

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 14 DECEMBER 2020

PRESENT VIA REMOTE ACCESS:

Councillor M Flys (Town Mayor)  
Councillor A Seymour (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs F Barrett  
Councillor Mrs G Croxall  
Councillor M Grimson  
Councillor R Kenchington  
Councillor Mrs A Lamont  
Councillor C Morgan  
Councillor S Scott-James  
Councillor N Shepherd  
Councillor Mrs L Staite  
Councillor Mrs L Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy  
Mr S Catanach -Town Clerk Community Services & Engagement  
Mr C Howe – Hadron Consulting (open session of meeting)

210. APOLOGIES:

Councillor C Jones  
Councillor R Jones  
Councillor M Vivis

211. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

212. OPEN SESSION:

Councillors received a presentation from Chris Howe of Hadron Consulting on the proposed infant play area at the front of the new Chiltern Lifestyle Centre.

213. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS - 16 NOVEMBER TO 14 DECEMBER 2020:

There had been no Mayoral engagements undertaken during this period.

214. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 16 NOVEMBER 2020:

There were no matters arising.

215. COUNCIL MINUTES:

a) Council Meeting held on 16 November 2020

It was

Proposed – Councillor C Morgan  
Seconded – Councillor Mrs G Croxall

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16 November 2020 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**216. FINANCE MATTERS:**

**a) TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR OCTOBER 2020:**

- i) Income and Expenditure Reports for period ending 31 October 2020
- ii) Balance sheets as at 31 October 2020
- iii) Accounts paid from 1 to 31 October 2020

It was

Proposed - Councillor M Flys  
Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

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

**b) APPROVAL OF PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2021/2022:**

Members were informed of the reduction in the tax base within Amersham for 2021/22, which would mean a shortfall in the council's precept. This is in addition to the loss of income resulting from the Council's halls not being hired out due to COVID restrictions. Members provisionally agreed that an increase in the precept would be unavoidable, subject to final approval at the January Council meeting and the Clerk providing additional information on the Council's reserves.

**217. APPROVAL OF NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT IN FRONT OF CHILTERN'S LIFESTYLE CENTRE :**

Members had received a presentation by Hadron Consulting earlier in the meeting. There was no objection to the proposed play equipment, the items being similar in style to the Council's previous infant playground which had proved very popular. It was noted that the new play space is being funded by, and sited on land owned by Bucks Council. The Town Council will have no jurisdiction over the playground, nor any financial responsibility for ongoing repair costs. There was some discussion on the proposed entrance points to the play space, with suggested alterations to avoid close proximity to the parking area and to enable quick access to the other play facilities on King George V field. Members also requested clarification on whether the play area would be illuminated.

**218. COMMENTS ON RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

It was

Proposed – Councillor R Kenchington  
Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

RESOLVED that the comments agreed for Plan Lists dated 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November be approved and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**219. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:**

- a) Community Board update:

'Totally Amersham' Brand: Councillor Walsh reported that the new 'Totally Amersham' brand had received good support from local businesses and consideration was now being given by the Community Board on how to move the brand forward after Christmas to continue promoting local businesses and other organisations within Amersham. It was suggested that the company managing the new Chilterns Lifestyle Centre should be invited to attend the Community Board meetings.

Members also agreed that it would be good to have a new ATC notice board placed outside the new Lifestyle Centre, given the likely high footfall once the centre is open.

Youth Council:

Councillor Walsh reported that letters had been sent to local Head Teachers about the Youth Council and responses were awaited. However owing to the school holidays and COVID crisis, follow-up letters may be required.

**220. MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

There were no matters for report.

**221. DATE OF NEXT VIRTUAL MEETINGS:**

Next Council meeting– Monday 18 January at 7.30pm

February Council meeting – Monday 22 February 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.

**222. ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE FOR FLINT BARN HOUSE:**

After brief discussion Members approved the financial reference for the new assignee IT Venture Holdings, for the assignment of the lease of Flint Barn House from Rivergate Homes.

Proposed – Councillor Mrs L Staite  
Seconded – Councillor M Grimson

**223. PROPERTY UPDATE:**

The Platt Cemetery Wall:

The Clerk reported that the preliminary exploratory dig carried out by the depot team had thankfully not revealed any unmarked graves in the area immediately adjacent to the wall. Mark Richardson has been liaising with the contractor on a possible start date for the project and on an updated quotation.

Hervines Park:

Following discussion, it was agreed that the locking of the gates at Hervines Park would be discontinued over the Christmas/ New Year period, but would be reviewed in January.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm.

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

Council