

Amersham Town Council

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AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 07 DECEMBER 2015

PRESENT: Councillor A. Seymour (Chair)
Councillor C Morgan (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Mrs A. Lamont (Mayor)
Councillor M. Vivis (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor M Flys
Councillor Mrs D Kenchington
Councillor M Lacey
Councillor T Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J. Wheeler (Town Clerk)
Mrs E Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)
Cllr N. Shepherd
Mrs Annie Hamilton-White

52. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from
Councillor Ms C Jones
Councillor Mrs L Staite
Councillor Mrs L Walsh

53. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest.

54. **BARN MEADOW COMMUNITY HALL:**
The Town Clerk reported that the Agreement for the continued use of the hall by Mitchell Walk Playgroup had been sent to Karen Hazell, together with a request for reimbursement for the significantly increased utility bills for the building. After sending additional information on the utility costs to Karen, a decision is still awaited from her with regard to signing the Agreement and to the reimbursement of utilities. It was AGREED that we need to obtain regular readings at the start and end of each term. It was also AGREED to look at ways to make savings on the water and electricity. A meeting would be set up between Karen Hazell, a representative from Bucks CC and the ATC working group to address these specific issues and to obtain a signed Agreement.

ACTION JW/ER

55. **MARKET HALL CLOCK TOWER:**

It was reported that the Deputy Town Clerk had completed an application to Historic England for Market Hall to be added to the 'Heritage at Risk' Register. If successful, it would mean that ATC would be eligible to apply for a grant from Historic England towards the cost of the repairs to the clock tower and other remedial works to the hall. Historic England has advised that a decision on the application will be made on 17th December 2015. The Mayor asked if the cost of alterations to the hall necessary to install a stair lift might be included in a grant application. It is not known if this would be possible but can be considered if we are able to apply for a grant.

ACTION: JW/ER

56. **AMERSHAM IN BLOOM:**

A report from Steve Catanach had already been circulated regarding next year's Amersham in Bloom entry. Councillors considered the points raised in the report and agreed the following:

- a) ATC's entry to the National Britain in Bloom Award was approved.
- b) The theme for the 2016 Amersham in Bloom as 'Queen Elizabeth II & the Commonwealth' was approved.
- c) The purchase of hanging baskets from Windowflowers was approved for next summer – the cost quoted was £5,720.
- d) The proposal to open up Willow Wood for public access was approved.

57. **AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL CIVIC EVENT CALENDAR:**

After discussion, the proposed calendar of events was approved. It was also agreed that the first band concert of next year will be held on Sunday 1 May and will be in aid of the Mayor's Charity – Dementia UK, with proceeds going towards the provision of an Admiral Nurse for the local area.

ACTION: SC

58. **RENEWAL OF CLERK'S MEMBERSHIP OF SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS:**

Members agreed to renew the Clerk's annual Membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) at a cost of £360. The Town Clerk is also a Member of the Institute of Local Council Management (MILCM) which she personally pays for.

ACTION: JW

59. **APPOINTMENT OF A CONTRACTOR TO CARRY OUT THE YEAR-END CLOSE-DOWN:**

After discussion, it was agreed that DCK Beavers should be appointed to carry out the Year End Close-down for the ATC accounts at a cost of £465.

ACTION JW

60. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:**

There were no matters for discussion.

61. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:**

The Town Clerk reported that she had attended a recent conference to discuss devolved services from Bucks CC.

62. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

a) HS2 Update:

Cllr Shepherd reported that he had been notified that the site of an air vent on the proposed HS2 route on the west side of Amersham would appear to lie within the Amersham parish, rather than Chalfont St Giles as previously thought. As the

deadline for petitioning has already passed, it was suggested that ATC writes a formal letter in support of the petition already submitted by Chalfont St Giles Parish Council.

ACTION JW/ER

b) Grants Committee:

It was noted that the ATC Grants Committee will not be meeting until January. It was therefore AGREED that should a request for a grant be submitted by the organisers of the Chesham Christmas Party for the Elderly, a cheque would be raised in line with ATC's previous donations towards this event.

c) Fields In Trust Award:

Councillors were delighted to learn that the new playground at King George V Field had won the 'Best Play Initiative' award at the recent Fields-In-Trust event and thanked all those involved in getting the project to fruition.

d) Christmas Events:

Councillors were pleased that the two Christmas events held on 4th and 5th December in Amersham Old Town and Amersham-on-the-Hill had been considered very successful by the event organisers despite the difficult weather conditions on the Saturday. It was noted that the layout of the attractions at the Amersham-on-the-Hill event were perhaps too spread-out and it was suggested that any future Christmas event should be confined to Sycamore Road, rather than including Hill Avenue.

e) Installation of decorative metal sculpture at the Gore Hill Roundabout:

Councillors requested an update on the proposal to erect a decorative metal sculpture at the Gore Hill roundabout. It was reported that we are still awaiting a response from the Bucks CC Local Area Technician on whether the project can proceed.

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.

63. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC PROPERTY**

ACTION: JW

The meeting ended at 9.05pm

Chairman Date