

Amersham Town Council

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Amersham Town Council

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 19 February 2018

- Present:** Councillor A Seymour (Chair)
Councillor C Morgan (Town Mayor)
Councillor L Walsh
Councillor N Shepherd
Councillor M Flys
Councillor D Kenchington
- In Attendance:** Steve Catanach -Town Clerk - Community Services
Lizzie Richardson - Town Clerk - Finance & Policy
57. **Apologies:** Councillor C Jones (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor M Grimson (Deputy Chair)
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor M Vivis
Councillor L Staite
58. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- Open Session**
The Committee received a presentation from Vee Bharakda of the Chiltern Chamber. Along with providing a background to the Chamber Ms Bharakda commented how the group would like to form closer links with the Council.
59. **Matters Arising from the Approved Community Services Minutes of 18 December 2017:** None
60. **To approve the installation of a Town Map at the front boundary of the Memorial Gardens**
A report from Peter Borrows, Amersham Society, which included a draft Town Map was circulated prior to the meeting. The committee agreed that the map would be a fitting addition to the town and unanimously **approved** its installation at the front of the

Memorial Gardens. Councillor Morgan made the recommendation that The Platt Cemetery should be depicted on the map.

Proposed Councillor A Seymour
Seconded Councillor C Morgan

61. **To consider installing additional bollards on the grass verges of Stanley Hill**

The Town Clerk's report circulated prior to the meeting detailed a proposal to extend wooden bollards further down Stanley Hill. The first phase, between 173 and 99 Stanley Hill), funded by LAF, was completed in early February. The public have been very supportive of the initiative which was initiated by the Council and Bucks CC to prevent drivers from parking their cars on the grass verges.

The committee **agreed** to purchase and install additional bollards using a donation received from Roughcut, a company using the Memorial Gardens Tea Hut for filming purposes.

Proposed Councillor L Walsh
Seconded Councillor M Flys

62. **Amersham in Bloom items**

(a) To consider and approve the purchase of hanging baskets for the town

The Town Clerk's report circulated prior to the meeting recommended the purchase of hanging baskets for the town. The costs to the Council as per below:

£3086- Old Amersham (62 baskets)

£2706- AOTH (55 baskets)

Following discussion the committee **recommended** for approval at the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the purchase of the 117 baskets at a total cost of £5792. The committee also **recommended** facilitating the purchase of baskets for residents and shopkeepers, who line the main thoroughfares.

Proposed Councillor C Morgan
Seconded Councillor D Kenchington

(b) Great British Spring Clean

The Town Clerk outlined the plans for the town's participation in The Great British Spring Clean, a national campaign to rid our communities of litter.

Schools and community groups shall undertake litter picks on Friday 2 March, before a community clean up on Saturday 3 March (9.30am-11.30am).

(c) To consider installing the *stamp model* in the Queen's 90th Birthday Rose Garden

The Town Clerk outlined a proposal for relocating the floral stamp, used in 2016 for the Queen 90th Birthday display, to the Queen's Rose Garden in the Memorial Gardens.

Following discussion the committee agreed to **approve** the proposal noting the Town Clerk's comments that due to safety and maintenance issues the Memorial Gardens is the most suitable location to install the model.

Proposed Councillor C Morgan
Seconded Councillor L Walsh

63. **To review and consider increasing the charges of**

(a) Halls and Pavilions

A report from Tina Coles circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Following discussion the committee **recommended**, subject to approval by the Finance Committee and Council, increasing the charge to hire the halls and pavilions by 5% (rounded to the nearest 25p). This increase being in line with the cost to hire comparable halls locally.

Proposed Councillor A Seymour
Seconded Councillor M Flys

(b) Interments and Burials

(i) Burial Fees:

A report from Zoe Richardson had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the Council's fees for burials and memorials had last been reviewed in April 2016. A recent survey of 14 other local councils had shown that the current Council fees were below average. After discussion, the committee **recommended** that, subject to approval by the Finance Committee and Council, the Council fees are raised by 15% from 1 April 2018, to bring them in line with the average fees charged by other councils in the area.

Proposed Councillor M Flys
Seconded Councillor C Morgan

(ii) Perinatal burial fees:

It was highlighted that the charges relating to perinatal burials were considerably higher than other councils, (ATC currently charges for a full adult plot, even though the perinatal plots are considerably smaller). After discussion, the committee **recommended** that, subject to approval by the Finance Committee and Council, the fees for perinatal burials and interments should be reduced to the equivalent of the Council ashes fees, which would bring them closer in line with other neighbouring parishes.

Proposed Councillor A Seymour
Seconded Councillor D Kenchington

(iii) Memorial Fees:

The report from Zoe Richardson highlighted that the current Council policy states that memorial fees are applied according to the current Deed of Grant holder's address. Throughout our neighbouring parishes, the Council is the only parish that issues charges in this way. It is common practise for memorial fees to be based on the deceased's address at their time of death. After discussion it was **recommended** that, subject to approval by the Finance Committee and Council, the charges be based on the last address of the deceased and NOT on the current address of the Deed of Grant holder.

Proposed Councillor N Shepherd
Seconded Councillor L Walsh

(iv) Pre-purchase of burial plots at The Platt and Stanley Hill Cemeteries:

The report from Zoe Richardson concerning the significant upturn in the pre-purchase of burial plots at the Platt Cemetery over the past year was noted. In consideration of the limited remaining space at the Platt Cemetery and to ensure continuity of policy across both cemeteries, the committee **recommended** that from 1 April 2018 the pre-purchase of burial and ashes plots would discontinue in both cemeteries and plots would be sold on an as-needed basis and allocated in sequential order.

Proposed Councillor L Walsh
Seconded Councillor C Morgan

(c) Allotments

A report from Zoe Richardson circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The report highlighted that there had been no increase in allotment rents since 2009 and that the Council's plots are, as an average £8.80 cheaper for a full size plot and £6.09 cheaper for a half sized plot, compared to those in neighbouring parishes.

Following discussion the committee **recommended**, subject to approval by the Finance Committee and Council, raising the allotment rents to £25 (a £5 increase) for a full size (5 pole) plot and £13 (a £3 increase) for a half sized plot (2.5 poles).

Proposed Councillor C Morgan
Seconded Councillor D Kenchington

It was **recommended** by the committee that an extra-ordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting be held to discuss the above changes in fees immediately prior to the Council meeting scheduled for 19 March 2018. This will enable changes to be instituted from 1 April 2018.

64. **To consider a request from Children's Funfair to hold a toddler funfair on KGV Field between 10 May and 13 May**

The Town Clerk's report circulated prior to the meeting outlined a request from the Children's Funfair to use part of King George V Playing Field for a toddler's funfair in May. Following discussion it was **agreed** that the Town Clerk contacts Children's Funfair to request a donation of £1000 which is £300 more than the donation offered.

Proposed Councillor M Flys
Seconded Councillor L Walsh

65. **Chiltern District Council Matters**

There were no items for discussion.

66. **Bucks County Council Matters**

There were no items for discussion.

67. **Matters for Report**

(a) Following discussion the committee **agreed** to renew the Council's subscription to the Chiltern Chamber at a cost of £100.

(b) The committee **agreed** to auction/sell the *fairground models* when they are replaced with the WW1 commemoration models in spring.

Part 2

Resolved 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.

68. ITEM CONCERNING ATC LAND

69. ITEM CONCERNING ATC PROPERTY

The meeting ended at 9.20pm

Chairman

Date.....