

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2019**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Flys (Town Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs B Dhanda  
Councillor M Grimson  
Councillor Ms C Jones  
Councillor R Jones  
Councillor C Morgan  
Councillor N Shepherd

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy  
Mr S Catanach - Town Clerk Community Services & Engagement  
Mrs A Hamilton-Pike (representing the Amersham Society & the Amersham Museum)  
Ms D Symes (representing the Amersham Society)

53. **APOLOGIES:** Councillor Mrs J Cook (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs D Kenchington  
Councillor A Lamont  
Councillor A Seymour  
Councillor Mrs L Staite  
Councillor M Vivis  
Councillor Mrs L Walsh

54. **ABSENT NO APOLOGIES:** Councillor H Newton

55. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**  
There were no declarations of interest.

56. **MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS FROM 16 SEPTEMBER TO 18 NOVEMBER 2019:**  
The list of engagements circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

57. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 16 SEPTEMBER 2019:**  
There were no matters arising.

58. **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

a) **Council Meeting held on 16 September 2019**

It was

Proposed - Councillor M Flys  
Seconded - Councillor C Morgan

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 September 2019 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**b) Planning and Footpaths Minutes**

It was

Proposed - Councillor - Mrs B Dhanda  
Seconded - Councillor – C Morgan

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 14 October & 4 November 2019 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted. There were no matters arising.

**c) Finance & General Purposes Minutes**

It was

Proposed - Councillor – R Jones  
Seconded - Councillor – Ms C Jones

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 21 October 2019 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted. There were no matters arising.

**d) Community Services Minutes**

It was

Proposed - Councillor – M Grimson  
Seconded - Councillor – M Flys

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 28 October 2019 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted. There were no matters arising.

**59. MARKET HALL RENOVATION:**

The Mayor reported on an earlier meeting with Mrs Hamilton-Pike to discuss the Amersham Society's request for the Council to improve access to Market Hall by reconfiguring the western staircase. Mrs Hamilton-Pike stated that the Society accepts that a wheelchair access lift is not a viable option, but wanted the Council to explore alternatives to improve accessibility. Whilst Members were fully supportive of the concept, any project would be constrained by available funds. It was suggested that the Council could make an application for lottery funding towards the work. Mrs Hamilton-Pike stated that the Society would not be in a position either to take over custodial ownership of the building or to provide any funds towards improvements. However, the Society might be able to assist in helping to fund-raise for the project.

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Flys  
Seconded – Councillor C Jones

AGREED that the Clerk would obtain quotations from architects to draw up possible design solutions.

**60. REQUEST FROM 'POWER FOR PEOPLE':**

Members had noted the communication from 'Power for People', requesting the Council supports the proposed Local Electricity Bill. After discussion, it was agreed that the Council would not support the Bill, especially during the current period of upheaval with the introduction of the new unitary authority.

**61. PLATT CEMETERY WALL:**

The Clerk's report was noted concerning the loan for repairs to the Platt Cemetery Wall. After discussion,

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Grimson  
Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

AGREED that the Clerk should process the loan application based on a 25 year loan period rather than a 10 year loan, as previously agreed by Council.

**62. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR OF FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

After discussion

It was

Proposed – Councillor C Jones  
Seconded – Councillor M Flys

AGREED that Councillor Mark Grimson be appointed Deputy Chair of the Finance Committee.

**63. UPDATE ON THE MOBILE APP FOR AMERSHAM:**

The Mayor reported that he is liaising with the technician regarding the set-up for the Amersham mobile app. A skeleton design should be ready before Christmas, which will be circulated to other Councillors for further consideration.

**64. CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS:**

There were no matters for discussion.

**65. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:**

There were no matters for discussion.

**66. NOTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY HOLDING OF TRAFFIC ORDER:**

It was noted that an Order for Temporary Holding of Traffic had been received from the County Council, effective from 2 December 2019 for up to 18 months on London Road West, from the junction of the A416 for 150m heading west. This is to facilitate lorry movements during upgrading works at the water pumping station on London Road West.

**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.**

**67. 146 STATION ROAD:**

Members discussed a request from the leaseholder of the property.

**68. MARKET HALL CLOCK TOWER REPAIR PROJECT:**

The Clerk reported that a decision is still awaited from the CDC Conservation Officer on the planning application which is now long overdue. Councillor Caroline Jones has

chased this with the Conservation Officer. The Clerk also provided a progress report from the surveying company overseeing the project.

**69. DAYBREAK NURSERY LEASE:**

The Clerk reported that it is understood the nursery is under new ownership, though the Council had not been formally notified of this. It was understood from legal advice that this would have no impact on the rental of the garden space, as the tenant is Daybreak Nursery itself and not the individual owners. However, it was suggested that the Clerk attempts to contact the new owners to re-open negotiations for a new lease.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman ..... Date .....

Council