

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 8 JULY 2019

PRESENT: Councillor M Flys (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs B Dhanda
Councillor M Grimson
Councillor Ms C Jones (part meeting)
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor A Seymour
Councillor Mrs L Walsh (part meeting)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy
Mr S Catanach - Town Clerk Community Services & Engagement
Mr D Balderson (Amersham Bowls Club) – open session
Mr Martin Holt – Chiltern District Council – part meeting
Mr Richard Thompson – Hadron Consulting – part meeting

23. APOLOGIES: Councillor Mrs J Cook (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs D Kenchington
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor H Newton
Councillor N Shepherd
Councillor Mrs L Staite
Councillor M Vivis

24. ABSENT NO APOLOGIES: Councillor R Jones

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
Councillor Mrs Walsh declared a non-pecuniary interest in the discussion relating to a grant application to Chiltern District Council for money towards the Hervines Park playground project and left the room for this item (see Minute No. 32).

26. OPEN SESSION:
Mr David Balderson of the Amersham Bowls Club gave a brief presentation on the wishes of the club to erect a wooden chalet style structure to accommodate new changing facilities within the curtilage of the bowling green area. Members had no objection in principle to the proposal but this would be subject to approval of more detailed plans regarding the dimensions, design and siting of the structure once these are available.

27. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS FROM 13 MAY TO 8 JULY 2019:
The list of engagements circulated prior to the meeting and were noted.

28. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 13 MAY 2019:

i) Appointment of Committees deferred from Annual Statutory Meeting

It was

Proposed - Councillor M Flys
Seconded – Councillor Ms C Jones

RESOVED that the membership of the Standing Committees shall be as follows and that the Chairmanships and Deputy Chairmanships shall remain unchanged, with the exception of the position of Deputy Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, which shall be formally approved at the next meeting of that Committee.

(a) COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Andrew Seymour (Chair)
Councillor Mark Grimson (Vice Chair)
Councillor Mark Flys (*Town Mayor*)
Councillor Jules Cook (*ex-officio as Deputy Town Mayor*)
Councillor Debbie Kenchington
Councillor Amanda Lamont
Councillor Clive Morgan
Councillor Nigel Shepherd
Councillor Louise Staite
Councillor Liz Walsh
Councillor Mark Vivis

(b) PLANNING AND FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Jules Cook (Chair) – Deputy Town Mayor
Councillor Howard G Newton (Vice Chair)
Councillor Mark Flys (*ex-officio as Town Mayor*)
Councillor Belinda Dhanda
Councillor Caroline Jones
Councillor Rob Jones
Councillor Debbie Kenchington
Councillor Amanda Lamont
Councillor Andrew Seymour
Councillor Nigel Shepherd
Councillor Clive Morgan

(c) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Rob Jones (Chair) (Vice Chair to be confirmed)
Councillor Jules Cook (*ex-officio as Deputy Town Mayor*)
Councillor M Flys (*Town Mayor*)
Councillor Belinda Dhanda
Councillor Mark Grimson
Councillor Caroline Jones
Councillor Clive Morgan
Councillor Howard Newton
Councillor Louise Staite
Councillor Mark Vivis
Councillor Liz Walsh

(d) Personnel Appeals Committee

Councillor M Flys (Town Mayor), Councillor C Jones, Councillor M Vivis

(e) Disciplinary and Grievance Committee

Determined as and when required.

(f) Policy Development Group

Determined as and when required.

COMMUNITY SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEES

(a) Heritage Day Sub-Committee. Councillors A Seymour; D Kenchington; A Lamont.

(b) Christmas Sub-Committee. Councillors J Cook; M Grimson; C Jones

(c) Britain in Bloom Sub-Committee. Councillors A Seymour; A Lamont; D Kenchington.

(d) Chiltern Leisure Centre Sub-Committee: Councillors R Jones (Chair), N Shepherd (Vice Chair); M Grimson; C Morgan

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE:

(a) Establishment Sub Committee. Councillors Ms C Jones; R Jones; H Newton

(b) Grants Sub Committee. Councillors M Flys; C Jones; R Jones; (Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor are ex-officio Members).

(c) Property Sub Committee. Members agreed that this sub-committee should be appointed as and when required.

