

Amersham Town Council

Flint Barn Court, Church Street, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0DB

Town Clerk – Finance & Policy - Mrs E Richardson

Town Clerk - Community & Services - Mr S Catanach

Telephone 01494 434000

E-mail townclerk@amersham-tc.gov.uk Website www.amersham-tc.gov.uk



Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 4 March 2024

- Present:**
- Councillor J Barnes (Chair)
 - Councillor R Dineley (Deputy Chair)
 - Councillor D Pinkney (Deputy Town Mayor)
 - Councillor M Flys
 - Councillor S Scott-James
 - Councillor A Lamont
 - Councillor S Woodhead
 - Councillor C Jones
- In Attendance:**
- Councillor M Roberts
 - Councillor Pat Milliner (Part meeting)
 - Steve Catanach; Town Clerk - Community Services
30. **Apologies**
- Councillor E Shepherd (Town Mayor)
 - Councillor J Keeler
 - Councillor V Head

31. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

Open Session

Two representatives from Restore Hope, presented to the committee outlining the plans for the redevelopment of the former St John's Methodist Church in Woodside Road.

32. **To consider and agree a Biodiversity Policy**

A draft biodiversity policy had been circulated prior to the meeting. Following a brief discussion, the committee **approved** the policy.

Proposed Councillor C Jones

Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

33. **An update on the civic event programme**

Prior to the Clerk updating the committee on the Council's programme of events, Councillor Dineley noted that the organisation of Altogether Amersham is going well. The 'special' D-Day 80 Anniversary concert will consist of two bands, in addition to a short service from the Royal British Legion.

34. **Amersham in Bloom**

The Clerk updated the committee on the recent bloom activities. The following initiatives were discussed and agreed:

a) Red BT Phone Box Project

Councillor Pinkney on behalf of the Amersham Action Group, proposed that the group would part fund (66%) the purchase of a red BT telephone box, with ATC paying the remaining 33% (approx. 1K). The initiative was originally proposed at the committee meeting on 6 November 2023, but there was concern over the cost to the Council. The group would work in partnership with ATC to install the box, prior to 'donating' it to ATC, after one year. The committee **approved** the proposal.

Proposed Councillor R Dineley
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

b) The hire hanging baskets for the town this summer

The Town Clerk's report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Following discussion, the Committee **recommended** hiring hanging baskets from Windowflowers, as highlighted below:

£4101.50 – Old Amersham (61 baskets)
£4311 – AOTH (66 baskets)

Total £8412.50

The committee also agreed with the proposal to offer hanging baskets to the residents and shops in the High Street, Broadway, Sycamore Road and Hill Ave. This comes at no cost to the Council, other than the extra administration involved.

Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor J Barnes

35. **To review the current rental charges for the Council owned Allotments**

A comparison of the rental charges of nearby allotments was presented at the meeting. Following a discussion, the committee **recommended** that, from October 2024, the cost to rent a full plot be raised to £30 (per annum) with a 50% reduction for a half plot.

Proposed Councillor C Jones
Seconded Councillor D Pinkney

36. **To agree the appointment of the Town Council nomination for a Trustee of Amersham United Charities**

Howard Maitland-Jones resigned as the Council's nominated trustee to the board of the Amersham United Charities in November. As a result, Council has been asked by the charity to appoint a new trustee.

Following a lengthy discussion, the committee does not, at present, wish to nominate a trustee from within the Council or externally. The Clerk was asked to advise the charity, accordingly.

Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor M Flys

37. **Update on Visit Amersham**

Natalia circulated a report prior to the meeting. Following discussion, it was **agreed** that Natalia would formulate a questionnaire/survey in the hope of ascertaining the success of the Visit Amersham initiative. The committee also asked that Natalia distributes information on the sponsorship packages that she sends to prospective donors.

38. **To purchase a new cover for the large ATC branded gazebo**

Following a brief discussion the committee **approved** the purchase of a new gazebo cover for the ATC branded gazebo that is used at band concerts, at a cost of £545 plus VAT)

Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor C Jones

39. **To consider options for improving the green at Woodside Close**

The Clerk outlined a proposal to improve the green at Woodside Close. The committee was keen to see the green enhanced, so **agreed** with the addition of three or four new trees, a few pockets of wildflowers and the planting of spring bulbs, It was also agreed to widen the gap in the hedge at both entrances to the green.

Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor R Dineley

40. **To consider an updated proposal from the Polish Society to install a plaque/memorial in the Memorial Gardens**

The Clerk displayed an image of the proposed plaque (600mm x 400mm), superimposed in the side border of the Memorial Gardens. Following discussion, it was **agreed** to approve the plaque.

Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor R Dineley

41. **To consider some initial ideas for the replacement of the children’s play area at Hervines Park**

Following discussion, the committee would like the Clerks/Facilities Manager to obtain the costs for a replacement children’s playground at Hervines Park. An enlarged playground would be considered, depending on the cost.

42. **To consider the purchase of replacement union flag bunting**

Following a brief discussion the committee **approved** the purchase of replacement bunting for AOTH, at a cost of £762.50 plus VAT.

Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor R Dineley

43. **Matters to Report**

There were no matters to report.

The meeting ended at 9.16pm

Chairman

Date.....