

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF

THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD AT FLINT BARN COURT, CHURCH STREET, AMERSHAM  
ON MONDAY 20 MARCH 2023

PRESENT:

Councillor M Roberts (Town Mayor)  
Councillor J Barnes (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Councillor R Dineley  
Councillor M Dormer  
Councillor M Flys  
Councillor V Head  
Councillor A Lamont  
Councillor H Maitland-Jones  
Councillor P Milliner  
Councillor D Pinkney  
Councillor E Shepherd  
Councillor S Woodhead

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs E Richardson (Town Clerk Finance & Policy)  
Mr S Catanach (Town Clerk Community Services & Engagement)

80. APOLOGIES: Councillor C Jones  
Councillor J Keeler  
Councillor S Scott-James

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

82. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS –23 JANUARY – 20 MARCH 2023:  
The list of engagements was noted.

83. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:

a) Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 January 2023

It was	Proposed	Councillor S Woodhead
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 January 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

**b) (i) Planning and Footpaths Minutes – 30 January & 20 February 2023**

It was	Proposed	Councillor P Milliner
	Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Working Group Meetings held on 30 January and 20 February 2023 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**c) Finance & General Purposes Minutes – 27 February 2023**

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor J Barnes

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 27 February 2023 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**d) Community Services & Engagement Minutes – 13 February 2023**

It was	Proposed	Councillor J Barnes
	Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Community Services & Engagement Committee meeting held on 13 February 2023 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

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

There were no matters arising.

**85. UPDATE ON THE OUTSIDE SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR 2023-24:**

The Town Clerk's report with the latest update on the outside services contracts for 2023-24 had been circulated prior to the meeting and the comments noted.

**86. REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING:**

The Town Clerk's report on neighbourhood planning requested by Councillors had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Council's previous decision not to undertake a neighbourhood plan remained valid, given the limited benefits and significant cost of such an undertaking.

**87. PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT IT EQUIPMENT:**

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

It was	Proposed	Councillor E Shepherd
	Seconded	Councillor A Lamont

**AGREED** to proceed with the purchase of one new laptop, one new desktop computer and an i-pad, at a total cost of £1,718.93 – plus £290 for configuration of two devices.

**88. TO REVIEW THE ANNUAL RISK ASSESSMENT:**

The Annual Risk Assessment had been circulated prior to the meeting with Councillors noting the items requiring attention. Owing to the risk associated with data protection, Councillors had been reminded that they should ideally use their designated @amersham-tc email address rather than those belonging to a business or other organisation. All Councillors had been asked to confirm their chosen email address for town council correspondence by completing a form which had been circulated prior to the meeting. *Post meeting note –could all councillors who have not yet returned their form to the Clerk please do so asap.*

It was	Proposed	Councillor S Woodhead
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

RESOLVED to accept the Risk Assessment and to note the actions required.

**89. HIRE OF PORTABLE TOILETS FOR RECREATION GROUNDS:**

After brief discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor V Head
	Seconded	Councillor P Milliner

RESOLVED to hire portable toilets for Barn Meadow and Hervines Park between April to September at a cost of £847 per location plus delivery/ collection of £40.

**90. UPDATE ON TWINNING VISIT:**

It was reported that 3 delegates would be visiting from Bensheim between 16 to 19 June 2023. Arrangements for the twinning weekend will be agreed once the arrival and departure times of the delegates is confirmed. It was also noted that the Bensheim Stadt had invited up to 5 delegates from Amersham Town Council to visit Bensheim between 1 – 4 September. Councillors were asked to confirm if they would like to take up the invitation as soon as possible.

**91. UPDATE ON CELEBRATIONS FOR THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III:**

Members noted the progress made with arrangements for the two events being organised over Coronation weekend, including: Sunday 7 May 1.30pm to 7.30pm – a special band concert in the Memorial Gardens, followed by a celebration in Church Mead being organised by Coopers Markets. Monday 8 May – 12.30pm to 5.30pm – a picnic in the park event in King George V Field. Arrangements for the purchase of commemorative benches and tree planting are also underway.

**92. AMERSHAM BOWLS CLUB:**

The request from Amersham Bowls Club for replacement signage was considered. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor S Woodhead
	Seconded	Councillor P Millner

- RESOLVED to accept the smaller sign proposed by the club, measuring 6' x 2'.
- Agreed that the Clerk obtains prices for a replacement sign to advertise the public 'green fees'.

- Noted that whilst Members were supportive of the club's efforts to boost their income through sponsorship, they would ask that the number of sponsorship signs around the green is not increased any further.

**93. LEASE OF REPLACEMENT TIPPER TRUCK:**

The report from Mark Richardson was noted on the need to replace the council's tipper truck, with the current lease nearing its end.

After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor V Head
	Seconded	Councillor P Milliner

RESOLVED to take out a lease on a replacement tipper truck at £449.87 per month on a 4 year contract, plus £32.28 / month maintenance.

**94. MAYOR'S QUIZ NIGHT:**

The Mayor reported that following the success of his charity quiz night held last year, he was hoping to organise a further quiz, to be held at the King's Church. The Church had offered the venue free of charge and attendees will be invited to bring their own food to share with others.

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Dormer
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

RESOLVED that the quiz go ahead with council staff carrying out the administration for ticket sales and posters.

**95. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:**

It was reported that road repairs would be carried out on the High Street in Old Amersham and in Station Road subject to improved weather conditions.

**96. MATTERS FOR REPORT**

- Market Hall update** – The update from the Town Clerk on the status of the planning application for repairs to brickwork was noted.
- Climate Action Day 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023** - it was noted that Councillors will be asked to participate in the day and will be emailed nearer the time to organise a rota.

**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.**

97. **REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY POLICY ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME:**

The Clerk's report on the changes to the Discretionary Policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion,

It was	Proposed	D Pinkney
	Seconded	S Woodhead

AGREED that the council would amend the Discretionary Policy based on the Town Clerk's recommendations.

The meeting closed at 8.22pm.

Chairman ..... Date .....

COUNCIL