

Amersham Town Council

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Town Clerk – Finance & Policy - Mrs E Richardson

Town Clerk - Community & Services - Mr S Catanach

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AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT:

Councillor Mr A Seymour (Chair)
Councillor Mr C Morgan (Deputy Chair and Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Mr Vivis (Mayor)
Councillor Mr M Flys
Councillor Mrs D Kenchington
Councillor Mrs C Jones
Councillor Mrs L Walsh (arrived at 20.19)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr S Catanach (Town Clerk- Community,
Communications & Services)
Mrs E Richardson (Town Clerk- Finance & Policy)

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from
Councillor Mrs A Lamont
Councillor Mrs L Staite
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.
3. THE CONTINUATION OF THE COUNCIL'S CIVIC EVENTS:

A report detailing the costs for ATC to provide its civic events was circulated prior to the meeting. These details were noted by the councillors before each event was discussed with a decision being made, as follows, on their continuation.

- (a) Band Concerts- **Continue**.
- (b) Citizen of the Year Awards- **Continue bi-annually from 2018**.
- (c) Mayor/Charity Concert- **Continue**
- (d) Carnival and Town Show- Following discussion a meeting is to be arranged

between ATC and representatives from the Amersham Roundtable before a decision on ATC's involvement would be confirmed.

(e) Arts Festival- **Continue.**

It was proposed and agreed to hold the festival in October rather than August due to the heavy workload during the summer when the festival is traditionally held. Tina Coles was thanked by the Council for organising this year's event.

(f) Community Carol Service- **To Continue**

ACTION SC/TC/MR/ZR

4. **HERITAGE DAY:**

Councillors agreed that Heritage Day was once again a huge success this year.

Cllr Morgan raised a point that overcrowding was an issue around the performers and should be addressed before next year's event.

As noted in the previously circulated report many performers/exhibitors do not charge to attend heritage day despite incurred costs. In view of this it was agreed to donate the following amounts to the groups/individuals listed below:

Chiltern Traction Engine Club (Steam Engines)	£350
Scoil Irish Dancing Group	£50
Robert Mackenzie Shire Horse (showcased his working horse)	£110
Chiltern Jive Jazz Club	£50

ACTION: SC

5. **AMERSHAM IN BLOOM**

The news of the Silver Gilt Award at the Britain in Bloom National Finals was very well received. A number of Councillors remarked how popular and highly sought the initiative has become and that ATC must retain its leading role.

6. **TO AWARD A GRANT OF £1000 TO THE ORGANISERS OF THE TOWNS CHRISTMAS EVENTS:**

Councillors agreed to support the Old Amersham Business Association (Old Amersham) and Amersham Action Group (AOTH) who organise the towns Christmas events by offering them both a £1000 grant. The grant in the main covers their incurred costs for insurance and first aid, as noted in the letters received from both groups.

ACTION: SC

7. **THE INSTALLATION OF 10 LED REINDEER IN THE MEMORIAL GARDENS:**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. It was agreed to support the wishes of the Old Amersham Business Association (OABA) and allow the installation of 10 LED reindeer in the perimeter of the Memorial Gardens over the festive period. The reindeer will be provided by OABA so the only cost implication to ATC is the supply of the electricity.

ACTION: SC

8. **REMOVAL OF A FLAGPOLE FROM THE MEMORIAL GARDENS:**

Councillors agreed the recommendation of the Town Clerk to remove one of the redundant flagpoles from the Memorial Gardens

ACTION: SC

9. **RELOCATION OF DOG BIN FROM MEMORIAL GARDENS:**

It was agreed that the dog bin in the Memorial Gardens can be relocated to Pondwicks where it is very evident that there is a greater need. Cllr Morgan also requested that the Clerk contact CDC regarding their fee for administration of the dog bin contract.

ACTION SC/MR

10. **RELOCATION OF AMERSHAM'S WW1 MEMORIAL TO SHARDELOES**

The Town Clerk reported that the farmer who leases Ruckles Field, the current location of the WW1 Memorial, has requested that the crosses are removed to allow the field to be ploughed. It was also reported that the farmer intends to relinquish his lease for the field.

The Councillors discussed the option of relocating the memorial to Amersham Cricket Club at Shardeloes but the consensus was that the Memorial would have little prominence at Shardeloes and therefore it should not be relocated once removed from Ruckles Field.

ACTION MR/SC

11. **INSTALLATION OF BIRD BATH AT OAKFIELD CORNER**

Councillors discussed and considered a request from Ms S Monzani to have a memorial bird bath installed at Oakfield Corner. While the bird bath itself was not an issue, the Councillors questioned the proposed location, preferring the civic area around Chiltern Avenue.

The Clerk will contact Mrs Monzani with the recommendation of the new location.

ACTION SC

12. **PROPOSAL FOR A RED KITE SCULPTURE FOR AN AMERSHAM ROUNDABOUT**

Councillors were shown a replica model of the red kite structure which the James Phillip Foundation is proposing for either Gore Hill/Stanley Hill Roundabout. The Council fully supports the proposal and is happy to help with the proposed project where possible, appreciating that the roundabout is owned by BCC.

ACTION SC/MR

13. **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL FOR PRECEPT CAPPING**

The previously circulated report was noted. Following a discussion it was decided that the Town Clerk- Finance and Policy, drafts a letter outlining the Town Council's objection to the proposal for capping precept increases above 1.99%.

ACTION LR

14. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

It was reported that the District Council had rubberstamped the naming of Drovers Lane, a previously unnamed road off London Road East.

Cllr Flys noted that the option for a single unitary authority was still being discussed at the District Council.

15. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:**

None

16. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

Cllr Morgan noted that the WW2 Memorial requires attention.

Town Clerk- Policy and Finance, noted that she had received numerous emails from a young resident who would like to see the skate park at KGV upgraded. It was agreed that a response would be sent to the resident noting that Council would take into account the potential upgrading of the skate park with its forward planning.

Cllr Seymour, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, has requested the use of two ATC vans for Remembrance Sunday. This was agreed by council.

The meeting ended at 20.53pm

Chairman Date.....