

# Amersham Town Council

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2021

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor D Pinkney (Chair)  
Councillor M Roberts (Town Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs J Barnes (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Councillor M Flys  
Councillor Ms C Jones  
Councillor Mrs A Lamont  
Councillor Mrs P Milliner (Vice Chair)  
Councillor S Woodhead

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor H Maitland-Jones  
Mrs E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy

### 27. **APOLOGIES:**

Councillor M Dormer  
Councillor Mrs V Head

### 28. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

### 29. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE F & GP MINUTES OF 16 AUGUST 2021:**

There were no matters arising.

### 30. **TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR JULY/AUGUST 2021:**

- i) Income and Expenditure Reports for periods ending 31 July & 31 August 2021
- ii) Balance sheets as at 31 July & 31 August 2021
- iii) Accounts paid to from 1 July to 31 August 2021

It was

Proposed - Councillor S Woodhead  
Seconded – Councillor Mrs P Milliner

RECOMMENDED that the finance reports for the period 1 to 31 July and 1 to 31 August 2021 be accepted.

### 31. **APPROVAL OF RENEWAL OF COUNCIL'S MAIN INSURANCE POLICY:**

The Clerk reported that the Council's existing insurance underwriter was not prepared to renew the council's policy, as they are withdrawing from providing insurance for this sector. The broker is currently seeking alternative quotations. The Clerk had also approached other companies, who had indicated that they too may not wish to offer cover. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Buckinghamshire Council or other nearby parishes to find out if it might be possible to link up with their insurance providers. Approval of the insurance renewal will be deferred until the Community

Services Committee meeting on 18 October 2021. However, with the renewal date due on 24 October, if quotes are still unavailable, agreement will need to be confirmed via email and ratified retrospectively.

32. **REVIEW OF 1<sup>ST</sup> INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2021/22:**

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

After discussion,

It was

Proposed - Councillor Mrs A Lamont

Seconded – Councillor Ms C Jones

RESOLVED to accept the interim audit and noted that there were no recommendations to be actioned.

33. **BUCKS COUNCIL MATTERS:**

Councillor Jones provided a verbal update on matters relating to Bucks Council activities.

34. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

a) **Kickstart scheme**

The Clerk was pleased to report that a Grounds Maintenance Operative had been appointed under the government's Kickstart scheme and was settling in well to the role. The 2<sup>nd</sup> position currently remains vacant.

b) **Election Costs**

The Clerk reported that many Bucks parish and town councils were questioning the significant rise in election costs being charged by Bucks Council for the local elections held in May. The County Association are questioning the justification for the increase on behalf of Buckinghamshire parish and town councils.

c) **Devolved Service Agreement**

The Clerk reported that Buckinghamshire Council has yet to formally notify Amersham Town Council of their proposal for renewal of the Devolved Services Agreement from April 2022, nor has there been any consultation with the parishes. Councillors who joined Amersham Town Council in May expressed surprise to learn that there has been no increase in payment from Bucks for the Devolved Agreement in the last 7 years, with the Town Council having to absorb the increased costs of servicing the agreement.

It was

Proposed – Councillor Mrs J Barnes

Seconded – Councillor D Pinkney

RECOMMENDED that Councillor Jones would speak to Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Transport (Steve Broadbent) about the Bucks' proposals. It was also recommended that the Clerk would speak to other parishes with the aim of setting up a joint meeting with Bucks Council to discuss the terms of the renewal agreement.

**Part two**

**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.**

35. **MARKET HALL REPAIR PROJECT:**

The Clerk reported that Clarke's Construction are intending to commence work on the project from 18 October, subject to Bucks Chiltern approving the license application for erection of scaffolding.

36. **CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

The Clerk gave a verbal update to the Committee on the renewal of the Westwood Park Lodge lease. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up progress with Little Chalfont Parish Council if a proposal is not received from them soon, as the matter needs to be resolved before Christmas to give peace of mind to the occupant and his family.

*(Post meeting note – the occupant has confirmed that a condition inspection is being carried out at the Lodge on 28 October. He has not yet been informed about a date for a market appraisal to be carried out and it is assumed this will be done after the condition inspection).*

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Chairman.....

Date .....

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