

Amersham Town Council

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Town Clerk – Finance & Policy - Mrs E Richardson

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Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 April 2018

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

In Attendance: Steve Catanach -Town Clerk - Community Services
Lizzie Richardson - Town Clerk - Finance & Policy

70. **Apologies:** Councillor M Flys
Councillor D Kenchington

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

Open Session

The Committee received a presentation from Chris Wilson and Di Caudery from HS2 Amersham Action Group. Following an invitation from Chris Wilson, the Council agreed to host a meeting with HS2 Limited on 14 June 2018 at Amersham Community Centre.

72. **Matters Arising from the Approved Community Services Minutes of 19 February 2018:**

The Children's Funfair have agreed to donate £1000 for the use of King George V Playing Field for a toddler's funfair which will now take place between 27 June and 1 July (Minute 64/19 Feb 2018).

73. **To approve the date that the Amersham Remembrance Gardens are officially dedicated as a Centenary Field.**

Following a discussion it was agreed to officially open the Remembrance Gardens as a Centenary Field on Sunday 15 July at the band concert. The dedication is through Fields in Trust.

Proposed Councillor A Lamont
Seconded Councillor L Staite

74. **To consider having the town's WWI and WWII Memorials cleaned**

Following discussion it was agreed that the town's two War Memorials should be cleaned in this centenary year. The Town Clerk advised the committee that a quote of £1750 had been received while a further meeting with another contractor had been arranged.

Due to the limited number of approved contractors licenced to work on memorials, it was **agreed** to delegate the decision to approve a contractor to the Town Clerk on the proviso that the total cost of the cleaning does not exceed £1750.

A £2000 donation received from a filming company would be used to fund the works.

Proposed Councillor C Morgan
Seconded Councillor C Jones

75. **Amersham in Bloom Update**

The Town Clerk's report circulated prior to the meeting outlined the highlights of Amersham in Bloom over the past two month. These include:

- 920 native trees donated by the Woodland Trust and Conservation Volunteers were planted in conjunction with Scouts from 2nd Amersham on the Hill Scout Group (20 scouts), The Rotary Club of Amersham and members of the public. In total over 70 residents took part in the community tree plant.
- 75 residents including a Beaver group, collected 34 bags of litter over the two Great British Spring Clean events hosted by the Council.
- 40 students from Stony Dean School helped to sow 1000 seeds and summer bulbs. All the plants/seedlings, which are being maintained by the school shall be sold or planted within Amersham.
- Six students from Stony Dean School continued to volunteer two hours a week. Over the past two months they have helped to construct a compost bin for Pondwicks and eight bird boxes, in addition to working on the new pond that has been created in Pondwicks.
- Two water butts, bolstering our environmental management have been installed to aid watering.
- Over the period April 2017-18, Amersham in Bloom cost the council £16,200, exclusive of labour.

It was noted how many of the initiatives over the past two months have encouraged community engagement as well as the Council's efforts to bolster the town's environmental responsibility.

76. **Update on the Community Events Feedback Survey**

The Town Clerk provided a brief overview of the results of the survey thus far. It was noted that there have been 206 responses with over 80% of the respondents stating that the Band Concerts, Heritage Day, Christmas Lights Display and Amersham in Bloom are deemed as being of very good or good value to the taxpayer. The closing date for responses is 14 May 2018.

77. **To consider lighting a Beacon on 11 November 2018 to commemorate the centenary of the end of The Great War**

Cllr Seymour outlined details of Battle's Over 'Beacon of Light' commemoration that is due to take place throughout the UK at 7pm on 11 November 2018.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Council will invite school children to create 98 (the number of servicemen from Amersham that lost their lives in WWI) small tea lights (beacons) that shall be placed beside the WWI Memorial in the Remembrance Gardens. The beacons will symbolise the light of hope that emerged from the darkness of the war.

Proposed Councillor M Grimson
Seconded Councillor M Vivis

78. Unitary Authority Consultation – to agree date for final approval of the Councils comments on current consultation

Following a lengthy discussion it was **agreed** that the Town Clerk - Finance and Policy shall, in conjunction with the Mayor, draw up a revised *Draft Statement* to submit to the Secretary of State in reference to the proposed plan to create a unitary authority for Buckinghamshire. The final document is to be approved by Council on 14 May 2018.

Proposed Councillor M Vivis
Seconded Councillor M Grimson

79. Chiltern District Council Matters

There were no items for discussion.

80. Bucks County Council Matters

The issue of antisocial parking outside Tesco's in Hill Avenue was raised along with the problem of Tesco's leaving cages/trolleys on the forecourt. Cllr Shepherd and Cllr Walsh agreed to contact Tesco's to discuss the issues, while the Town Clerk will speak to Bucks CC to get the missing bollards, which would restrict parking on the forecourt, reinstalled.

81. Matters for Report

Cllr Shepherd outlined a proposal to create a new Amersham - Bensheim Twinning Association. While the association would not be funded by the Council it was proposed that the Council supports its formation through advertising and as deemed appropriate.

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.

82. ITEM CONCERNING ATC LAND

The meeting ended at 8.50pm

Chairman

Date.....