

Amersham Town Council

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Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 6 November 2023

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

22. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

Open Session

Two members of parkrun addressed the committee outlining a proposal to set up a junior parkrun in Barn Meadow. Junior parkruns are free weekly events for children aged 4 to 14 years.

23. **To agree a location for the installation of a Polish Memorial in the Memorial Gardens**

Following a lengthy discussion, the committee **agreed** that a memorial could be installed by the Polish Society in the Memorial Gardens. The memorial must comprise of a plaque that is comparable in size to the existing WWII memorial and installed on the side

border, on a stone at ground level. The Clerk is to advise the Polish Society of this recommendation.

Proposed Councillor J Barnes
Seconded Councillor R Dineley

24. **To consider a programme of events in 2024 and an update on the Community Christmas Events**

a. Civic Event Programme

A proposed programme of events for next year was outlined prior to the meeting. Following discussion, the committee **approved** the following list of events:

Date	Event
Sat 16 March	Great British Spring Clean
Sat 23 March	Climate Action Day
Wednesday 27 March (from 8pm)	Town Meeting Mayor's Awards
5 May	1 st Band Concert
19 May	2 nd Band Concert
2 June	Special D-DAY 80 Band Concert; 3 rd Concert
16 June	4 th Band Concert
29 June/6 July (date to be confirmed)	Altogether Amersham
30 June	5 th Band Concert
Sat 13 July- Sun 21 July	Festival of Arts
14 July	6 th Band Concert
28 July	7 th Band Concert
11 Aug	8 th Band Concert
25 Aug	9 th Band Concert
8 Sept	Heritage Day

Councillor Dineley advised the committee that the working party is still liaising with the local schools, in the hope of confirming a date for 'Altogether Amersham' in due course. The Clerk was asked to reserve a hall at the Amersham Free Church for 27 March, as a venue for the Town Meeting.

Proposed Councillor E Shepherd
Seconded Councillor R Dineley

b. Community Christmas Events

The committee **agreed** to grant permission to the organisers of the Christmas Festival in Old Amersham, which shall be taking place on 1 December, allowing singers/bands to perform in the Memorial Gardens, under the Council gazebo.

It was **agreed** that Council will arrange and fund a Christmas tree to be placed beside the Market Hall, in addition to making a contribution, as necessary, for the Christmas tree in

AOTH. Similarly, the committee agreed to fund the replacement of three LED reindeer and fairy lights which form part of the Christmas display in the Memorial Gardens.

Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor M Flys

25. **Update on Visit Amersham initiative**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. It was **requested** that the Community Christmas events that are due to take place in Amersham are added to the Visit Amersham website as soon as possible.

26. **Amersham in Bloom update and proposal for several new projects**

The Clerk updated the committee on the recent bloom activities, while highlighting the successes of this year's campaign, which included:

- The 'Field of Gold' Sunflower meadow
- The new wildlife hedge planted in conjunction with three schools
- The Coronation Clock Display in the Memorial Gardens
- Art Trail sculptures/models
- Increased engagement with Children
- Painting of a further five utility boxes
- The Coronation Meadows and Commemorative tree planting initiative
- Mural created in conjunction with Buckinghamshire College
- Mini Urban Forest on Chiltern Avenue
- Gold Award for the Memorial Gardens

The Clerk outlined a proposal for a number of new projects, which were **approved** by the committee. All projects to be match funded by local business or groups.

- Community Allotment Plot
- Stem Project, in association with the local middle schools
- 'Wonders of the World' Children's book, which will include poems, illustrations, and photographs.
- Art Project with Dr Challoner's Grammar School, which will be installed in the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre
- Mural on the footbridge over the train track at Amersham Station
- Installation of a red telephone box (as long as at least 60% of the cost is covered by sponsorship)
- Another print run of 'Discover Amersham' which has proved popular

Proposed Councillor J Barnes
Seconded Councillor E Shepherd

27. **To review the current charges for hall and pavilion hire, sports pitch hire and fees associated with the cemeteries**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Following a lengthy discussion, the committee **recommended** the following:

1. Halls and Pavilions

To increase the current rate to hire all halls and pavilions by £1 (rounded to the nearest 50p), per hour from April 2024, then a further £1 from April 2025.

2. Sport Pitch Hire

To increase all fees by 5% (rounded to the nearest 50p) from April 2024, then by a further 5% from April 2025.

3. Burial fees

A 5% increase (rounded to the nearest 50p) of all charges relating to interments and memorials, from April 2024. This includes the cost to purchase a plot, interment fees and memorial applications. It was recommended that the fees are increased a further 5% in April 2025.

It is **recommended** that the cost to transfer a deed of grant is increased to a flat rate of £40.

Proposed Councillor J Barnes
Seconded Councillor R Dineley

28. **To discuss a proposal to set up a Junior Parkrun in Barn Meadow**

Noting the presentation in the open session and following a lengthy discussion, the committee **agreed** that Barn Meadow would not be a suitable location for junior parkrun, due to close proximity of the sports pitches to the proposed running route. The committee suggested KGV Playing Field as an alternative option and await an amended proposal from the organisers of junior parkrun.

29. **Matters to Report**

- a. Councillor Barnes highlighted the need to replace the children's play equipment at Hervines Park. It was suggested that the budget implications of an upgrade are discussed at the forthcoming budget briefing.
- b. Councillor Barnes noted that she would like the committee to consider options for improving *the green* at Woodside Close at the next community services committee meeting. The Clerk agreed to touch base with the Woodside Close residents in advance of the future discussion.
- c. The Clerk reported that Cllr Maitland-Jones has resigned as the Council's representative on the board of trustees of the Amersham United Charities.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm

Chairman

Date.....