

Amersham Town Council

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AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 05 OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT: Councillor A. Seymour (Chair)
Councillor C Morgan (Deputy Chair)
Councillor M Flys
Councillor Ms C Jones

IN ATTENDANCE:
Mrs J. Wheeler (Town Clerk)
Mrs E Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)

33. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from
Councillor Mrs A. Lamont (Mayor)
Councillor M. Vivis (Deputy Mayor).
Councillor Mrs D Kenchington
Councillor Mrs L Staite
Councillor Mrs L Walsh
Councillor T Williams
34. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest.
35. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APPROVED MINUTES OF 3 August 2015:**
There were no matters arising.
36. **REPORT ON AMERSHAM IN BLOOM RESULT 2016:** Councillors were thrilled to win the coveted Gold award for Britain in Bloom for the second year running and were especially pleased to have won the 'Best Public Park' for the Memorial Gardens and another Award for 'Best Conservation and Wildlife'. Councillors wished to formally congratulate everyone involved this year, particularly the volunteer groups, the ATC Depot team, the Chairman of Amersham in Bloom - Jill Mace and of course our Community Services Officer, Steve Catanach for their hard work and dedication. It was noted that we scored 172 marks out of a possible 200 and we were again just two marks behind Henley.

It was AGREED to move item 5 on the agenda to later in the meeting.

37. **MARKET HALL CLOCK TOWER, BELL OUT EXTERNAL REPAIRS:**
Councillors noted that the planning application for the repairs to the Market Hall Clock tower had been approved by the District Council, but were frustrated to learn that conditions had been imposed by the Conservation Officer which will necessitate the Town Council erecting scaffolding to enable further inspection of the clock tower structure by the Conservation Officer before full consent for the work will be granted. Inevitably this will add considerable expense and inconvenience to the project. This is particularly frustrating as the officer concerned had the opportunity to view the structure when scaffolding was erected some months ago, but did not take up this opportunity. Indeed she failed to turn up to a meeting organised by our surveyor, Stephen Crawley. It was therefore agreed that the Town Clerk should write to the District Council, voicing concerns about the additional expenditure being incurred as a result of these planning consent conditions. With regard to the possible application for a grant from English Heritage, the Deputy Town Clerk reported that after an initial communication with the South East office of English Heritage, it was confirmed that Market Hall would not be eligible for a grant, as it is not listed on the 'Heritage at Risk' Register. ACTION JW/ER
38. **AMERSHAM CARNIVAL 2016:** The Town Clerk reported that discussions are already underway for next year's Carnival. The date of Saturday 9th July 2016 has been agreed. The proposed theme of 'Rio', was thought to be appropriate, as it combines the concept of a Rio Carnival with the Olympics which are of course being held in Rio next August. It also means that this year's very successful 'beach' idea can be repeated, but with a different design theme of Copacabana beach.
39. **TOWN GUIDE:** The Town Clerk reported that after some years, the contract with Peter Hawkes for publication of the Town Guide had now come to an end and the Town Council must decide on whether to continue publishing the Town Guide in its current format. After discussion, it was recommended that rather than produce hard copies of the guide, it would be preferable to have a PDF version which could be placed on the ATC website for anyone to access. It was also felt that whilst the current guide contains valuable information about Amersham, much of the content needed updating. The feasibility of this will be examined. ACTION JW/ER
40. **QUALITY COUNCIL SCHEME:**
The Town Clerk reported that the old Quality Council Scheme had been replaced with the new Local Council Award Scheme. Existing Quality Councils such as Amersham are allowed to sign up to the new scheme. Benefits of Membership include discounts on training courses as well as the prestige of membership itself. After discussion, it was agreed that ATC should apply for the Quality Award, which will demonstrate that ATC achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. ATC would then aspire to the top – Quality Gold – Award. ACTION JW
41. **REQUEST FOR DEFIBRILLATORS:**
Councillors acknowledged receipt of a letter from an Amersham Fire Station officer, requesting the installation of cardiac defibrillators in both the Amersham Old town High Street and in the main retail area of Amersham-on-the-Hill. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the machines and protective casings cost approximately £1000 each, with annual running costs of about £20, plus any expenses incurred from vandalism to the boxes. Given the costs involved and the fact that fortnightly checks have to be carried out on the equipment, plus the vulnerability to vandalism damage, it was agreed that the Council would not proceed with the request at this stage. But the

matter could be reviewed in the future. The Deputy Town Clerk was asked to contact Hazlemere Parish Council whom it is understood have their own machine to ask if the machine has ever been used. ACTION ER

Post meeting note – Hazlemere Parish Clerk reported that their defibrillator has never been used and advised that the benefit of the equipment is dependent on the proximity of the patient to the machine and the user being capable of carrying out CPR after the machine has been used.

42. **TO RATIFY DONATIONS TO HERITAGE DAY SUPPORTERS:**

Following a recommendation from Steve Catanach for donations to be made to supporters of Heritage Day, (including Chiltern Traction Engine Club, Chiltern Jive Club, Herga Folk Club, Robert Mackenzie (shire horse) and Scoil Irish Dancers), it was agreed to ratify the amounts proposed.

43. **TO RATIFY THE ANNUAL INSURANCE RENEWAL TO ZURICH MUNICIPAL INSURANCE:**

Councillors noted the annual premium - £3,814 + £228.89 IPT - to be paid to Zurich Municipal Insurance for the Town Council's main insurance scheme as part of the 3 year contract and ratified the payment.

44. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:**

There were no matters for discussion.

45. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:** The Town Clerk reported that following the resignation of Steve Poulson from his service to ATC in youth activities, there is no longer anyone to organise the pop-up cinema. Efforts are being made to find someone to take over this responsibility. ACTION JR

46. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

(i) Dursley Town Trust: Following the visit by the Town Clerk and two Councillors to view the Market Hall at Dursley, Members approved the Clerk's recommendation to make a donation to the Dursley Town Trust of £100 in recognition of their time in discussing their plans for the installation of a lift.

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.

47. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC PROPERTY**

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The meeting ended at 8.48pm

Chairman Date