

# Amersham Town Council

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillor R Jones  
Councillor M Flys – Town Mayor  
Councillor J Cook  
Councillor Mrs B Dhanda  
Councillor Ms C Jones  
Councillor M Grimson  
Councillor Mrs L Walsh

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor A Seymour – Deputy Town Mayor  
Councillor A Lamont  
Mrs E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy  
Mr S Catanach – Town Clerk Community & Services  
Mr M Richardson – Facilities & Depot Manager

55. **APOLOGIES:** Councillor C Morgan  
Councillor Mrs L Staite

56. **ABSENT NO APOLOGIES:** Councillor H Newton  
Councillor M Vivis

57. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
There were no declarations of interest.

58. **MINUTES:**

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Flys  
Seconded – Councillor C Jones

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21 October 2019 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

59. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2019:**

It was noted that Barbara Webber had contacted the Clerk to thank the Council for its contribution to the maintenance of the Platt access road.

60. **TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019:**

- i) Income and Expenditure Reports for periods ending 30 September & 31 October 2019
- ii) Balance sheets as at 30 September and 31 October 2019
- iii) Accounts paid from 1 September to 31 October 2019

It was

Proposed - Councillor R Jones

Seconded - Councillor M Flys

RECOMMENDED that the finance reports for the period 1 September to 31 October 2019 be accepted.

61. **2020/21 BUDGET AND PRECEPT:**

The Clerk reported that the Tax Base figure for 2020/21 was still awaited from the District Council. Figures were also still awaited for the Pension Fund Revaluation. Members therefore decided to defer any decision for the 2020/21 budget and precept increase until the Council meeting on 20th January 2020.

*Post meeting note – these figures have now been received so the Clerk will prepare an updated Budget Summary for Councillors' consideration.*

Councillors also discussed (and were minded to approve) additional items for the 2020/21 budget, subject to further consideration at the next Council meeting. Items recommended for approval include:

- Additional seasonal depot employee to service new major contract for Farnham Common Parish Council.
- Awarding a permanent contract to our existing apprentice subject to conditions.
- Hire –purchase of King Feeder Eco Composting machine.

62. **REVIEW OF ATC BURIAL & MEMORIAL CHARGES:**

After discussion and consideration of the Town Clerk's report,

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Grimson

Seconded – Councillor Mrs J Cook

RECOMMENDED that the burial and memorial fees be increased by 10%, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, subject to formal approval at the next Council meeting.

63. **REVIEW OF ATC CHARGES FOR BOOKINGS:**

After discussion and reference to the Town Clerk's report,

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Flys

Seconded – Councillor Mrs J Cook

RECOMMENDED that the sports pitch bookings be increased by 10%, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, subject to further discussion at the next Council meeting.

64. **REVIEW OF ATC CHARGES FOR HALL HIRE:**

After discussion, it was

Proposed – Councillor M Grimson

Seconded – Councillor Ms C Jones

RECOMMENDED that the hall hire fees be increased by 10%, with the exception of Market Hall, where the fees will be reviewed following completion of refurbishment. (Final decision to be made at next full Council meeting).

65. **AMERSHAM MOBILE APP:**

Members discussed the project to create a new mobile app for Amersham. The Mayor confirmed that it had not been possible to meet the deadline for a funding application to the District Council. After discussion

It was

Proposed – Councillor Ms C Jones

Seconded – Councillor R Jones

RECOMMENDED that an allowance of £1500 be approved towards the creation of the app, with a view to additional funds being made available and approved at subsequent meetings.

66. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:**

a) **Parkrun**

Councillors considered the request from Chiltern District Council to allow Parkrun to organize a free weekly run in Amersham, with part of the route crossing through Rectory Woods. Members were keen to support an event which encourages sport participation but before making a final decision, Members requested more information about Parkrun's public liability insurance, the number of stewards provided and what action can be taken in the event of damage to the footpaths owned by the Town Council.

67. **BUCKS COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:**

There were no matters for discussion.

68. **UNITARY AUTHORITY UPDATE:**

It had been noted that the new Council is recommending 16 local Community Boards, rather than the 14 requested by Amersham Town Council.

69. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

The Clerk reported on progress with the Council's various capital projects.

**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.**

70. **YOUTH GROUP GRANT:**

Members discussed a possible grant to the Youth Group, though as this was not an agenda item, the matter will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman.....

Date .....