

Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2022

PRESENT: Councillor D Pinkney (Chair)
Councillor M Roberts (Town Mayor)
Councillor Mrs J Barnes (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor M Dormer
Councillor M Flys
Councillor P Milliner
Councillor S Woodhead

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy

36. **APOLOGIES:** Councillor V Head
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor E Shepherd

37. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**
There were no declarations of interest.

38. **FINANCE MATTERS:**

- a) **To receive the Finance Reports for the period 1 September to 31 October 2022**
i) Income and Expenditure Reports for periods ending 30 September & 31 October 2022
ii) Balance sheets as at 30 September and 31 October 2022
iii) Accounts paid from 1 September to 31 October 2022

It was

Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor P Milliner

RECOMMENDED that the finance reports for the period 1 September to 31 October 2022 be accepted.

- b) **To review the council's financial regulations:**
The Financial Regulations had been reviewed by the Town Clerk, with no alterations being deemed necessary.

It was

Proposed Councillor J Barnes
Seconded Councillor M Roberts

AGREED that the Council's Financial Regulations be approved with no suggested changes.

39. **TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR 2023-24:**

The Town Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The revised tax base as advised by Buckinghamshire Council was noted, together with the reduction in the employer pension contributions for 2023-24. However, it was acknowledged that it would be difficult to set a budget for 2023-24 until confirmation had been received from other parishes about their intentions to renew their devolved service agreements. It was also noted that news is still awaited from Buckinghamshire Council about a possible uplift in the value of the ATC devolved service agreement. After discussion it was RECOMMENDED that Council should consider the required 5.7% increase (Band D Property) to continue the council's current services. This figure will need to be reviewed at the January council meeting, when hopefully further confirmation will have been received regarding the depot's outside services contracts.

Post meeting note – Buckinghamshire Council has stated that they will not be able to provide an update on a possible uplift in the devolved contract until after 22 February. The Clerk has therefore asked if Buckinghamshire Council would extend the current time limit of 31 January for ATC to submit the precept request.

40. **RENEWAL OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTRACT:**

It was noted that the Christmas Lighting contract was in its final year of a three year contract term. The contractor would however be prepared to extend the contract for another year at the same cost, using the same illuminations. Members were informed that a new contract would inevitably cost considerably more than an extension to the existing contract. Following discussion,

It was

Proposed Councillor M Dormer
Seconded Councillor M Flys

RECOMMENDED that the current contract be extended for a further year in the same terms and conditions.

41. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

a) **Market Hall**

The Clerk reported on the surveyor's assessment on the internal condition of the hall with regard to redecoration. The Clerk was asked to investigate further options on the hall and will report to Councillors at the next Council meeting with a summary of the council's obligations and options.

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.

42. **WESTWOOD PARK LODGE LEASE RENEWAL:**
The Town Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

After brief discussion

It was

Proposed – Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded – Councillor P Milliner

RECOMMENDED that Amersham Town Council offers a contribution towards Little Chalfont Parish Council's legal fees at the previously agreed cap of £400.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm

Chairman.....

Date

F&GP