

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2021

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 C Jones
Councillor R Jones
Councillor R Kenchington
Councillor Mrs A Lamont
Councillor C Morgan
Councillor S Scott-James
Councillor Mrs L Staite
Councillor M Vivis
Councillor Mrs L Walsh

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Graham Harris - Chair Amersham Community Board
Pat Milliner – Amersham resident
Mr M Richardson - Facilities & Depot Manager
Mrs E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy
Mr S Catanach - Town Clerk Community Services & Engagement

243. ABSENT (Apologies received post-meeting): Councillor N Shepherd

244. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

245. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS - 18 JANUARY TO 22 FEBRUARY 2021:

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

246. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 18 JANUARY 2021:

There were no matters arising.

247. COUNCIL MINUTES:

a) Council Meeting held on 18 January 2021

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Flys

Seconded – Councillor C Morgan

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 January 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair with the correction of one typographical error on Minute Number 240.

248. FINANCE MATTERS:

a) TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR DECEMBER 2020:

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

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

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

b) 2ND INTERIM AUDIT REPORT:

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. After brief discussion, the content of the report was noted.

Proposed – Councillor C Morgan
Seconded – Councillor Ms C Jones

c) Purchase of Trimax tractor mounted roller Mower:

A report from Mark Richardson concerning the need to replace the existing roller mower had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion

It was Proposed – Councillor R Jones
Seconded – Councillor M Vivis

AGREED to purchase a new Trimax tractor mounted roller mower based on a part exchange basis with a balance to pay of £7,865 – to be funded from capital funds.

d) Purchase of new road trailer:

After consideration of Mark Richardson’s report concerning the requirement for an additional road trailer,

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

AGREED to purchase a new road trailer from Brown’s for £2,395 from capital funds.

e) Depot Establishment requirements:

Mark Richardson’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting. After consideration, the establishment changes were agreed as per the officer recommendation, including:

- Acting Team Leader to be promoted to permanent Team Leader from 1 April 2021
- Current Apprentice to be offered 12 month fixed term contract following completion of apprenticeship from 1st April 2021.
- Recruitment of two full time permanent grounds staff (replacement for vacant positions)
- Recruitment of one full time permanent grounds staff in lieu of two 6 month fixed-term positions.

- Council also suggested that another apprenticeship post should be considered with effect from September 2021, (though this would be outside the proposed establishment 2021-22 budget).

f) Approval of Treasury Policy:

As recommended by the internal auditor, the Town Clerk had drawn up a draft Treasury Policy for Council's consideration. After discussion,

It was
Proposed – Councillor C Morgan
Seconded – Councillor Ms C Jones

AGREED to adopt the Treasury Policy as prepared.

g) Appointment of replacement Payroll Agent:

Councillors had been made aware prior to the meeting that Bucks Council Aylesbury Vale Area were discontinuing their service as the Town Council's payroll agent. The Clerk had sourced quotations from alternative suppliers. After discussion

It was
Proposed – Councillor M Vivis
Seconded – Councillor R Kenchington

AGREED to the terms proposed by Pecunia Pro Ltd with an annual fee of £450 from 1st April 2021.

h) Grant Applications for 2020-2021 financial year

Council noted that only two grant applications had been received during the current year's grant cycle, despite notices being placed on the Town Council website, notice boards and publication in Your Amersham. After discussion, grant applications were agreed as follows:

Proposed – Councillor Mrs L Staite
Seconded – Councillor M Vivis

Citizen's Advice Bureau -	£500
S George's School PTA -	£200

It was also agreed that the balance of the grants fund would be accrued until the 2021/2022 cycle.

249. USE OF MONEY RECEIVED FROM CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING:

Members had been delighted with the donations received from the Christmas tree recycling initiative, which had proved very popular with residents. After discussion

It was
Proposed – Councillor Ms C Jones
Seconded – Councillor Mrs A Lamont

AGREED to put the money raised towards a replacement fountain for the Memorial Gardens. Members also agreed that a plaque should be placed on the new fountain to acknowledge the donations made by residents.

250. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:

Members noted the current legislation which offered an option to hold the annual town meeting via a Zoom link during the current COVID restrictions. As the meeting has to

be held between 1st March and 1st June and cannot take place within 6 weeks of the local elections,

It was

Proposed – Councillor Mrs L LStaitte

Seconded – Councillor A Seymour

AGREED to hold a remote meeting, with residents being able to join the meeting via a Zoom link at 7.30pm on Monday 15th March. Invitations for questions from the electorate will be placed on the Council's website and notice boards. In place of the normal Mayoral Awards, it was suggested that an outdoor event could be held later in the summer (subject to prevailing COVID restrictions), to celebrate the efforts of local people during the COVID crisis.

251. COMMENTS ON RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

It was

Proposed – Councillor R Kenchington

Seconded – Councillor Mrs G Croxall

RESOLVED that the comments agreed for Plan Lists dated 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th January, be approved and the recommendations therein be adopted.

252. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:

a) Community Board update:

Councillor Walsh updated Members on the extensive activities of the Community Board, including the grants awarded to Amersham based initiatives.

b) HS2

Cllr Walsh gave an update on the continued liaison with Bucks Council, adjacent parishes and Community Boards, BMKALC and other local groups to discuss the on-going issues with HS2.

253. MATTERS FOR REPORT:

There were no matters for report.

254. DATE OF NEXT VIRTUAL MEETINGS:

Next Council meeting– Monday 22 March at 7.30pm

April Council meeting – Monday 12 April 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.

255. CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE:

Platt Wall

Councillors were informed of progress with the Platt Wall contract.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Chairman Date

Council