

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 20 APRIL 2020

PRESENT VIA REMOTE ACCESS:

Councillor M Flys (Town Mayor)  
Councillor A Seymour (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs B Dhanda  
Councillor M Grimson  
Councillor Ms C Jones  
Councillor R Jones  
Councillor Mr R Kenchington  
Councillor A Lamont  
Councillor C Morgan  
Councillor N Shepherd  
Councillor Mrs L Staite  
Councillor M Vivis (until 8pm)  
Councillor Mrs L Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy  
Mr S Catanach -Town Clerk Community Services & Engagement

89. **APOLOGIES:** Councillor Mrs D Kenchington

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

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

92. **CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR:**

Following the recent resignation of Councillor Jules Cook from her position as Councillor for the Amersham Town Ward, and formal Notice having been served for the vacancy,

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Flys

Seconded – Councillor Mrs L Walsh

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Richard Kenchington as Councillor for the Amersham Town Ward. It was also RESOLVED that Councillor Kenchington would sit on the Planning & Footpaths and Finance & General Purposes Committee.

93. **MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS - 20 JANUARY TO 20 APRIL 2020:**

The list of engagements circulated prior to the meeting were noted.

94. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 20 JANUARY 2020:**

There were no matters arising.

**95. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

**a) Council Meeting held on 20 January 2020**

It was Proposed – Councillor M Flys  
Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 January 2020 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

**b) Planning and Footpaths Minutes**

It was Proposed - Councillor A Seymour  
Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 3 & 24 February 2020 and comments agreed on Plan lists dated 13, 20 & 27 March 2020 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

There were no matters arising.

**c) Finance & General Purposes Minutes**

It was Proposed - Councillor C Morgan  
Seconded - Councillor Mrs B Dhanda

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 24 February 2020 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

There were no matters arising.

**d) Community Services & Engagement Minutes**

It was Proposed - Councillor A Seymour  
Seconded - Councillor M Grimson

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Community Services & Engagement meeting held on 27 January 2020 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

There were no matters arising.

**96. FINANCE MATTERS:**

**a) TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019:**

- i) Income and Expenditure Reports for periods ending 31 January & 29 February 2020
- ii) Balance sheets as at 31 January and 29 February 2020
- iii) Accounts paid from January to 29 February 2020

It was Proposed - Councillor R Jones  
Seconded – Councillor M Flys

RECOMMENDED that the finance reports for the period 1 January to 29 February 2020 be accepted.

**b) RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP FOR BMKALC, NALC AND LCR:**

After brief discussion,

It was

Proposed – Councillor R Jones  
Seconded – Councillor A Seymour

AGREED to renew the annual subscription fees for BMKALC, NALC and LCR for the 2020/2021 year at a cost of £2,291.97.

**97. APPROVAL OF PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR 2020-2021 CIVIC YEAR:**

After discussion,

It was

Proposed – Councillor Ms C Jones  
Seconded – Councillor M Vivis

AGREED to approve the proposed calendar of Council meetings and events for the 2020/2021 civic year, with the proviso that all dates remain dependent on the prevailing government advice on COVID-19 restrictions.

**98. ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT:**

The Annual Risk Assessment Action Plan had been circulated prior to the meeting.

After discussion,

It was

Proposed – Councillor C Morgan  
Seconded – Councillor A Seymour

**RESOLVED** that the comments in the Annual Risk Register for the year 2019/20 be noted and the Action Plan approved for implementation.

**99. PLATT CEMETERY WALL:**

Councillors were reminded that at the Amersham Town Council meeting of 18 November 2019, it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £100,000 over the borrowing term of 25 years for the repair and reinforcement of the failing cemetery wall and rebuilding of foundations at the Platt Cemetery. The annual loan repayments will come to around £5,418. It had already been agreed that the council tax precept would not be increased for the purpose of the loan repayments. The Clerk will forward the additional information requested by the PWLB.

After discussion

Proposed – Councillor R Jones  
Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

It was RESOLVED to defer taking out the loan until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and the work on the stabilisation project can commence.

**100. CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

It was noted that subsequent to the appointment of Councillor Caroline Jones onto the Chiltern & South Bucks Area Planning Committee of the new Buckinghamshire Council, Councillor Jones had decided to stand down as Chair of the Town Council's Planning Committee. After discussion

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Flys

Seconded – Councillor A Seymour

RESOLVED that Councillor C Morgan be appointed as Chair of the Town Council's Planning Committee and that Councillor Mrs A Lamont be appointed Deputy Chair.

**101. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:**

Councillor Walsh reported that the construction of the new Chiltern Lifestyle Centre was progressing during the COVID-19 restrictions, albeit with a reduced number of workers on site.

**102. MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

There were no matters for discussion.

**103. DATE OF NEXT 'VIRTUAL' MEETINGS:**

With the continuation of government restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic and following the change in legislation negating the legal requirement for the Council to hold an Annual Statutory Meeting until May 2021, Members AGREED to defer the Annual Statutory Meeting scheduled for 18 May 2020 until further notice. It was also formally agreed that owing to current social distancing restrictions, all Council Committee meetings would be temporarily suspended, and that monthly full Council virtual meetings would be held until social distancing restrictions are lifted. Dates for virtual Council meetings were agreed as follows:

Monday 18 May 2020 starting at 7.30pm

Monday 15 June 2020 starting at 7.30pm

*Councillor Vivis left the meeting*

**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.**

**104. ITEM RELATING TO 146 STATION ROAD**

**105. ITEM RELATING TO FLINT BARN HOUSE:**

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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

Council