

Amersham Town Council

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AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 03 AUGUST 2015

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Seymour (Chair)
Councillor C Morgan (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Mrs A. Lamont (Mayor)
Councillor M Flys
Councillor Ms C Jones
Councillor Mrs D Kenchington
Councillor Mrs L Staite
Councillor Mrs L Walsh
Councillor T Williams

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor N Shepherd
Mrs J. Wheeler (Town Clerk)
Mrs E Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr M Richardson (Contracts Manager)
Miss Z Richardson (Officer)
Approximately 20 members of the public including
representatives of Mitchell Walk Playgroup and residents of
roads near Hervines Park

OPEN FORUM: Members heard the views of several members of the public, including parents of pupils from Mitchell Walk Playgroup. Views were also heard from several residents of Hervines Road and nearby roads regarding their views on the redevelopment of the Pavilion at Hervines Park.

17. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillor M. Vivis (Deputy Mayor).

18. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Seymour declared a personal interest in Item 12 on the Agenda (Proposed donation to the Royal British Legion) and took no part in the discussion.

19. **MINUTES:** It was Proposed – Councillor A Seymour

RESOLVED – The minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 1st June 2015 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

20. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APPROVED MINUTES OF 1st JUNE 2015:**
(i) Fire Risk Assessment of Market Hall: The Deputy Town Clerk reported that a Fire Risk Assessment was to be conducted at Market Hall on Tuesday 4th August to ascertain the feasibility of installing a lift for disabled access. The report will be forwarded to Councillors in due course.
21. **HERVINES PARK PROJECT:** The Town Clerk reported that the initial architects brief had been drawn up and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. However it was felt that the brief was not sufficiently detailed and would need to be amended. Given the views heard from the members of the public during the open session, it was agreed that a further consultation meeting would be set up with residents to examine the revised brief before any further progress is made with the project.
ACTION JW
22. **BARN MEADOW COMMUNITY HALL:** After much discussion regarding the concerns voiced by representatives and parents of Mitchell Walk Playgroup, it was agreed that a meeting would be set up between Councillors Mark Flys, Caroline Jones, Tony Williams and Clive Morgan, together with the owner and 3 parents of Mitchell Walk Playgroup, and officers of Amersham Town Council to discuss a possible long term hire arrangement of Barn Meadow Community Hall. The Town Clerk will set up an urgent meeting date.
ACTION JW
23. **AMERSHAM IN BLOOM:** A report from Steve Catanach included information about the huge effort by volunteers from the 2nd Amersham on the Hill Scouts, the Amersham Society, St Mary's Youth Group, residents, the Amersham in Bloom Volunteer Group, the 2nd Amersham Beavers and the WI, who had spent time weeding the pavements and beds around Amersham, as well as litter picking around the town. Pupils from Stony Dean School also painted poppies pinned to the crosses at Shardeloes. Councillors wished to thank all the volunteer groups, the Depot staff and Steve for all their hard work in this year's contest.
24. **UPDATE ON THE NEW INFANT PLAYGROUND AT KGV**
The DTC reported that the new playground was completed and had been opened to the public on 16th July in time for the school holidays. The official opening by the Mayor will take place at the Chiltern District Council Fun Day on King George V Field on 5th August. It was also reported that the public feedback received so far on the new equipment was very positive. It is hoped that additional bench seating and a picnic table can be installed at a later date.
25. **TOWN COUNCIL NAME PLAQUE FOR FLINT BARN COURT:**
Four different styles of name plaque were examined by Councillors, with one style being chosen. The DTC was instructed to proceed with the order.
ACTION ER
26. **MARKET HALL CLOCK TOWER, AND BELL REPAIRS:**

The Town Clerk reported that the planning application for the repairs to the Market Hall Clock Tower was still pending consideration by Chiltern District Council. It is understood that the Listed Buildings Officer is minded to approve the application subject to further inspection of the structure and with the proviso that a timber repair is used if at all possible, but this will depend on the stability of the structure.

27. **UPDATE ON THE AMERSHAM CARNIVAL:**

A report from Zoe Richardson had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Carnival had been a huge success, with the ATC “Amersham on Sea” attraction proving extremely popular. It was noted that a local golf club has expressed an interest in purchasing the large quantity of sand left over from the ATC attraction. Councillors requested that their thanks be conveyed to all ATC staff involved, especially the Depot staff for their hard work. Organisation of the Carnival had been a joint collaboration between ATC, Amersham Action Group and Amersham Round Table. Although there had been some communication issues, it was considered that all parties worked well together and thanks went to Councillor Liz Walsh for her liaison role between ATC and Amersham Action Group. Although a date for next year’s Carnival had been suggested by ATC and AAG, the Round Table did not want this date circulated until it had been discussed with their members. It is hoped that the date can be confirmed before the next ATC Council meeting on 7th September in order that the organisation of the event can begin. It is anticipated that next year’s Carnival will remain jointly organised by ATC / AAG and Round Table and it was agreed that a Town Councillor will need to be appointed to act as a liaison with AAG.

28. **REQUEST FROM VENDOR TO SELL REFRESHMENTS AT HERVINES**

PARK:

Councillors were informed that a local Coffee Shop vendor had requested permission from ATC to sell beverages and light refreshments from a catering vehicle at Hervines Park on Saturday mornings during the football season. It was also suggested that a similar service could be provided at the KGV Playground. Although Councillors had no objection in principle to the proposal, it was agreed that a formal agreement would need to be set up to cover risk assessment, public liability insurance, litter prevention and child protection policy.

ACTION ER

29. **DONATIONS TO ROYAL BRITISH LEGION AND SCANNAPPEAL:**

Following the two charity fund raising events held in the Memorial Gardens this summer (VE Day Concert and the Proms in the Gardens), Councillors agreed that a donation of £634 be made to the Royal British Legion and £294 to the Scannappeal.

30. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:**

(i) **HS2 Update**

Councillor Shepherd reported that petitions against HS2 will be heard by the Select Committee in September. It has been suggested that Chiltern Railways be called as an expert witness for the ATC petition which will recommend that much of the material involved in the project be carried by rail rather than local roads.

(ii) **Planning application for Change of Use at Flint Barn Court:**

It was suggested that the current planning application for change of use at Flint Barn be withdrawn and the application be re-submitted, accompanied by more robust evidence regarding the parking restrictions at Flint Barn Court. A local Transport Consultation has been identified and the Town Clerk will liaise with him about the revised planning application. ACTION JW

31. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:**

(i) **Double Yellow Lines on Mill Lane:**

It was noted that Bucks CC has still not painted double yellow lines on a section of Mill Lane, as previously agreed. The Deputy Town Clerk was asked to follow this up with Bucks CC. ACTION ER

32. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

(i) **Twinning:**

The Mayor reported that she had received a letter of thanks from the Bensheim Stadt, thanking ATC for their hospitality during the twinning weekend held in June.

(ii) **Amersham Station Ticket Office:**

Councillors voiced concern about the removal of the manned ticket office at Amersham rail station and are keen to know what level of manning (if any) would be retained at the station after the ticket office closes. It was suggested that an enquiry be made with Cheryl Gillan.

ACTION ER

(iii) **Heritage Day:**

Councillor Seymour highlighted that Heritage Day on 13th September is fast approaching and asked Councillors for their support on the day in manning the Tea Hut etc.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm

Chairman Date