

Amersham Town Council

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

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 3 APRIL 2017

Present: Councillor A Seymour (Chair)
Councillor M Vivis (Town Mayor)
Councillor C Morgan (Vice Chair & Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor M Flys (part meeting)
Councillor M Grimson
Councillor Ms C Jones
Councillor Mrs A Lamont
Councillor Mrs L Walsh (part meeting)

In Attendance: Mrs E Richardson -Town Clerk Finance & Policy

45. **Apologies:** Councillor Mrs D Kenchington
Councillor Mrs L Staite

46. **Absent no apologies:** Councillor Mrs J Cook

47. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest

48. **Matters Arising from the Approved Minutes of 20 February 2017** - None

49. **To consider the purchase of replacement chairs for the Memorial Gardens**
It was noted that the folding chairs used in the Memorial Gardens had become faded and are starting to rust since being purchased several years ago. However, after discussion, it was agreed to allow the existing chairs to be used for one more season before considering purchasing new ones. It was also agreed that the existing 180 chairs should be washed down and checked for safety before the first band concert on 1st May 2017.

50. **Amersham in Bloom Items**
The Town Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting, detailing three suggested initiatives including:
a) An extension of the flower border at Community Corner (opposite the Free Church in Sycamore Road).

- b) The purchase of hanging baskets on behalf of the residents and businesses that line the main thoroughfares (cost borne by the applicants)
- c) Creation of a small wildlife pond at Pondwicks Meadow Nature Area.

After discussion

It was Proposed Councillor C Morgan
Seconded Councillor A Seymour

That all three initiatives be undertaken for the coming summer season.

51. **To re-assess the Council's view of the proposed Gore Hill Space For All Play Area**
Councillors were informed of a request from Cllr Cook for an update on Council's view of the proposed play area at the Gore Hill Space for All Play Area. After much discussion, Members remain concerned about the isolated nature of the site, which they feel could leave children using the area vulnerable to anti-social behaviour.

52. **Request for an Italian Market in The Broadway, Old Amersham – Sunday 14 May 2017**
After discussion and following the success of the previous Italian markets held in The Broadway

It was Proposed Councillor A Seymour
Seconded Councillor Ms C Jones

That 'Italia in Piazza' would be allowed to hold a market in The Broadway between 10am – 4pm on Sunday 14 May, to coincide with the 2nd band concert.

53. **Proposal for hosting the Amersham Town Council Website**
The Council's website has been hosted by the website provider since its relaunch in 2015 without charge. The contractor has now requested this arrangement be formalised and has provided a quotation of £100 per quarter to host the site, provide periodic back-ups and up to 2 hours support per quarter. Members are also aware of the on-going issues experienced by staff in updating the website. After much discussion, it was suggested that a Working Group be set up to review the design and practice of the website provision. The Clerk was therefore asked to set up a meeting between the Mayor, Cllr Mark Flys and Steve Catanach for further discussion before Council agrees to any hosting contract.

54. **Request for a Memorial Bench outside Tom Yum Restaurant in Sycamore Road**
Members were informed of a request from a resident to place a memorial bench on Sycamore corner. Members were not in favour of placing a bench at this location, feeling this would set a difficult precedent for a proliferation of memorial benches around the town. They would rather memorial benches be restricted to the cemeteries or Memorial Gardens. It was suggested that the resident be asked to consider placing a bench in one of the Town Council's cemeteries. The Clerk will liaise with the applicant.

55. **Proposal for registration process for use of outdoor space by commercial enterprises**
Following several recent incidences of miss-use of the ATC recreation grounds by commercial users, the Clerk was asked to investigate the practice of other councils in

regularising use of outdoor space by commercial users (including outdoor fitness groups and professional dog walkers). The Clerk reported on the various practices employed by other councils and had prepared documentation for the registration process including an Application Form, Terms & Conditions and a poster for display at the various ATC recreation grounds. After discussion

It was Proposed Councillor Mrs L Walsh
Seconded Councillor M Vivis

To introduce a registration scheme requiring commercial users to apply to the Town Council for use of the recreation grounds on the following terms:

- Completion of a formal Application Form
- Provision of Public Liability insurance (minimum £10million)
- Provision of all appropriate certification (eg for outdoor fitness instruction)
- Provision of a full Risk Assessment
- Payment of an annual fee £25
- All approved commercial users to be listed on the Town Council website
- Compliance with Terms & Conditions of use of the outdoor space
- Display of an appropriate notice at the ATC sites requesting commercial users to ensure registration with the Town Council.

56. **Chiltern District Council Matters**

There were no items for discussion.

57. **Bucks County Council Matters**

There were no items for discussion.

58. **Matters for Report**

a) Planning Application CH/2017/0241/FA – Guidos Restaurant 1 South Road Amersham

Members were informed that the planning application for redevelopment of the above site will be considered at the CDC Planning Committee on 13th April. It was agreed that Cllr C Morgan would attend the meeting to represent the views of the Town Council.

b) Request from a prospective tenant for Change of Use of 1st floor office of Flint House

Members considered the request from a prospective tenant for change of use of the 1st floor offices of Flint House. After discussion

It was Proposed Councillor A Shepherd
Seconded Councillor M Vivis

To decline the request. The Clerk will respond to the applicant.

c) Request for a twinning liaison with the French town of Clapiers

The Clerk reported that an enquiry had been received from a resident of Clapiers near Montpellier in France to set up a twinning liaison with Amersham. Councillors were not in favour of pursuing this, given Amersham's existing twinning commitments. The Clerk was asked to respond to the request on behalf of 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.

59. **Item relating to the Chiltern Pools Project update**

The meeting ended at 8.48pm

Chairman Date.....