

# Amersham Town Council

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## Amersham Town Council

### DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 14 August 2017

**Present:** Councillor A Seymour (Chair)  
Councillor M Grimson (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor C Morgan (Town Mayor)  
Councillor C Jones (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Councillor A Lamont  
Councillor L Walsh  
Councillor M Vivis

**In Attendance:** Steve Catanach -Town Clerk Community Services

18. **Apologies:**  
Councillor L Staite  
Councillor N Shepherd  
Councillor D Kenchington  
Councillor M Flys

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

20. **Matters Arising from the Approved Community Services Minutes of 26 June 2017–**  
None

21. **Amersham in Bloom update including a proposal to construct and install an additional wooden planter for Woodside Road**

The report circulated prior to the meeting detailed the Amersham in Bloom highlights over the past month. The report noted the following:

- Heritage in Bloom Display in the Memorial Gardens has been completed with many residents commenting that the display is the best yet!
- The two new extended beds at Sycamore Corner have been planted with sustainable plants which as well as increasing our sustainability have added interest and structure

to the verge. The plants for both beds have been funded by local businesses- Ramon's and Van Hage.

- In conjunction with CDC eight 'tatty' road name plates have been replaced within Amersham with a further 12 being replaced this autumn.
- The town was judged for a Thames and Chiltern in Bloom award on 20 July while the Memorial Gardens was judged for a Parks award on 18 July.
- Amersham has 40% more pockets of wildflowers compared to 2016.

Councillors commented how successful the wildflower sowings have been this year and suggested increasing the number of areas sown in 2018.

Following a discussion it was **agreed** to construct another wooden planter for installation at Woodside Road, outside Wentworth Kitchens.

Proposed Councillor M Vivis  
Seconded Councillor A Seymour

22. **To consider a proposal to purchase an additional 40 chairs for use at the band concerts held in the Memorial Gardens**

A report circulated prior to the meeting was considered and following a discussion it was **agreed** to purchase 65 blue chairs (foldable, fan-backed) for use at band concerts and other events such as Heritage Day which take place in the Memorial Gardens.

Proposed Councillor C Morgan  
Seconded Councillor C Jones

23. **To discuss and consider a request from the organisers of the Old Amersham Christmas Evening and the Christmas Festival in AOTH for a grant of £1000**

Applications from both the Amersham Action Group (AAG) and The Old Amersham Business Association (OABA) requesting financial support were circulated prior to the meeting. Following a discussion it was **agreed** to make a contribution of £1000 to both the organisers of the Old Amersham Christmas Evening (1 Dec) and Christmas Festival in AOTH (9 Dec) to help cover costs such as insurance and first aid.

The Clerk has been asked to write to the Chairman of AAG, requesting that the Town Mayor is involved throughout the day during the event which they are organising.

Proposed Councillor M Grimson  
Seconded Councillor L Walsh

24. **To discuss and consider applying for a 'Tesco's Bag of Help' grant to fund the creation of a community orchard at Hervines Park**

A report circulated prior to the meeting was discussed. It was **agreed** that the Clerk applies for a grant from Tesco's Bag for Help Scheme, to fund the creation of a small orchard within Hervines Park. Councillors commented that the community orchard at

Pondwicks is a great example how the community has worked together to create a wonderful asset for the Town.

*For information: Tesco Bags of Help is Tesco's local community grant scheme where the money raised from the 5p bag charge in Tesco stores is being used to fund thousands of community projects across the UK. The projects must meet the criteria of bringing benefits to the community.*

Proposed Councillor M Grimson  
Seconded Councillor L Walsh

25. **Heritage Day Update; including a proposal to have a Town Council 'Pimms Tent' at the event**

The Clerk reported that preparations for Heritage Day are going well, with many attractions, bands and displays providing interest and entertainment throughout the day.

Following a discussion it was **agreed** that it would not be feasible to have a 'Pimms Tent' during the event due to the need for volunteers elsewhere, however, it was agreed to trial the initiative at one of the *special* band concerts in 2018.

26. **To review and agree updated terms and conditions for the hire of halls and pavilions**

The existing booking conditions for hire of the halls and pavilions were circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion it was commented that the updated conditions were lengthy and the updates unclear. It was therefore agreed that the updated conditions are rewritten, with the changes highlighted accordingly, before being re-presented to Council.

27. **Chiltern District Council Matters**

There were no items for discussion.

28. **Bucks County Council Matters**

a) Conversion of limited waiting bay to pay and display along King George V Road

During 6/7 August, without any knowledge to the Town Council, parking meters were installed along King George V Road, replacing the free limited parking bays.

The Bucks County Council Officer's Decision Report and Order, to install the meters, were circulated prior to the meeting.

Following discussion Councillors recommended that their decision to match fund (with LAF) the Amersham Parking Phase One project which was approved at the Council Meeting on 24 July, be rescinded at the next Council meeting.

Councillors also agreed to inform all community groups that the Council had not been consulted or made aware of Bucks CC decision to convert the parking bays, along with forwarding a letter to the relevant Bucks County Council Members stating the Council's dissatisfaction with Bucks CC, the lack of consultation and the decision.

29. **Matters for Report**

a) Conifer hedge between Amersham Bowl Club and Hervines Wood

The Amersham Bowls Club had contacted the Facilities Manager asking if the conifer hedge at the north-western boundary of the bowling green could be removed. The Council agreed that the hedge can be trimmed but should not be removed.

b) Purchase of a recycling bin for Barn Meadow

The Town Clerk reported that litter continues to be an issue in our playing fields, most notably at King George V and Barn Meadow.

In an attempt to reduce the nuisance of litter the Town Clerk recommended purchasing another bin with additional recycling capacity for Barn Meadow. The Council agreed with the proposal while wholeheartedly agreeing that the Council should improve its environmental responsibility by initiating recycling within the parks. The recommendation for the forthcoming Council Meeting is to purchase five new bins, to be used across the Council sites, using the £2000 donation that was received from a filming company in spring.

c) Meeting of Christmas Light Sub- Committee

A meeting to discuss Christmas Lights has been arranged for 12pm on Wednesday 30 August at the Council Offices.

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.**

30. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC LAND**

31. **ITEM CONCERNING ATC PROPERTY**

The meeting ended at 8.40pm

Chairman .....

Date.....