

Amersham Town Council

Flint Barn Court, Church Street, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0DB

Telephone 01494 434000 Facsimile 01494 725300

E-mail Townclerk@amersham-tc.gov.uk Website www.amersham-tc.gov.uk

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENT: Councillor M Flys (Chair)
Councillor M Vivis (Town Mayor)
Councillor C Morgan (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor H Newton
Councillor M Phillips
Councillor N Shepherd
Councillor Mrs L Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Mrs A Lamont
Mrs E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy

OPEN SESSION:

The committee was pleased to welcome 4 young residents who came to address the Council with concerns about the condition of the skatepark at King George V Field and a suggestion that they would be willing to assist the Council in securing funding towards replacing the existing skatepark and in formulating a design. It was agreed that the Clerk would set up a working group meeting with the youngsters to discuss fund raising options. The Clerk will also request the depot staff to re-check the skate park for any immediate required repairs.

40. **APOLOGIES**
Councillor A Seymour
Councillor Mrs L Staite

41. **ABSENT NO APOLOGIES:** Cllr R Jones
Cllr M Lacey

42. **MINUTES:**
It was

Proposed – Councillor M Vivis
Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

RESOLVED THAT:

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 August 2016 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

43. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest.

44. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 AUGUST 2016:**

There were no matters arising.

45. **TO RECEIVE THE QUARTERLY FINANCE REPORT:**

The report was noted.

It was	Proposed	Councillor C Morgan
	Seconded	Councillor M Vivis

RECOMMENDED to:

Approve the figures for the second quarter of the 2016/2017 financial year.

46. **TO CONSIDER THE GRANTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The recommendations of the Grants Committee were discussed and the decision noted to award half the funds available now, with the remaining half being held until March 2017 in order to invite further grant applications. After discussion,

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Flys
	Seconded	Councillor C Morgan

RESOLVED to:

Award the grants as recommended by the Grants Committee.

47. **TO APPROVE THE BUDGET PROPOSALS AND PRECEPT INCREASE AS RECOMMENDED AT THE BUDGET BRIEFING HELD ON 24th OCTOBER 2016:**

It was noted that the suggested precept increase has been set below the level which would trigger a referendum in the event that the capping principle is imposed by the Department of Communities and Local Government. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Vivis
	Seconded	Councillor N Shepherd

RESOLVED to:

Increase the precept for the 2017/2018 financial year by £4.95 per Band D property (equivalent of 6.08%). But in the event of the capping principle not being imposed by DCLG, to increase the precept by 8% as recommended at the Finance Meeting held last year in January 2015.

48. **TO REVIEW THE HALL BOOKING CHARGES:**

The Clerk reported that the current commercial hire charge for the halls appears to be deterring hirers from booking the halls on a regular basis (eg fitness groups). This is contributing to a low occupancy rate for the halls. After discussion,

It was	Proposed	Councillor C Morgan
	Seconded	Councillor M Flys

To reduce the commercial hire rate for the ATC halls based on the Clerk's recommended pricing structure and to reduce the minimum booking time from 2 to 1.5 hours per booking.

49. **TO REVIEW THE MEMORIAL FEES AT THE ATC CEMETERIES:**

The Clerk reported that the office had received several complaints in recent months from non-Amersham residents about the fee currently charged for placing a headstone or tablet on a cemetery plot. The suggestion of reducing the fees was discussed, but the committee agreed to make no changes at present and to review the situation in 6 months' time.

50. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:**

Councillor Shepherd commented on the current consultation being undertaken by CDC on the proposed redevelopment of the Leisure Centre in top Amersham. It was noted that the consultation documents will be discussed at the ATC Planning meeting on 21st November 2016.

51. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:**

a) **Purchase of Movable Vehicle Awareness Device (MVAS)**

Members were informed that £1500 had been granted by the Local Area Forum towards the purchase of a MVAS. However ATC would need to put forward the remaining £1500 towards the cost. It was understood that the request for LAF funding had been made by residents of Sycamore Road Amersham. After much discussion, with some Councillors in favour of the purchase and some against, it was agreed to defer this matter to the full Council meeting on 14th November in order for the Clerk to obtain more information about the residents' funding request.

52. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

There were no matters for report.

The meeting closed at 9.29pm.

Chairman.....

Date