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES:

Amersham and District Community Association
Citizens Advice Bureau
Local Area Forum
GE Healthcare Liaison Committee
Amersham Common Village Hall
Amersham Action Group (Amersham on the Hill)
Amersham Old Town Revitalisation Group
Youth Centre
The Amersham Band
Amersham & Wycombe College Liaison
Amersham & District Residents Assoc.
Chiltern Chamber

Councillor M Flys
Councillor R Jones
Councillor Ms C Jones
Councillor Mrs A Lamont
Councillor Ms C Jones
Councillor M Flys
Councillor A Seymour
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor A Seymour
Councillor M Grimson
Councillor N Shepherd
Councillors C Morgan

29. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:

a) Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting

It was

Proposed - Councillor Ms C Jones

Seconded - Councillor A Seymour

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 June 2019 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

b) Planning and Footpaths Minutes

It was

Proposed - Councillor - Mrs J Cook

Seconded - Councillor – Mrs B Dhanda

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 20 May, 3 June & 24 June 2019 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted. There were no matters arising.

c) Finance & General Purposes Minutes

It was

Proposed - Councillor – M Flys

Seconded - Councillor – Mrs B Dhanda

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 10 June 2019 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted. There were no matters arising.

e) Community Services Minutes

It was

Proposed - Councillor – A Seymour

Seconded - Councillor – M Grimson

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 1 July 2019 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted. There were no matters arising.

30. CHILTERN LIFESTYLE CENTRE:

Members received a progress report from Chiltern District Council on the Chiltern Lifestyle project. After discussion

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Flys

Seconded – Councillor A Seymour

RESOLVED that the Council agrees to the proposed location for the soakaway on King George V Field and to the temporary use of a small parcel of the field as a turning circle for contractors' vehicles during the build process.

31. SPECIFICATION OF DEPOT CONTRACT WORK:

Members acknowledged the suggestion from Derek Kemp of Accounting Solutions but decided against proceeding with this exercise at the moment but will reconsider the proposal next year.

32. HERVINES PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS:

After discussion,

It was

Proposed – Councillor Mrs J Cook

Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

RESOLVED that the Clerk should apply for a grant of £25,000 from the Chiltern District Council Capital Fund towards playground improvements at the Hervines Park Playground, with matched funding from donations and Town Council reserves. The Clerk will also apply for other grants towards the project. *(As the CDC Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Healthy Communities, Councillor Mrs Walsh declared an interest in this item and left the room for this discussion.)*

33. COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS:

After much discussion, the majority of Councillors agreed that Councillors' home addresses should be removed from the ATC website and newsletters but that phone numbers and e-mail addresses should be included so Councillors remain contactable by their electorate. However this conflicted with the views of a small number of Councillors who were unhappy about their personal phone numbers being available for public use. The Clerk was instructed to write to all Councillors again to establish their personal preference.

34. CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:

There were no matters for discussion.

35. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:

Councillor Walsh and Mrs Richardson reported that they had attended the 'Unitary Authority Workshop' in Chesham, where discussion centred around the proposal for Community Boards across the County as part of the structure for the new authority. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should write to Councillor Martin Tett to state that Members do not want Amersham to be subsumed into a Community Board with other towns in order to retain its individual identity.

36. MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Clerk reported that there will be an HS2 meeting with Amersham Action Group and the HS2 contractors at 11am on 23 July in Market Hall. The Mayor is hoping to attend.

Part 2 CONFIDENTIAL – FOR COUNCILLORS ONLY

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.

37. PLATT CEMETERY WALL:

Following discussion at the last ATC Finance Meeting, it was

Proposed – Councillor C Morgan
Seconded – Councillor M Grimson

RESOLVED that the Clerk should begin the process for a loan application to the Public Works Loan Board for the stabilisation works on the Platt Cemetery wall. It was recommended that the loan should be for £100,000 to ensure adequate funds are

available for the project, but the Clerk will obtain a revised quotation from the contractor in the meantime.

38. DAYBREAK NURSERY:

The Clerk reported that the nursery has been advised Council will not consider a new lease covered by the Landlord and Tenancy Act. Their formal response is awaited.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Chairman Date

Council