

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 17 AUGUST 2020

PRESENT VIA REMOTE ACCESS:

Councillor M Flys (Town Mayor)
Councillor A Seymour (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs F Barrett
Councillor Mrs G Croxley
Councillor M Grimson
Councillor R Jones
Councillor R Kenchington
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor N Shepherd
Councillor Mrs L Staite
Councillor M Vivis
Councillor Mrs L Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

148. APOLOGIES: Councillor Ms C Jones

149. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
There were no declarations of interest.

150. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS - 13 JULY TO 17 AUGUST 2020:
Owing to the COVID restrictions there had only been one outdoor Mayoral engagement attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

151. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 13 JULY 2020:
There were no matters arising.

152. COUNCIL MINUTES:

a) Council Meeting held on 13 JULY 2020

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Flys
Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 July 2020 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

153. COMMUNITY BOARD - PRESENTATION FROM LIZZIE WRIGHT AND CLLR GRAHAM HARRIS:

Councillors were pleased to hear a presentation from Lizzie Wright and Councillor Graham Harris - Amersham Community Board Coordinator and Chairman respectively, on the aims of the Board in supporting the work of the Amersham area town and parish councils and the progress to date.

154. FINANCE MATTERS:

a) TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR JUNE 2020:

- i) Income and Expenditure Reports for period ending 30 June 2020
- ii) Balance sheets as at 30 June 2020
- iii) Accounts paid from 1 to 30 June 2020

It was Proposed - Councillor A Seymour
Seconded – Councillor Mrs L Staite

AGREED that the finance reports for the period 1 to 31 June 2020 be accepted.

b) APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2020/2021:

Following the Clerk's report,

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

AGREED to appoint Auditing Solutions Ltd as the Council's internal auditor for the 2020/2021 financial year with anticipated fees of £1335.

155. TO CONSIDER INSTALLATION OF FENCING AROUND NEW PLAY AREA AT KING GEORGE V FIELD:

Members were informed that a few requests had been received from visitors to King George V field for fencing to be installed around the new play equipment. However, the Clerk reported that the overwhelming public response had been positive, with a preference to leave the play equipment unenclosed. After discussion

It was Proposed – Councillor M Flys
Seconded – Councillor A Seymour

AGREED that based on the predominant public response, the play equipment would be left unenclosed but that an additional dog waste bin should be installed at the site, with an approximate annual cost of £400 for installation and emptying, as well as appropriate signage against dog fouling.

156. HERVINES PARK CCTV:

Members had received the Clerk's Privacy Impact Assessment and Policy document for the installation of the CCTV at Hervines Park.

It was Proposed – Councillor N Shepherd
Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

AGREED to approve the CCTV Privacy Impact Statement and Usage Policy as prepared.

157. CANCELLATION OF COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE:

Given the on-going COVID restrictions and the forward planning required for the Community Carol Service in December

It was

Proposed – Councillor A Seymour

Seconded – Councillor Mrs L Walsh

AGREED to cancel the Community Carol Service for December 2020. The Clerk will inform the Amersham Free Church and the schools who had been invited to attend.

158. REVISION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

Members were advised that due to her appointment as Chair of the Chiltern Area Planning Committee for the Buckinghamshire Council, Councillor Caroline Jones would need to step down from her membership of the ATC Planning Committee.

It was also AGREED that Councillor Gloria Croxall would replace Councillor Clive Morgan as the Town Council's representative with the local Youth Centre.

159. UPGRADE OF AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE:

It was noted that the council had previously agreed in 2018 for an upgrade to the ATC website which would be easier to maintain by staff and would meet current accessibility requirements. After discussion,

It was

Proposed – Councillor R Jones

Seconded – Councillor N Shepherd

AGREED for the proposed upgrade by Ian Raba at a cost of £1800, subject to a report from Steve Catanach to provide more information on why the upgrade is required and the improved facilities it will offer.

Post-meeting note – Following receipt of Steve Catanach's report, Councillors agreed to proceed with the proposal.

160. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:

a) Amersham Youth Council:

Councillor Mrs Walsh reported that she hoped funding would be available from the new Amersham Community Board to set up a new Youth Council for Amersham. It was suggested that Councillor Mrs Walsh, Councillor Mrs Staite and Councillor Mrs Croxall would be instrumental in helping develop the Youth Council. Members were unanimously in favour of the concept.

161. MATTERS FOR REPORT:

a) Poppy Appeal 2020:

Councillor Seymour reported that the British Legion had decided against the normal poppy collections during the current COVID-19 crisis because of possible health and safety risk to the collectors. It is understood that collection boxes will be distributed to the supermarkets and contributions can also be made online and via an app.

162. DATE OF NEXT VIRTUAL MEETINGS:

Whilst Members are keen to resume normal face-to-face meetings, it was noted that the new legislation requires meetings to be held either in person or on-line. It is not legal to hold meetings with some Members present and others participating remotely. It was therefore agreed that the next meeting scheduled for Monday 14 September would take place remotely as planned. A date for the October meeting was agreed as Monday 19 October, and a decision will be made nearer the time on whether this should be held remotely or in person.

It was also agreed that the induction presentation to new Councillors would be held remotely on Monday 7 September at 7.30pm, though all Councillors will be invited and the Clerk will forward a hard copy of the presentation to all Councillors for their information.

Induction presentation to new Councillors – Monday 7 September at 7.30pm
Next Council meeting – Monday 14 September at 7.30pm
Subsequent Council meeting – Monday 19 October at 7.30pm

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.

163. ATC PROPERTIES:

a) Flint Barn House Lease
Item related to lease of property.

b) Market Hall
The Clerk reported that a decision was still awaited from Bucks/Chiltern on the planning application for the repair of the Market Hall clock tower. It was not known if Councillor Caroline Jones had yet managed to chase the planning authority for any progress. The Mayor agreed to follow this up.

Post-meeting note – the Clerk contacted the Listed Buildings Officer again and has received a reply stating that he is minded to approve the application but that the some of the Council's staff are currently taking annual leave so he was not certain when the application would be signed off.

c) Platt Cemetery Wall
The Clerk informed Members of the latest update.

164. ITEM RELATED TO ATC STAFF:

165. AMERSHAM IN BLOOM:

Councillor Walsh wanted the thanks of the Councillors minuted for the work of Steve Catanach and the Council depot staff who had maintained such a high standard in the Amersham in Bloom initiatives across the whole of the town and particularly the Memorial Gardens, despite the loss of most of the volunteer hours this summer owing to the COVID crisis. All Members echoed Councillor Walsh's gratitude.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman Date

Council