

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 20 SEPTEMBER 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 Ms C Jones
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: Mrs E Richardson (Town Clerk Finance & Policy)
Mr S Catanach (Town Clerk – Community Services & Engagement)

37. APOLOGIES: Councillor Mrs V Head
Councillor Miss S Scott-James

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
Councillor Roberts declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 45 (King's Church Football Club request).

39. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS –19 JULY TO 20 SEPTEMBER 2021:
The list of engagements was noted.

40. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:

a) Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 July 2021

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor S Woodhead

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 July 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

b) (i) Planning and Footpaths Minutes

It was	Proposed	Councillor H Maitland-Jones
	Seconded	Councillor A Seymour

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 12 July and 2 August 2021 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

c) Finance & General Purposes Minutes

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs P Milliner

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 16 August 2021 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

41. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

42. RESOLUTIONS MOVED ON NOTICE:

Pursuant to 'Resolution Moved on Notice' in accordance with Council's Standing Orders No. 9, the Council considered the following motion moved by Councillor Roberts:

- 1. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report issued in August 2021 which stated that:
"it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred."*
- 2. That comprehensive and urgent action is required by 2030 to limit global temperature rises to as little above the recommended 1.5 degrees Celsius above 1900 levels as possible, as recommended by the IPCC; and that the consequences of not doing so are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority*
- 3. That all governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of climate change and to commit to realistic carbon reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible;*
- 4. That many councils have already declared a climate emergency and committed to carbon neutrality by 2030;*
- 5. The efforts of this Council to date to invest in green technology, to address its carbon footprint, to plant trees and to pursue activities that protect the environment.*

As a result this Council resolves:

- 1. To join other councils in declaring a Climate Emergency;*
- 2. To use all reasonable endeavours to reduce any negative impact of Council services on the environment, with the goal to be carbon neutral by 2030*
- 3. To develop plans to deliver that goal, to ensure that specific consideration is given to how policy and related decisions and actions of council contribute to climate change and to report regularly on progress towards the goal*
- 4. To continue working with partners, suppliers, other agencies, local businesses and residents to deliver carbon reductions*
- 5. To provide information and guidance to local businesses and residents to gain their support and encourage the community to join in carbon reduction efforts.*

Councillor Dineley spoke in support of the motion, highlighting that the Council had already done much to improve its carbon footprint, but that there was much more that could be done to further reduce the Council's carbon emissions and that addressing climate change should be prioritised by the Council as a matter of urgency.

Council unanimously supported the principle of prioritising a reduction of the Council's carbon emissions and recognised the work the Council has already done. Although not part of the motion, Council supported in principle the suggestion that a working group be formed to consider and advise on environmental issues and implementation actions, to be formalised by the Community Services Committee.

A proposal was made that the goal of the council services being carbon neutral by 2030 be removed from the motion and that the suggested working group should carry out a carbon audit and investigate the feasibility and cost implications, followed by public consultation, before Council could commit to a date.

A formal vote was taken on the proposed amendment to the motion. The vote **FAILED** by 6 votes to 7.

The Mayor then moved the motion to the vote and it was **CARRIED** by 7 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

It was agreed that further discussion would take place at the Community Services Meeting on 18 October for future actions to be agreed.

43. ADOPTION OF REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT:

The Clerk reported that advice had been received from the County Association that all Bucks Parish and Town Councils should adopt a revised Code of Conduct which would be in line with that recently adopted by Buckinghamshire Council.

It was Proposed – Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded – Councillor Ms C Jones

AGREED that the revised Code of Conduct be formally adopted.

44. MEMBERSHIP OF GRANTS COMMITTEE:

After brief discussion

It was Proposed – Councillor M Roberts
Seconded – Councillor M Flys

AGREED that membership of the Grants Committee would be the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs P Milliner and Councillor A Seymour.

45. REQUEST FOR REDUCED HIRE CHARGE FROM KING'S CHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB:

Members considered the request from King's Church for a discounted fee for hire of the ATC football pitches. Members noted that the club is already offered a small discount and that the

Council's pitch hire is currently lower than the average of several other local councils. After discussion

It was

Proposed – Councillor J Keeler

Seconded – Councillor Mrs P Milliner

AGREED that the club would not be offered a further discount on their current fees. However, the matter will be reconsidered by the Community Services Committee when pitch hire fees are reviewed before the next financial year.

46. VENUE FOR FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS:

It was noted that following some repositioning of furniture at Flint Barn Court, there is now slightly more room to accommodate Members for full Council meetings. After discussion, it was agreed in principle that full Council meetings would revert to being held at Flint Barn Court from November 2021, but that the booking for the Council Chamber at King George V House would be held, in the event that COVID infection rates increase and social distancing regulations are reinstated.

47. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:

There were no matters for discussion.

48. MATTERS FOR REPORTS:

a) Kickstart scheme

The Clerk reported that two applications had been received for the Kickstart vacancies, with interviews taking place shortly.

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.

49. MARKET HALL RENOVATION:

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

It was

Proposed – Councillor A Seymour

Seconded – Councillor Ms C Jones

RESOLVED to accept the tender from Clark's Construction Ltd for the quotation of £119,108. A contract will be drawn up for signature, with work scheduled to start on 18 October 2021.

50. LEASE OF WESTWOOD LODGE, LITTLE CHALFONT:

The Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting which included an update on the meeting held with LCPC to discuss the renewal of the lease on Westwood Lodge. It was noted that a further meeting was scheduled with LCPC to receive their proposal.

51. RENT REVIEW OF FLINT BARN COURT:

The Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that based on the advice of a local estate agent, there was no justification to increase the rent of Flint Barn Court at the next review date of December 2021. After brief discussion

It was
Proposed – Councillor A Seymour
Seconded – Councillor D Pinkney

RESOLVED that the Flint Barn rent would be held at the current rate.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chairman Date

COUNCIL