

# Amersham Town Council

## DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 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 V Head  
Councillor Mrs P Milliner (Vice Chair)  
Councillor S Woodhead

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Mrs R Dineley  
Mrs E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy  
Mr S Catanach – Town Clerk Community Services & Engagement

### 37. **APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Ms C Jones  
Councillor Mrs A Lamont

### 38. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

### 39. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE F & GP MINUTES OF 11 OCTOBER 2021:**

There were no matters arising.

### 40. **TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021:**

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

It was

Proposed - Councillor D Pinkney  
Seconded – Councillor Mrs P Milliner

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

### 41. **COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2022/23 AND PRECEPT INCREASE:**

The Clerk informed Members that the tax base had now been confirmed by Buckinghamshire Council, which will have a marginal effect on the percentage increase for the 2022/23 precept. However, figures for the coming year are still awaited on the electricity supply for the Council's street lights. These will be confirmed at the Council meeting in January, when the precept increase will need to be agreed.

42. **PROPOSAL FOR 'BLOOM 2':**

Cllr Pinkney's proposal for 'Bloom 2' had been circulated prior to the meeting, outlining the proposal for increasing and promoting the Council's 'Bloom' activities as well as recruiting additional administrative and depot staff to facilitate the extra Bloom projects and assist in extra markets and events. After discussion on the estimated cost of the proposals and concern being voiced by some Councillors on the required increase in the precept to cover the additional expenditure

It was Proposed – Councillor D Pinkney  
Seconded – Councillor S Woodhead

RECOMMENDED to accept the proposals as outlined in the report.

43. **RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL OF CONTRACT TO DETER PIGEONS AT MARKET HALL:**

After brief discussion on the current problems being caused by pigeons roosting in the Market Hall Clock Tower during the restoration programme,

It was Proposed – Councillor Mrs V Head  
Seconded – Councillor S Woodhead

RECOMMENDED to approve the contract with BTP Professional Bird & Pest Control for £3375 +VAT to use a live hawk to deter the pigeons from the clock tower of Market Hall whilst the repair project is underway. Members also commented on the large number of pigeons roosting on buildings at the southern end of Hill Avenue. The Clerk will contact Bucks Council Environmental Health on the matter.

44. **REQUEST FROM KINGS CHURCH FOOTBALL CLUB FOR RESPECT SIGNS AT HERVINES PARK AND BARN MEADOW:**

The design of the proposed 'Respect' signs suggested by the club had been circulated with the Town Clerk report. After brief discussion

It was Proposed – Councillor M Roberts  
Seconded – Councillor S Woodhead

RECOMMENDED that the signs should be affixed to hooks on the pavilion buildings for use when the King's Church Football team matches are underway and taken down at the end of their hire period.

45. **BUCKS COUNCIL MATTERS:**

There were no matters for discussion.

46. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

There were no matters for report.

**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.**

47. **MARKET HALL REPAIR PROJECT:**

The Clerk updated Councillors on the progress of the Market Hall Clock Tower repair project.

48. **WESTWOOD PARK LODGE – RENEWAL OF LEASE FROM LITTLE CHALFONT PARISH COUNCIL:**

The latest proposals from Little Chalfont Parish Council (LCPC) on the renewal of the lease were considered. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should respond to LCPC with the following proposals:

1. **Repairs:** ATC to undertake the required maintenance and repair of the property as required under section 7.3 of the current lease.
2. **Rent:** Offer a revised rent of £850 - £900 pcm
3. **Rent Reviews:** Refuse the LCPC proposal of 3% annual increases + a 5 year rent review
4. Offer rent reviews at 4 yearly intervals
5. **Break Clause:** Agree 5 yearly break clauses with a minimum 3 month's notice from LCPC
6. **Duration of Lease:** Request a 13 year lease to accommodate any changes to the normal retirement age which may affect the occupant's expected date of retirement.
7. **Rewording of termination clauses:** Request amended wording of the lease to clarify the currently obscure termination clauses.
8. **Legal Costs:** Each party to pay their own legal costs, but ATC would consider a modest contribution to LCPC for legal costs to cover re-drafting of the lease, if they agree to all other terms.
9. **Next Steps** Suggest an in-person meeting to agree heads of terms before the matter can be passed to respective solicitors for re-drafting of lease.

The meeting closed at 8.58pm

Chairman.....

Date .....