

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 29 JANUARY 2018

PRESENT: Councillors C Morgan (Town Mayor)
Councillor Ms C Jones (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs J Cook
Councillor M Flys
Councillor R Jones
Councillor Mrs A Lamont
Councillor H Newton
Councillor A Seymour

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs E. Richardson
Mr S Catanach

102. APOLOGIES: Councillor M Grimson
Councillor Mrs D Kenchington
Councillor M Lacey
Councillor N Shepherd
Councillor Mrs L Staite
Councillor M Vivis
Councillor Mrs L Walsh

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
Cllr Newton and Cllr Mrs Cook declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 16 (Platt Cemetery Wall) and left the room during this discussion.

104. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS: The engagements from 28 November 2017 to 29 January 2018 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

105. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2017

It was	Proposed	Councillor A Seymour
	Seconded	Councillor M Flys

RESOLVED to

Approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 November 2017.

106. MATTERS ARISING
There were no matters arising.

107. **COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

i) Planning & Footpaths Minutes 4 December 2017

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Flys
	Seconded	Councillor Ms C Jones

RESOLVED to

Approve the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2017.

ii) Community Services Minutes 18 December 2017

It was	Proposed	Councillor A Seymour
	Seconded	Councillor M Flys

RESOLVED to

Approve the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2017.

iii) Finance & General Purposes Minutes – 18 December 2017

It was	Proposed	Councillor A Seymour
	Seconded	Councillor C Morgan

RESOLVED to

Approve the Minutes of Finance & General Purposes Meeting held on 18 December 2017.

108. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MEETINGS:**

There were no matters arising from these minutes.

109. **TO CONSIDER THE BUDGET FOR 2018/19 FINANCIAL YEAR:**

Following discussion of the draft budget at the Finance Meeting in November 2017, further analysis had been undertaken on the proposed budget, particularly with regard to a 5 year plan on capital expenditure and how best to fund the significant investment in maintenance of existing assets (eg a programme to replace existing street lights with LED lanterns and extension of the driveway at Stanley Hill Cemetery). After much discussion, it was agreed that to produce a balanced budget and meet the future needs of the Council it would be necessary to approve a 10.21% increase on last year's precept.

110. **TO APPROVE THE PRECEPT INCREASE FOR THE 2018/19 FINANCIAL YEAR:**

After discussion, it was

It was	Proposed	Councillor R Jones
	Seconded	Councillor C Morgan

Agreed to request a 10.21% increase in the precept, giving a precept figure of £656,031 for the 2018-2019 financial year (equating to an increase of £8.97 for the year on a Band D property).

111. **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE AMERHSAM BOWLS CLUB FOR A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS A NEW MOTORISED GRASS ROLLER:**

Members noted the request from the Amersham Bowls Club for a contribution towards a new motorised grass roller. After discussion it was AGREED that the Council did not have sufficient funds to make a contribution. It was also felt that the level of use of the two public rinks at the club did not merit investment from the town council for such a specialist item of equipment, especially following the recent contribution made towards the replacement mower.

112. **TEMPORARY USE OF LAND BY LONDON UNDERGROUND LTD:**

a) **Agreement of Heads of Terms and appointment of ATC solicitor:**

Heads of Terms had been received from London Underground Ltd for use of a small piece of ATC land south of the Rectory Hill railway bridge and had been circulated prior to the meeting. Confirmation had also been received from the ATC solicitor of their fees to review the Heads of Terms, with the cost being borne by London Underground Ltd.

After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor A Seymour
	Seconded	Councillor M Flys

Agreed in principle to the Heads of Terms, subject to advice from the ATC solicitor.

113. **CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS RESURFACING OF THE PLATT:**

Members were informed of further correspondence received from the resident of the Platt who is organising the re-surfacing of the private road. It was noted that the residents have arranged for the imminent start of the project given the poor state of the road. It is understood that only 8 households are contributing towards the scheme, as two of the households listed on The Platt apparently do not use the road for their own access. After discussion it was AGREED that the Town Council would contribute the previously agreed sum of 1/11th of the cost of re-surfacing (ie a contribution of £1,206.55 - there being 11 properties possessing access to The Platt).

114. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:**

As a Member of the CDC Leisure Needs Working Group, Cllr R Jones reported that an architect had been appointed for the new Chiltern Pools project and that plans would be submitted shortly.

Cllr Ms C Jones reported that CDC were considering reducing the frequency of their Planning Committee Meetings, but discussions were still taking place.

115. **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:**

a) **Consultation from Bucks CC regarding locations for vehicle electric charging points:**

Members noted the correspondence from BCC regarding a scheme to increase availability of on-street charging points for electric vehicles on roads where off-street parking is not available for residents. BCC have requested information on any streets in Amersham which may benefit from the scheme. After discussion, it was suggested

that the High Street and Whielden Street may meet the criteria for consideration. This information will be forwarded to Bucks CC.

116. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

(a) Reading of Proclamation

The Clerk reported on correspondence received from Bucks CC concerning protocol relating to a Proclamation in the event of the death of Her Majesty The Queen. Bucks CC has asked if ATC would want the Mayor to read the Proclamation outside the Town Council offices (or other suitable location). Councillors felt this would be appropriate, so the Clerk will inform Bucks CC accordingly.

(b) Memorial Gardens

The Town Clerk (Community Services) reported that the two conifers positioned either side of the Cross in the Memorial Gardens are dying and would need to be removed, but will be replaced with aesthetically appropriate trees which will also restore the view of the WWII Memorial plaque behind the cross which had become partially obscured by the existing conifers.

(c) Red Kite Memorial on Stanley Hill / London Road East

Members were informed that, subject to one query from Bucks CC on their Safety Audit being addressed, the installation of the red kite memorial is scheduled for installation towards the end of March 2018.

(d) Barn Meadow Playground

It was reported that the Amersham Old Town Community Revitalisation Group had forwarded the first tranche of the Veolia grant towards the installation of new play equipment at the Barn Meadow playground. The depot staff have begun some initial ground works and the contractor has confirmed installation week commencing 26th February 2018 for a two week period, so the playground should be ready for full re-opening at the start of the school Easter holidays.

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.

117. **CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

a) Item relating to ATC Property

b) Item relating to ATC Property

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chairman Date

Council