

Amersham Town Council

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 17 DECEMBER 2018

PRESENT:

Councillor Ms C Jones - Town Mayor – in the Chair
Councillor R Jones – part meeting
Councillor M Flys – Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Mrs J Cook
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor M Grimson
Councillor H Newton
Councillor Mrs L Staite
Councillor Mrs L Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Mrs A Lamont
Mrs E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy

49. APOLOGIES: Councillor M Vivis

50. ABSENT NO APOLOGIES: Councillor M Lacey

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
There were no declarations of interest.

52. MINUTES:
The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2018 were:

Proposed	Councillor C Morgan
Seconded	Councillor M Flys

RESOLVED THAT:

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes meeting held on 15 October be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING:

There were no matters arising.

53(a). **TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR 1 SEPTEMBER TO 31 OCTOBER 2018:**

- i) Income and Expenditure Reports for periods ending 30 September & 31 October 2018
- ii) Balance sheets as at 30 September & 31 October 2018
- iii) Accounts paid from 1 September to 31 October 2018

It was Proposed – Councillor Mrs J Cook
Seconded – Councillor Mrs L Staite

RECOMMENDED that the finance reports for the period 1 September to 31 October 2018 be accepted.

53(b). **2019/2020 DRAFT BUDGET AND PRECEPT LEVEL:**

Following a presentation of the draft budget to Members on 19 November, Members requested options to be prepared for consideration. It was noted that the Council reserves are just below the recommended level for a council of its size. After discussion, and mindful of the possible financial implications for the town council of additional services being devolved from the new county unitary authority,

It was Proposed – Councillor C Morgan
Seconded – Councillor Mrs J Cook

RECOMMENDED: that a precept increase of 5.75% per Band D property be applied for the 2019/2020 budget.

54. **APPROVAL OF GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Members considered the recommendations of the Grants Committee and

It was Proposed – Councillor M Grimson
Seconded – Councillor Mrs L Walsh

RECOMMENDED that grants for 2018/2019 be allocated as follows:

Amersham Band	£500
Citizens Advice Bureau	£1000
Chilterns Dial-a-Ride	£500
Bucks Mind	£240
Chesham Christmas Party for the elderly	£200

The grant request from the New Amersham Benshaim Society was declined but it was recommended that the society re-submit their application following completion of setting up their bank account.

55. **REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL AUDITORS FIRST INTERIM REPORT FOR 2018/2019**

Members noted the comments of the Internal Auditor made in his first interim report.

It was

Proposed – Councillor Mrs J Cook

Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

RECOMMENDED to

Approve the interim internal audit.

56. **HIRE PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT GRAVEMASTER EXCAVATOR:**
Members noted the Facilities Manager's report regarding age-related break-downs with the JCB Gravemaster excavator. After discussion, it was AGREED to approve the hire purchase of a replacement JCB Excavator, financed over a 5 year period and including a trade-in on the old machine. Balance due over 5 year period - £22,202 (incl. VAT).

Proposed – Councillor C Morgan

Seconded – Councillor M Grimson

57. **RENOVATION OF DEPOT STAFF FACILITIES:**
The Facilities Manager's report was noted and the Mayor commented on the long overdue need to improve the current facilities. It was AGREED to approve the proposed alterations, including new lockers, heaters and kitchen cupboards, at a cost of £3500, with the installation work being undertaken by depot staff.

Proposed – Councillor – Ms C Jones

Seconded – Councillor – R Jones

58. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:**
It was reported that confirmation had been received that Buckinghamshire parish and town council elections will be postponed until May 2020 to coincide with elections for the new Bucks new unitary authority.

Cllr Walsh reported that she had received information about funding for 'pocket parks' which she will forward to Steve Catanach for information/ action.

59. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:**
There were no matter for discussion.

60. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**
There were no matters for report.

Part two

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.

61. **ITEM RELATING TO ATC STAFF:**
62. **ITEM RELATING TO ATC STAFF.**
63. **ITEM RELATING TO THE REAR GARDEN OF 146/148 STATION ROAD:**

64. **CHILTERN LIFESTYLE CENTRE:**

Members discussed a request from residents of Woodside Close to delay the land swap until after the residents' complaint to the Ombudsman about CDC had been dealt with. Members RECOMMENDED that the resident's letter is acknowledged, stating that ATC looks forward to the consideration of the Ombudsman and that ATC will liaise with other stakeholders as appropriate in the meantime.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman.....

Date

F&GP