

Amersham Town Council

Flint Barn Court, Church Street, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0DB

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 11 February 2019

- Present:** Councillor A Seymour (Chair)
Councillor C Jones (Town Mayor)
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor L Walsh
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor M Vivis
Councillor N Shepherd
- In Attendance:** Steve Catanach; Town Clerk - Community Services
Paul Ryan; Administration Officer
44. **Apologies:** Councillor D Kenchington
Councillor L Staite
Councillor M Grimson (Deputy Chair)
Councillor M Flys (Deputy Town Mayor)
45. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.
- Open Session**
- The committee received a presentation from Grace Harland and Diana Hammond, of Affinity Water, who outlined a proposal for environmentally improving the River Misbourne at Barn Meadow.
46. **Matters arising from the Approved Minutes of 3 December 2018**
There were no matters arising.
47. **To consider and approve the river restoration works proposed by Affinity Water**

Following discussion and the aforementioned presentation, the committee **agreed** that improvements to the River Misbourne at Barn Meadow and Pondwicks would be beneficial and as such stated that, in principal, they would be happy for the recommended improvement works to take place. However, this is on the proviso that the residents of the High Street, who back onto the river and the Amersham Society are fully consulted and subsequently agree to these low intervention improvements. The committee instructed the Clerk to liaise with the Amersham Society and the residents in collaboration with Affinity Water.

48. **To discuss the invitation from the Burgermeister inviting the Mayor and delegation to Bensheim in April**

The committee noted the invitation from Bensheim, **confirming** that Councillor Walsh shall join the Town Mayor and her partner as the Council's official delegation visiting Bensheim in April.

49. **Amersham in Bloom Items**

(i) Amersham in Bloom Update

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

- 500 native trees donated by the Conservation Volunteers were planted in conjunction with 75 local residents, including Scouts from 2nd Amersham on the Hill Scout Group.
- 30 heritage fruit trees have been planted at Hervines Park creating Hervines Community Orchard. The trees have been sponsored by residents, while money obtained from the *Tesco Bags for Help* initiative has funded the purchase of materials, such as caging and wild grass seed.
- Five students from Stony Dean School have continued to volunteer two hours a week. Over the past two months they have assisted the depot to 'side out' vegetation that is over growing footpaths, litter picked, constructed a compost bin for Pondwicks and removed evasive holly from Willow Wood.
- A student with special needs has been working with the Council and Bloom volunteer Carole, 1.5hrs a week, enabling him to obtain work experience that he has struggled to gain elsewhere. Christian is helping to make environmental improvements in Pondwicks.
- The depot shredded 378 Christmas trees in January. The chippings have been used by allotment holders, Stony Dean School and within our parks.

(ii) To consider and recommend the purchase of hanging baskets for the town

The Town Clerk's report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Following discussion the Committee **approved** hiring hanging baskets from Windowflowers, as highlighted:

64 baskets in Old Amersham at a cost of £3302- Old Amersham
57 baskets for AOTH at a cost of £2964- AOTH

Total cost: £6266 (taken from proposed hanging basket budget)

It was also **agreed** that the Council facilitate the hire of hanging baskets on behalf of those shopkeepers and residents that have premises on one of the town's main thoroughfares.

Proposed Councillor M Vivis
Seconded Councillor C Morgan

50. **To consider the purchase of bunting for Sycamore Road, Broadway and the Memorial Gardens**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was considered. The Committee noted that bunting adds vibrancy and colour to Amersham and therefore **agreed** to purchase durable PVC Union bunting at a cost of £1501.50.

Proposed Councillor A Lamont
Seconded Councillor L Walsh

51. **Summary report of the civic events organised by the Council in 2018.**

The committee thanked the Town Clerk for the report that was circulated prior to the meeting. The report summarised the expenditure, income and engagement of each civic events that the Council organised in 2018. The Mayor recommended that the Community Services Committee is renamed would duly like to propose this to Council at their next meeting.

52. **Chiltern District Council Matters**

There were no items for discussion.

53. **Bucks County Council Matters**

There were no items for discussion.

54. **Matters for Report**

There were no matters to report.

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.

There were no items for discussion.

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Chairman

Date.....