

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 01 FEBRUARY 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs A. Lamont – Town Mayor
Councillor M. Flys
Councillor Mrs C. Jones
Councillor R. Jones
Councillor Mrs D. Kenchington
Councillor M. Lacey
Councillor C. Morgan
Councillor H. Newton
Councillor Mrs L. Staite (Part time)
Councillor Mrs L. Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Janet Wheeler (Town Clerk)
Mrs L. Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)
Steve Catanach (Community Services Officer)
Mark Richardson (Facilities Manager – part time)
Tom Darvill (ATC Groundsman – part time)
I member of the public

Cllr Mrs Amanda Lamont presented Tom Darvill with his Certificates following his successful completion of his NVQ at Berkshire College of Agriculture. Tom had been taken on at ATC as an apprentice and was now working for us full-time. Councillors congratulated Tom on his achievements.

137. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillors M. Vivis; A. Williams, M. Phillips and N. Shepherd.

138. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Mrs L. Walsh later declared a personal interest in item 14 on the agenda.

139. **MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS:** The engagements from November 2015 – January 2016 had been circulated with the agenda.

The Town Mayor adjourned the meeting to allow the member of public to speak about the date for the next Old Town Christmas Shopping event on Friday 02 December 2016.

The meeting resumed.

140. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2015:**

It was	Proposed	Councillor Mrs L. Walsh
	Seconded	Councillor H. Newton

RESOLVED to

Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 November 2015.

(Cllr Mrs Louise Staite enters the meeting)

141. **MATTERS ARISING:** There were no matters arising.

142. **COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

a) **Community Services Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor C. Morgan
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs D. Kenchington

RESOLVED to

Approve the Minutes of the Community Services Meeting held on 07 December 2015.

b) **Planning and Footpaths Minutes**

It was AGREED to approve the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 21 September; 12 October; 02 and 30 November; 21 December and 18 January 2016.

c) **Finance and General Purposes Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor M. Lacey
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs D. Kenchington

RESOLVED to

Approve the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 25 January 2016.

143. **MATTERS ARISING:** No matters were declared.

144. **TO APPROVE A ROAD CLOSURE POLICY:** The Town Clerk read out a report from Mark Richardson regarding future management of road closures. The legal situation is that ATC is responsible for the road closure if their name is on the paperwork – regardless of whether we actually applied ourselves. The Old Town Shopping event was applied for separately last year but with ATC's name on the paperwork. The report raised concerns over: the use of volunteer marshals – their training and whether they actually turn up; timings of road closures with School Lane in chaos on the Friday afternoon before the Old Town shopping event; traffic being allowed through a road closure at random and endangering pedestrians who think the road is closed.

Councillors AGREED the following:

- A policy drafted for approval at the next meeting to protect ATC but support the events in a safe and sensible manner.
- Third parties should submit their application to ATC for approval.
- ATC to be involved from the outset of events where we are staffing the road closures to avoid any last minute panics.
- ATC to consider a charge to third parties for staff overtime.

ACTION: JW/MR

145. **TO –RE-CONSIDER THE GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY EVENTS:** The Town Clerk told Councillors that historically the £1000 grant had been made to Amersham Action Group and another £1000 to Amersham Society to pay for insurance for running their Christmas events. However this expenditure was further inflated by road closure costs; Office involvement; Depot manning of the road closures; signage and many random requests that often came at the last minute from the event organisers.

Councillors felt that the process of applying for this grant should be reviewed. It was suggested that the grant could be applied for as part of the normal Grants process which goes through the Grants Committee. ACTION: ZR/JW

146. **TO REVIEW THE STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING CYCLE AND DATES FOR 2016 MEETINGS:** The Deputy Town Clerk has suggested a new structure on the meeting cycle to allow for more full Council meetings in order to progress projects quickly. When the suggestion was made, Councillors had broadly been in favour of trialling the new structure for six months. However, now that there was to be a new Town Clerk, some Councillors preferred to wait. There was much debate and the Chairman asked for a vote: IN FAVOUR = 8, AGAINST = 1, ABSTENTION = 1. The motion was carried. ACTION: LR

147. **TO APPROVE THE ROAD CLOSURES FOR 2016:** The following road closures were approved for 2016:

- * Saturday 09 July 2016 – Amersham Carnival
- * Sunday 11 September 2016 – Amersham Heritage Day
- * Saturday 03 December 2016 – Amersham Christmas Showcase (Form to be completed by Amersham Action Group) ACTION: ZR

148. **TO APPROVE THE FREE PARKING DATES:** The following free parking days have been approved for 2016:

- * Saturday 16 May 2016 – Amersham in Bloom Information Day (Free Parking in Sycamore Road Car Park)
- * Saturday 09 July 2016 – Amersham Carnival (Free Parking in all Top Town car parks)
- * Saturday 03 December 2016 – Amersham Christmas Showcase (Free Parking in Sycamore Road Car Park). ACTION: ZR

Please note that we still have TWO dates remaining and we can advise CDC nearer the time.

Please also note that the Old Amersham Business Association (OABA) have booked dates directly with CDC for free parking in the Old Town. The dates are the four Saturdays in December.

149. **TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM STEVE CATANACH ON BRITAIN IN BLOOM IN AMERSHAM FOR 2016.** (The Town Clerk left the room for this item due to her forthcoming departure to Henley on Thames.)

150. **TO RATIFY THE AWARDS PRESENTED BY THE GRANTS COMMITTEE:**

It was	Proposed	Councillor M. Flys
	Seconded	Councillor H. Newton

RESOLVED TO

Approve the grants list proposed from the Grants Committee.

151. **TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR TREE WORKS ON KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD AND BARN MEADOW:**

A group of 14 trees in the centre of the field have suffered storm damage over the years and a certain amount of dead wood. One tree has evidence of disease and it would be wise to remove this specimen. The CDC Tree Officer has been advised and is happy for the work to take place. Three quotes have been received:

Company A	£3600	Remove deadwood from 14 trees
Company B	£4030	Remove deadwood from 13 trees and fell diseased tree
Company C	£4100	Remove deadwood from 14 trees

The second project concerns maintenance of willow trees bordering the Misbourne. Willow trees are recommended to be re-pollarded every 4-5 years.

Company A	£3000	Remove deadwood/pollard from 7 trees
Company B	£2060	Remove deadwood/pollard from 6 trees
Company C	£2080	Remove deadwood/pollard from 11 trees

It was AGREED to use Company B to carry out the works on King George V Playing Field at a cost of £4030. It was also AGREED to use Company C to carry out works on Barn Meadow at a cost of £080.

152. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** There were various presentations of the emerging local plan for Councillors to attend – these were noted.

153. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:** There was nothing new to report.

154. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** The Mayor formally congratulated the Town Clerk for her new position at Henley on Thames Town Council after six years in office at Amersham. Everyone wished the Town Clerk well in her new role.

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.

155. **ITEM RELATING TO ATC PROPERTY**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Chairman Date