

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 21 MARCH 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs A. Lamont – Town Mayor
Councillor Mrs M. Vivis – Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Ms C. Jones
Councillor Mrs D. Kenchington
Councillor M. Lacey
Councillor C. Morgan
Councillor H. Newton
Councillor A. Seymour
Councillor N. Shepherd
Councillor Mrs L. Walsh
Councillor T. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Janet Wheeler (Town Clerk)
Mrs L. Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk)
Miss Z. Richardson (Community Services Officer)
I member of the public

156. **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillors M. Phillips; Mrs L. Staite; R. Jones and M. Flys.

157. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr H. Newton declared a pecuniary interest in item 18 on the agenda.

158. **MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS:** The engagements from January - March 2016 had been circulated with the agenda.

159. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 01 FEBRUARY 2016:**

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

RESOLVED to

Approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 01 February 2016.

160. **MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr A. Seymour stated that he had apologised for the meeting but this was not recorded. Cllr Caroline Jones wished to be called “Ms” and not “Mrs”.

161. **COMMITTEE MINUTES:**
a) **Community Services Meeting was cancelled**

b) **Planning and Footpaths Minutes**

It was AGREED to approve the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 8 February and 7 March 2016.

c) **Finance and General Purposes Minutes**

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

RESOLVED to

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

162. **MATTERS ARISING:** One member wanted confirmation of the precept increase. The Town Clerk confirmed that the increase was 8%.

163. **TO REVIEW THE DRAFT ROAD CLOSURE POLICY:** The Town Clerk had drafted a generic policy but felt that this needed more specific input from the Facilities Manager, Mark Richardson. It was recommended to defer approval until the next Finance Meeting on 11 April 2016. ACTION: MR

164. **TO APPROVE A WATERING SYSTEM FOR THE MEMORIAL GARDENS:** The task of keeping the Memorial Gardens watered in the summer is a huge drain on manpower. It is estimated that watering takes around 160 Depot hours which equates to roughly £2400 per year in wages. An underground irrigation system would make sure that the plants have enough water to thrive and would save in manpower. The cost of the irrigation system is £3250 – however a local business has offered to sponsor part of the cost at £1800 which would leave a cost to ATC of £1450.

It was	Proposed	Councillor A. Seymour
	Seconded	Councillor Ms C. Jones

RESOLVED to

Approve the irrigation system for the Memorials Gardens at a cost to ATC of £1450. The Town Clerk was also asked to send a letter of thanks to the company who is sponsoring the rest of the cost. ACTION: SC

165. **TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST FROM NICK HALTON RE: REPAIRS TO HYREN'S LANE:** The request from the resident was for ATC to help with tarmacking a section of land from the perimeter of King George V Playing Field up to Woodside Road. The difference in the levels of the different surfaces means that water gathers in the dips and is unpleasant for pedestrians. The land belongs to Bucks County Council and Members were not keen to carry out any works as it could lead to similar requests which ATC just would not have the means to afford. The TC would write to the resident to inform him of this decision. ACTION: LR/SC

166. **TO AGREE THE NEED TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SMALL STONES DECORATING MEMORIALS IN ATC CEMETERIES:** There are about twenty graves where the owners have put down decorative stones. Although very neat in most cases, the stones are a health risk to staff and visitors to the cemetery when strimmers are being used. After much discussion, it was AGREED that Zoe would approach the families with every regard to the sensitivity of the situation. It was also AGREED that Zoe would encourage them to have lawn only and decorate their graves with movable pots. ACTION: ZR

167. **TO REVIEW THE COSTS OF BURIALS IN ATC CEMETERIES:** Tina Coles had prepared a spread sheet to review the charges made by other cemeteries in the area. It is proposed to defer this item to the forthcoming Finance Meeting as more work needs to be done. It would seem that many Councils make an interment charge that does not include any grave-digging costs whereas the ATC charge includes the grave digging. This will need to be clarified and Mark Richardson will need to estimate the average costs of preparing the grave to include the digging. ACTION: TC/MR

168. **TO CONSIDER A SPONSORED BRICK PATHWAY ACROSS THE MUD TO THE OUTDOOR FITNESS AREA:** The Town Clerk has been contacted by a resident regarding the problem of access to the Outdoor Fitness area at this time of the year. He had an idea of a sponsored pathway where interested residents and fitness groups could sponsor a brick. The Councillors rubbished the proposal by stating that the bricks would never stay clean and people's names would quickly be covered in mud. They preferred asking for sponsorship and mentioning people's names in the plaque beside the path. ACTION: LR/SC

169. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:** There was nothing new to report.

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

171. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:** It was AGREED to give permission for Mark Roberts of Children's Funfairs to hold a mini fun fair on King George V Playing Field from Thursday 02 June to Sunday 5 June. The fair is aimed at children between the ages of 03 and 09 years – there is no amplified music or fast rides. The cost per ride is £2 per child. ATC will receive a fee of £300. The Town Clerk had a letter from the Royal British Legion requesting help with repairs to a pathway leading to their hall. The Councillors felt that the hall already generates revenue for the Legion – it was AGREED to defer this request to the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk for her six years of service. This would be her last Council Meeting and the Councillors wished her well in her new role at Henley on Thames Town Council.

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.

172. **ITEM RELATING TO ATC PROPERTY**

173. **ITEM RELATING TO ATC PROPERTY**

174. **ITEM RELATING TO ATC STAFF MEMBER**

175. **ITEM RELATING TO ATC STAFF MEMBER**

176. **ITEMS RELATING TO ATC PROPERTIES**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman Date

Council