

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF

THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD AT FLINT BARN COURT, CHURCH STREET, AMERSHAM
ON MONDAY 18 JULY 2022

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 Mrs A Lamont
Councillor Mrs P Milliner
Councillor D Pinkney
Councillor Miss S Scott-James
Councillor Dr E Shepherd

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs E Richardson (Town Clerk Finance & Policy)

27. APOLOGIES: Councillor H Maitland-Jones
Councillor Mrs V Head
Councillor S Woodhead

28. ABSENT: Councillor J Keeler

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

As Members of the Amersham Action Group (AAG), Cllr Barnes and Cllr Pinkney declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 (relating to ATC being an Associate Member of the AAG).

30. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS –16 MAY TO 18 JULY 2022:

The list of engagements was noted. The Mayor informed Members that he had visited the Restore Hope Charity to hand over a cheque for £3000 from his 2021-22 Mayoral Fund and had also visited the Chiltern Food Bank (his chosen charity for the 2022-23 civic year).

31. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:

a) Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 June 2022

It was	Proposed	Councillor Mrs P Milliner
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs J Barnes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 June 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

There were no matters arising.

b) (i) Planning and Footpaths Minutes – 23 May 2022

It was	Proposed	Councillor Mrs R Dineley
	Seconded	Councillor Dr E Shepherd

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 23 May 2022 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

(ii) Planning And Footpaths Minutes – 20 June 2022

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor Ms C Jones

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 20 June 2022 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

c) Finance & General Purposes Minutes – 13 June 2022

It was	Proposed	Councillor Mrs P Milliner
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs J Barnes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 13 June 2022 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

d) Community Services & Engagement Minutes – 4 July 2022

It was	Proposed	Councillor Mrs J Barnes
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs R Dineley

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Community Services & Engagement Committee meeting held on 4 July 2022 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

32. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

33. AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS TO ALLOW FOR BACS PAYMENTS:

The Clerk's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor Mrs A Lamont
	Seconded	Councillor Dr E Shepherd

RESOLVED that Standing Orders be amended to allow the Council to pay invoices by BACS payment where required, rather than by cheque, and to obtain a second debit card for office use, as detailed in the Clerk's report.

34. REVIEW OF CARBON AUDIT REPORT:

The minutes of the Climate Action Working Group from their meeting held on 7 July had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion,

It was	Proposed	Councillor Dr E Shepherd
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs P Milliner

RESOLVED that the recommendation of the Working Group be accepted, including a trial closure of the waste bins in the Memorial Gardens during August, with a review at the September Council meeting, the aim being to encourage visitors to take their litter home to recycle. A bin for paper cup recycling will however be provided during band concerts. Cllr Barnes also reported that Sustainable Amersham would provide volunteers to supervise the use of rubbish bins on Heritage Day to ensure visitors place rubbish in the appropriate bins to avoid contamination of recyclable waste.

35. AMERSHAM ACTION GROUP – INVITATION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP:

After much discussion about the revised constitution of the Amersham Action Group, following the withdrawal of funding from Bucks Council, a vote was taken on whether Amersham wished to continue its connection with the group as an ‘Associate Member’. The vote was carried (5:2 with 4 abstentions) in favour of the Council being an Associate Member, with Councillor Keeler continuing as the ATC representative for the remainder of the current civic year.

36. MARKET HALL – TO CONSIDER ARCHITECT’S PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING ACCESS:

The proposals prepared by Brocklehurst Architects to improve the access to the hall were discussed. It was agreed that the proposals would necessitate significant internal alterations to the building which would be both costly and questionable whether they would be deemed appropriate by the Listed Buildings Officer. It was also unclear whether the suggested improved access would meet fire regulations for the safe egress of wheelchair users. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor Mrs P Milliner
	Seconded	Councillor M Flys

RESOLVED not to pursue further investigation into improving the access to the building, but to seek quotations for improvements to the kitchen and toilet facilities, as well as internal redecoration and possible installation of a toilet on the 1st floor. It was felt this would improve the appearance of the hall and avoid the necessity for visitors to climb the stairs to the mezzanine level to use the toilet facilities.

37. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:

There were no matters for discussion.

38. MATTERS FOR REPORT:

There were no matters for report.

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.

39. APPROVAL OF PERMANENT CONTRACT FOR BLOOM ASSISTANT:

Following the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes meeting held on 13 June 2022,

It was	Proposed	Councillor Mrs P Milliner
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs R Dineley

AGREED to offer a permanent appointment to the present job holder from 5th August 2022, in the same terms and conditions as the current temporary contract.

40. APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF ‘MARKETING & SPONSORSHIP CO-ORDINATOR’:

The Clerk reported that following the recent recruitment campaign, one candidate had been offered the role of Marketing & Sponsorship Co-ordinator.

It was	Proposed	Councillor Dr E Shepherd
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs J Barnes

AGREED to formally approve the appointment, with the contract commencing from 22 August on the terms and condition previously agreed by the Council.

41. RENEWAL OF WESTWOOD PARK LODGE LEASE:

The Clerk reported that a draft lease had been received from Little Chalfont Parish Council (LCPC). The document had been forwarded to the ATC solicitor for comment.

It was	Proposed	Councillor Ms C Jones
	Seconded	Councillor Mrs R Dineley

AGREED that the Clerk would respond to LCPC based on the ATC solicitor’s comments, as well clarification on the terms to serve notice.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman Date