

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF

THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD AT KING GEORGE V HOUSE, KING GEORGE V ROAD, AMERSHAM,
ON MONDAY 19 JULY 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor M Roberts (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs J Barnes (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor Ms R Dineley
Councillor M Dormer
Councillor M Flys
Councillor Mrs V Head
Councillor J Keeler
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor H Maitland-Jones
Councillor Mrs P Milliner
Councillor D Pinkney
Councillor A Seymour
Councillor Simon Woodhead

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Balderson (Amersham Bowls Club)
Mrs E Richardson (Town Clerk Finance & Policy)
Mr S Catanach (Town Clerk – Community Services & Engagement)

26. APOLOGIES: Councillor Ms C Jones
Councillor Miss S Scott-James

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

28. OPEN SESSION:
Mr Balderson of Amersham Bowls Club informed Members about the club's proposal to apply for grant funding for improvements at the club. After discussion, it was agreed that whilst the Council had no objection in principle to the club seeking grants to carry out improvements, formal approval would be subject to the following provisos:

- Exact details being provided for proposed improvements
- There being no adverse impact on the council facilities
- Any alterations being compliant with the existing lease
- There being no financial implications to the Town Council

29. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS – 17 MAY TO 19 JULY 2021:
The list of engagements was noted.

30. **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

a) **Minutes of Extra-ordinary Council Meeting held on 14 June 2021**

It was	Proposed	Councillor A Seymour
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Council Meeting held on 14 June 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair, subject to an amendment on Minute No. 24, to add Cllr Mark Dormer as Council Representative to the Chiltern Chamber.

There were no matters arising.

b) **(i) Planning and Footpaths Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor J Keeler
	Seconded	Councillor W Woodhead

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 25 May and 21 June 2021 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

c) **Finance & General Purposes Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Flys
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 14 June 2021 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted, subject to additional information relating to Market Hall being added under Minute Number 12 as follows:

Members discussed the options on funding the Market Hall repairs, including:

- *Applying for a grant from HS2 (this would be a maximum grant of £75,000, so would only cover 50% of the project cost)*
- *Applying for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board and*
- *Using the Council's capital funds towards the project*

*It was RECOMMENDED that **in principle**, Council accepts the terms of the proposal from Emily Toettcher for assistance with the HS2 grant application, though the Clerk was asked to find out if it would be possible to make a retrospective application for an HS2 grant, so that work could commence on the repair project as early as possible, using the Council's capital funds in order to get the project underway.*

d) **Community Services Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Flys
	Seconded	Councillor A Seymour

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 5 July 2021 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

31. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:**

There were no matters arising.

32. VENUE FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS:

After discussion

It was

Proposed – Councillor A Seymour

Seconded – Councillor D Pinkney

RESOLVED:

that the Council's committee meetings should continue to be held at Flint Barn Court, with full Council meetings requiring a larger venue to ensure social distancing. A provisional booking had already been made for the Council chamber at King George V House for the remaining Council meetings for 2021, but the Clerk will enquire about the availability and cost of hiring the Scout Hut on Rectory Hill. It was also noted that the Council resolution taken in May for the Planning Working Group to meet remotely on a 6 month's trial, would continue as planned despite the lifting of some COVID restrictions.

33. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:

There were no matters for discussion.

34. MATTERS FOR REPORTS:

a) Kickstart scheme

The Clerk reported on progress with the Council's application to the Kickstart programme to offer temporary employment to young people.

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.

35. LEASE OF WESTWOOD LODGE, LITTLE CHALFONT:

The Clerk reported that a proposal for renewal of the lease was awaited from Little Chalfont Parish Council. Members agreed in principle to forming a working group, should this be required for dealing with the lease negotiations.

36. MARKET HALL RENOVATION:

The Clerk reported that the HS2 Community & Environment Fund had indicated that any application for funding for the Market Hall project would most likely be rejected as Amersham is no longer in a priority area.

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Flys

Seconded – Councillor Ms R Dineley

RESOLVED that the Council would begin the process of public consultation to apply for a loan from the PWLB (Public Works Loan Board) to cover the cost of the repairs to the clock

tower and brickwork of Market Hall. Any shortfall for the project would be covered by the council's capital fund.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm.

Chairman Date

Council