

Amersham Town Council

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Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 28 October 2019

- Present:** Councillor A Seymour (Chair)
Councillor M Grimson (Deputy Chair)
Councillor M Flys (Town Mayor)
Councillor L Walsh
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor N Shepherd
Councillor M Vivis
- In Attendance:** Councillor C Jones
Steve Catanach; Town Clerk - Community Services
Paul Ryan; Community Services Administration Assistant
Karen Marshall and Liz Barnetson of Woodside Close
Richard Thompson; Haldron Consulting
Martin Holt; Chiltern District Council
23. **Apologies:** Councillor J Cook (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor D Kenchington
Councillor L Staite

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

Open Session

The committee received a presentation from Mrs Karen Marshall, who on behalf of the residents, proposed that the green at Woodside Close is dedicated as a Town Green.

Richard Thompson of Hadron Consulting Ltd, provided an update on the proposed Chiltern Lifestyle Centre. This included a design of the intended external facilities- skatepark and children's outdoor play facilities.

It was noted that the members of the Amersham Youth Centre, having been invited to review the proposed plans for the skatepark, recommended various alterations which have been incorporated in the new plans.

The committee, in agreement that the children's new wooden playground will be a fantastic community asset, recommended some minor alterations to the design, most notably, reducing the area to which the wooden equipment extends.

The committee proposed that the amended plans are reviewed by the Mayor, the Chairman of Committee and the Town Clerk with delegated authority to approve the plans accordingly.

25. **Matters arising from the Approved Minutes of 9 September 2019**

There were no matters arising.

26. **Amersham in Bloom items**

i) Amersham in Bloom update

The Chairman outlined the recent achievements of Amersham in Bloom, which included a GOLD award at the national finals. It was noted that Amersham has become the first town in Bucks, Berks and Oxfordshire to have achieved a gold award on two occasions.

ii) To consider an invite from Thames and Chilterns in Bloom to represent the region in the National Britain in Bloom Competition in 2020

The committee was thrilled to hear that Amersham has once again been invited to the National Britain in Bloom Finals in 2020 and duly **agreed** to accept the invitation from Thames and Chilterns in Bloom.

Following a discussion, it was **recommended** that Amersham does not enter the regional competition in 2020, if this is acceptable by Thames and Chilterns in Bloom.

The committee members were unanimous in the view that the bloom competition provides the momentum and is the driving force for horticultural and environmental improvements, in addition to offering a platform for engaging within the community.

Proposed Councillor A Lamont
Seconded Councillor M Flys

iii) To consider a recommendation to hire hanging baskets for the town next summer

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 £3520- Old Amersham

57 baskets for AOTH at a cost of £3135- AOTH

Total cost: £6655 (taken from proposed hanging basket budget)

Proposed Councillor A Lamont
Seconded Councillor M Flys

iv) To consider a proposal to revamp the flowerbed at Oakfield Corner

The Clerk outlined a proposal to revamp Oakfield Corner, which included a replica Metropolitan 1 and carriages within a new shrub border. Following discussion, the committee **approved** the installation and revamp.

Proposed Councillor A Seymour
Seconded Councillor M Grimson

27. To approve the Council's civic events calendar for 2020

A list of proposed dates for next year's civic events was circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion, the committee **approved** the proposed dates for 2020, as per below.

Proposed Councillor A Seymour
Seconded Councillor M Grimson

Date	Event
Monday 9 March	Town Meeting/Mayor Awards
Sunday 26 April	1 st Band Concert, Memorial Gardens
Sunday 10 May	2 nd Band Concert, Memorial Gardens
Sunday 24 May	3 rd Band Concert, Memorial Gardens
Sunday 7 June	4 th Band Concert, Memorial Gardens
Sunday 21 June	5 th Band Concert, Memorial Gardens
Sunday 5 July	6 th Band Concert, Memorial Gardens
Sunday 12 July	Amersham Music Centre to play a proms style concert
Sunday 19 July	Children's Princesses Concert
Sunday 2 Aug	7 th Band Concert, Memorial Gardens;
Sunday 16 Aug	8 th Band Concert, Memorial Gardens
Thurs 27 August – Monday 31 August	Amersham Festival of Arts
Sunday 30 Aug	9 th Band Concert, Memorial Gardens
Sunday 6 September	Heritage Day

28. To approve the river restoration works proposed by Affinity Water

A document from Affinity Water, outlining a proposal to improve the environmental quality of the River Misbourne was circulated prior to the meeting. The proposal included the following:

- Pollarding/coppicing the trees located on the bank to allow more light into the river and encourage the growth of vegetation on the banks and channel.
- The installation of pre-planted coir rolls to create a more sinuous channel along the right bank next to the vertical brick walls

Following discussion and noting that cost of these improvements will be borne by Affinity Water, the committee **approved** the river improvement works.

Proposed Councillor M Grimson
Seconded Councillor L Walsh

29. **To consider a request from The Old Amersham and Community Revitalisation Group, to help fund a leaflet: a trail of Midsomer Murder film locations**

A letter from Martin Pounce, secretary of the Old Amersham Community Revitalisation Group, requesting £500 towards the publication of trail of the Midsummer film locations, was circulated prior to the meeting.

Following discussion, the committee concluded that they do not wish to offer any financial support to the project.

30. **To consider dedicating the green at Woodside Close as a Town Green**

Following the presentation from Mrs Karen Marshall in the open session of the meeting, the committee discussed a proposal to dedicate the open space at Woodside Close as a Town Green. The committee was concerned that such status may lead to implications which could be detrimental rather than beneficial. As such, the committee **requested** that the Town Clerk researches any potential repercussions of this dedication, prior to reporting back to the committee for further discussion.

31. **Chiltern District Council Matters**

There were no items for discussion

32. **Bucks County Council Matters**

There were no items for discussion.

33. **Matters for Report**

Councillor Seymour, on behalf of the Royal British Legion, requested the use of the Council's vans on Remembrance Sunday. The vans are to be used to facilitate the service at Chesham Bois. This requested was **approved** by the committee.

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 9.10pm

Chairman

Date.....