

Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor D Pinkney (Chair)
Councillor M Roberts (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs J Barnes (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor M Dormer
Councillor M Flys
Councillor Mrs P Milliner (Vice Chair)
Councillor S Woodhead

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

16. **APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Ms C Jones
Councillor Mrs V Head
Councillor A Lamont

17. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

18. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE F & GP MINUTES OF 14 JUNE 2021:**

There were no matters arising.

19. **TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR MAY/JUNE 2021:**

- i) Income and Expenditure Reports for periods ending 31 May & 30 June 2021
- ii) Balance sheets as at 31 May & 30 June 2021
- iii) Accounts paid to from 1 May to 30 June 2021

It was

Proposed - Councillor Mrs P Milliner
Seconded – Councillor S Woodhead

RECOMMENDED that the finance reports for the period 1 to 31 May and 1 to 30 June 2021 be accepted.

20. **TO CONSIDER RENEWAL OF THE CONSULTANCY CONTRACT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES AND HEALTH & SAFETY SUPPORT:**

Members noted the Town Clerk's Report and recommendation which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was

Proposed – Councillor H Maitland-Jones
Seconded – Councillor Mrs J Barnes

RECOMMENDED that the consultancy contract be renewed with Ellis Whittham for a 3 year term for Human Resources support and Health & Safety advice at £3,857 per annum.

21. **TO CONSIDER REPLACEMENT GATES FOR ENTRANCE TO BOWLING GREEN AT HERVINES PARK:**

The Town Clerk's report and estimate for replacement gates at the Bowls Club were considered by Members. After discussion, it was agreed in principle that the council would replace the gates, providing the bowls club contribute 50% of the total cost. However, the Clerk was asked first to investigate cheaper alternatives which may address the issue of anti-social behaviour, such as PIR lighting to deter intruders.

Members also considered the request from the bowls club to replace the hedging on the NE side of the bowling green with fencing, because the existing hedge is encroaching into the playing area and is difficult to maintain. Members were very much opposed to the removal of the hedge and considered that fencing would be out of keeping in the setting. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Facilities Manager on how better to manage the existing hedge.

22. **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTING SUPPORT FOR BUDGET SETTING:**

The Town Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. After brief discussion

It was

Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor H Maitland-Jones

RECOMMENDED that DCK Accounting Solutions be appointed to assist in budget setting for the 2022-2023 financial year at a fee of £520.

23. **BUCKS COUNCIL MATTERS:**

There were no matters for discussion.

24. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

a) Christmas event in Amersham-on-the-Hill

Councillor Barnes informed the committee that the Amersham Action Group were hoping to hold a market on Sycamore Road during the Christmas shopping event being held in early December 2021 and asked if the Council would consider assisting in some of the admin preparation required. This had already been discussed with the Clerk Steve Catanach, who believed the office could offer some support. Councillors had no objection to the proposal.

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.

25. **MARKET HALL REPAIR PROJECT:**

The Clerk outlined the situation with regard to the PWLB loan for Market Hall and explained the difficulty in providing the accurate estimate required by the PWLB for the loan to be approved. An additional Clerk's Report was tabled during the meeting (copy attached for information). After discussion

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Roberts

Seconded – Councillor M Flys

RECOMMENDED that the Market Hall project be financed from the Council's rolling capital fund and that the PWLB loan for £100,000 which has been included in this year's budget, be used to fund other urgent capital projects. This will avoid further delay in starting the Market Hall project. The Clerk is still awaiting an updated quotation for the Market Hall work, which will be put before Council for consideration as soon as possible. (An urgent extra-ordinary Council meeting may need to be called). Quotations will also be sought for the other impending capital projects and these will be referred to Members for consideration in due course.

26. **ATC CAPITAL PROJECTS:**

Future capital projects had been discussed under Agenda Item 25, including-

- The extension of the Stanley Hill Cemetery driveway
- Hervines Park Pavilion upgrade
- Barn Meadow Community Hall roof structural survey
- Replacement of Barn Meadow goalposts
- Repair of the cobbled setts at Flint Barn Court

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Chairman.....

Date