

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF

THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD AT FLINT BARN COURT, CHURCH STREET, AMERSHAM
ON MONDAY 23 JANUARY 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 C Jones
Councillor J Keeler
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)

65. APOLOGIES: Councillor S Scott-James

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

67. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS –28 NOVEMBER 2022 TO 23 JANUARY 2023:
The list of engagements was noted. The Mayor highlighted that he had also enjoyed attending the Chesham Christmas Party for the elderly, but this was not included on the list of Mayoral Engagements, as no formal invitation for the Amersham Town Mayor had been received. The Mayor was asked how many Amersham residents attended the lunch. This was not clear, so the Clerk was asked to obtain this information before the next Grants Committee considers the 2023/24 grant allocation.

68. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:

a) Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 November 2022

It was	Proposed	Councillor P Milliner
	Seconded	Councillor S Woodhead

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 November 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

b) (i) Planning and Footpaths Minutes – 12 December 2022 & 9 January 2023

It was	Proposed	Councillor H Maitland-Jones
	Seconded	Councillor E Shepherd

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 12 December 2022 and 9 January 2023 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

c) Finance & General Purposes Minutes – 19 December 2022

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor J Barnes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19 December 2022 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

69. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

70. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL'S BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUEST FOR 2023-24:

The Town Clerk's reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. In light of the difficult economic times for residents, it was decided to set a deficit budget, drawing the deficit from the council's reserves, in order to minimise the extra burden on the Amersham tax payers.

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Flys
	Seconded	Councillor V Head

RESOLVED to increase the precept from £912,602 to £967,302 for 2023/24, representing an increase of £7.47 per annum (5.7%) for a Band D equivalent property.

71. APPROVAL OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2023/24 CIVIC YEAR:

The draft calendar prepared by the Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was	Proposed	Councillor R Dineley
	Seconded	Councillor P Milliner

AGREED to approve the calendar with one amendment – to move the Community Services & Engagement meeting from 6 March to 13 February 2023.

72. TO APPROVE HIRE OF HANGING BASKETS:

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

It was	Proposed	Councillor A Lamont
	Seconded	Councillor C Jones

AGREED to proceed with the hire of 159 hanging baskets at a total cost of £10,344 (to include £510 towards replacement brackets where required). As in previous years, the council will offer to order hanging baskets for businesses and residents on Sycamore Road, Hill Avenue and the main thoroughfares of Old Amersham, with a charge being made for the service.

73. EVENTS TO CELEBRATE THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

The minutes of the Coronation Working Group had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor P Milliner
	Seconded	Councillor J Barnes

AGREED to proceed with all the recommendations as set out in the minutes of the Working Group. These will include the purchase of commemorative trees and benches etc, as well as two public events, the first in Old Amersham on Sunday 7 May and the second in Amersham on the Hill on Monday 8 May.

74. 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.

75. MATTERS FOR REPORT

The Clerk reported on forthcoming changes at the Chiltern Youth Club. The Clerk was asked to investigate any legal implications relating to the residue of the Youth Club grant passed on from Chiltern District Council.

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.

76. 146 STATION ROAD:

The Clerk's report regarding the possible lease of the rear garden of 146 and 148 Station Road to a local business had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion,

It was	Proposed	S Woodhead
	Seconded	M Dormer

AGREED that the council would be prepared to consider a 5 year lease at rent of £4,000 pa to the business concerned.

77. MARKET HALL:

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

It was Proposed D Pinkney
Seconded E Shepherd

AGREED that a working group be set up to examine the potential way forward for future use of the hall, possible grants and feasible improvements. Cllr Woodhead volunteered to join the Working Group. Other councillors are invited to inform the Clerk if they wish to join. The Clerk will meanwhile speak to Align about possible grant funding.

78. HERVINES PARK:

The update on improvements to the hall were noted.

79. AMERSHAM BOWLS CLUB:

The update on the club's installation of a bar area were noted. The Clerk will check with the club organisers on the need for any additional insurance.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Chairman Date

