Walsh (Town Mayor – part time)  
Councillor Mrs A. Lamont (Deputy Town Mayor – part time)  
Councillor M. Lacey  
Councillor H. Newton  
Councillor M. J. Phillips

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J Wheeler – Town Clerk  
Miss A, Ayer – Finance Officer  
Miss Z. Richardson – Community Trainee Officer

95. APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs J. Heydon and A. Seymour.

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

97. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL 2015: There were no matters arising.

The meeting was then adjourned to receive a presentation on the early responses to the consultation to the development of Hervines Park.

(Cllrs Mrs L. Walsh and Mrs A. Lamont enter the meeting)

98. TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW TRANSPARENCY ACT 2015: The new Local Government Transparency Act became law on 01 April 2015. There is some information that we must legally publish and there is some information that we can choose to publish in the quest for good practice. The Town Clerk recommended the following:

- \* ATC publishes details of all items of expenditure over £250 on a quarterly basis. We will strive to publish on a monthly basis as soon as possible.
- \* Invitations to tender for contracts worth over £5,000 will be advertised on the website monthly.
- \* ATC would review the standard of publishing contracts worth over £500 for next year.
- \* Land and buildings owned by ATC to be published on the web site.
- \* ATC will publish all grants on the web site.
- \* ATC will publish staff salaries in a block plus any out-sourced contractors' remuneration.

It was

Proposed

Councillor A. Williams

Seconded

Councillor MJ Phillips

**RECOMMENDED to:**

Approve the recommendations from the Town Clerk as listed above.

99. **TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE PROJECTS TO SUBMIT TO LAF:** There are two ways to submit projects to the Local Area Forum: the first through “Amersham Decides” where the sum of £10,000 will be split between six projects which are voted by the residents. The second is to submit projects for a direct grant from the Local Priorities budget. The proposed budget for 2015/16 is around £40,000. The Town Clerk was asked to contact Jackie Wesley to put forward any ideas. ACTION: JW

100. **TO CONSIDER THE COST OF INSTALLING BOLLARDS IN FLINT BARN COURTYARD:** The Councillors were AGREED that whatever the outcome of the pending planning application for change of use for Flint Barn, it would be wise to restrict the parking in the courtyard. It was also agreed that telescopic bollards would be the most convenient way of restricting access to users of Flint Barn and Aston Hearing Services. The Clerk presented some bollards that cost around £441 but they were not considered robust. The Town Clerk was asked to gather more quotes for heavy duty bollards that would not crumple when hit. ACTION: JW

101. **UP-DATE ON THE NEW POLISH MEMORIAL FOR STANLEY HILL CEMETERY:** A striking new memorial standing some 7ft high will be installed at Stanley Hill Cemetery very shortly. The Clerk circulated the designs which the Councillors were pleased to approve. ACTION: STAN/MR

102. **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO HELP WITH RE-SURFACING OF THE ROAD LEADING UP TO THE PLATT CEMETERY:** The residents are looking to do a more permanent refurbishment of The Platt road. They have yet to finalise the materials and finish of the road but wanted an indication of whether ATC would give a contribution to the project. The Councillors felt that they would need a final brief with costings before they would commit Council funds to the project. It was acknowledged that the Council uses the road to access the Cemetery at The Platt. It was also suggested that a levy of £100 could be put onto burials at The Platt to help pay for the road. ACTION: JW

103. **FINANCE MATTERS:** To consider the following:  
(i) Income and Expenditure for the period ending 31 December 2014 and 28 February 2015  
(ii) Cash flow as at 31 December 2014 and 28 February 2015  
(iii) Balance sheet as at 31 December 2014 and 28 February 2015  
(iv) Accounts paid to 31 December 2014 and 28 February 2015  
It was Proposed Councillor T. Williams  
Seconded Councillor H. Newton

**RECOMMENDED to**

To approve the above accounts.

104. **TO CONSIDER A SUGGESTED PROGRAMME FOR THE VISITORS FROM BENSHEIM:** We have three official delegates visiting over the weekend of 26 and 27 June 2015. One of the guests is the new Burgermeister, Herr Rolf Richter. A draft programme was agreed but it would only be available to the three official delegates. Other members of the Twinnig Club would be expected to pay their own expenses. A full programme would be concluded at the Annual Statutory Meeting. ACTION: JW

105. **TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL OF A COVERED CONSERVATORY AREA AT FLINT BARN:** This item was deferred as we were still awaiting quotes.

106. **TO REVIEW THE BUDGET ON THE AMERSHAM CARNIVAL:** The Councillors were given two options and agreed that they would prefer the activities to major on the large play sand pit and sand activities. Cllr Phillips was keen on trying to find a sand sculpture but it may need special sand. Other seaside activities and items were approved such as donkey rides; sand moulds and diggers; deck chairs; punch and judy show; beach balls with a net for informal ball sports and lots more. ACTION: MR.ZR

107. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** There was nothing new from CDC and Councillors noted that our change of use planning application is no further advanced despite being beyond the decision date of 25 March 2015.

108. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:** The Town Clerk and Cllr Phillips had a very successful meeting with a representative from the DCLG last week at Hervines Park. The subject of the wish of ATC to minor pot hole repairs was made with the Leader of BCC.

109. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** Councillors agreed to allow the cast of the forthcoming Martyrs Play to use ATC properties for their rehearsals free of charge. Cllr Walsh stated that she would like to split the remainder of her Mayor's Fund between Age Concern; Amersham Society and Amersham Action Group.

**Part two**

**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.**

110. **ITEM CONCERNING AN ATC PROPERTY**

111. **ITEM CONCERNING AN ATC MEMBER OF STAFF**

112. **ITEM CONCERNING AN ATC COUNCILLOR**

113. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The meeting closed at 21.05pm.

Chairman.....

Date .....