

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 13 MAY 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Dominic Pinkney (Town Mayor)
Councillor Elizabeth Shepherd (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor Jane Barnes
Councillor Rachel Dineley
Councillor Mark Dormer (from 7.40pm)
Councillor Mark Flys
Councillor Caroline Jones
Councillor Jason Keeler
Councillor Amanda Lamont
Councillor Howard Maitland-Jones
Councillor Mark Roberts
Councillor Sophie Scott-James
Councillor Simon Woodhead

IN ATTENDANCE: Elizabeth Richardson (Town Clerk Finance & Policy)
Steve Catanach (Town Clerk Community Services & Engagement)

1. APOLOGIES: Councillor Vera Head
Councillor Pat Milliner

2. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR:

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Elizabeth Shepherd gave a short speech to thank Council for the opportunity of being the Town Mayor and thanked the office and depot staff, as well as fellow councillors for their support during her Mayoral year. Cllr Shepherd then invited nominations for the role of Mayor.

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

RESOLVED that **COUNCILLOR DOMINIC PINKNEY** be elected **TOWN MAYOR** for the civic year 2024-25.

Councillor Pinkney thanked Councillors for electing him to serve as Mayor of Amersham for the 2024-25 civic year.

3. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:
The Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR:
Councillor Pinkney invited nominations for the election of the Deputy Town Mayor.

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor J Barnes

RESOLVED that Councillor Elizabeth Shepherd be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the civic year 2024-25.

Councillor Shepherd thanked Councillors for electing her as Deputy Mayor.

5. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:**

The Deputy Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES:**

- a) It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Community Services Committee shall be as follows:

Proposed	Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded	Councillor J Barnes

COMMUNITY SERVICES & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor J Barnes
Councillors R Dineley
Councillor M Flys
Councillor C Jones
Councillor J Keeler
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor D Pinkney
Councillor S Scott-James
Councillor E Shepherd (*ex-officio as Deputy Town Mayor*)
Councillor M Roberts
Councillor S Woodhead

- b) It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Planning Committee shall be as follows:

Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

PLANNING & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor R Dineley
Councillor M Dormer
Councillor V Head
Councillor C Jones
Councillor J Keeler
Councillor H Maitland-Jones
Councillor P Milliner
Councillor S Scott-James
Councillor E Shepherd
Councillor S Woodhead
Councillor D Pinkney (*ex-officio as Town Mayor*)

- c) It was **RESOLVED** that the membership of the Finance & General Purposes Committee shall be as follows:

Proposed	Councillor J Barnes
Seconded	Councillor C Jones

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor J Barnes
Councillor M Dormer
Councillor M Flys
Councillor V Head
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor H Maitland-Jones
Councillor P Milliner
Councillor D Pinkney
Councillor M Roberts
Councillor E Shepherd

7. MEMBERSHIP OF PERSONNEL APPEALS COMMITTEE; DISCIPLINARY AND GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

It was Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor M Roberts
RESOLVED that membership of these committees would be agreed as required.

The Council Meeting was adjourned to allow the Standing Committees to conduct the following business.

8. COMMUNITY SERVICES & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

a) Election of Chair and Vice Chair

It was Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor R Dineley

RECOMMENDED that Councillor J Barnes be appointed Chair of the Community Services & Engagement Committee

It was Proposed Councillor J Barnes
Seconded Councillor M Roberts

RECOMMENDED that Councillor R Dineley be appointed Deputy Chair of the Community Services & Engagement Committee.

b) Membership of the Community Services Sub-Committees:

It was agreed that membership of the Community Services sub-committees would be deferred until the next meeting of the Community Services & Engagement Committee.

9. PLANNING & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

It was Proposed Councillor R Dineley
Seconded Councillor E Shepherd

RECOMMENDED that Councillor H Maitland-Jones be appointed Chair of the Planning & Footpaths Committee and that the appointment of Deputy Chair be deferred until the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

10. **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

a) Election of chair and Vice Chair

It was	Proposed	Councillor E Shepherd
	Seconded	Councillor J Barnes

RECOMMENDED that Councillor M Roberts be appointed Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and that the appointment of Deputy Chair be deferred until the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

b) Membership of Finance Sub-Committees:

It was agreed that the appointment of the Finance sub-committees should be deferred until the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

Council Meeting was re-convened

11. **COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor J Barnes

RESOLVED that the Committee Chairman, Vice Chairman and Committee appointments in Minutes 8 to 10 be approved.

12. **APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES:**

It was	Proposed	Councillor C Jones
	Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

AGREED that appointments to outside bodies be made as follows:

Outside Body	Councillor
Amersham Community Association	Elizabeth Shepherd
Citizens Advice Bureau	Caroline Jones
Amersham Community Board	Dominic Pinkney
BMKALC	Mark Roberts
GE Healthcare Liaison Committee	Jane Barnes
Amersham Action Group	Rachel Dineley
Amersham Band	Mark Roberts
Chiltern Chamber	Mark Dormer
Amersham & District Residents Association	Elizabeth Shepherd

13. **COUNCIL MINUTES**

a) **Council Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor E Shepherd
	Seconded	Councillor M Roberts

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 March 2024 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

There were no matters arising.

b) (i) **Planning and Footpaths Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor H Maitland-Jones
	Seconded	Councillor M Dormer

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings held on 11 March, 8 & 29 April 2024 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

c) **Finance & General Purposes Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor J Barnes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15 April 2024 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

d) **Climate Action Working Group Minutes**

It was	Proposed	Councillor J Barnes
	Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Climate Action Working Group meeting held on 18 April 2024 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

14. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

15. **MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS FROM 18 MARCH TO 13 MAY 2024**

The list of Mayor's engagements was noted.

16. **QUOTATION FOR EXTERNAL REDCORATION OF MARKET HALL**

The quotation obtained by Evans Crawley (surveyors) was considered. Given the difficulty in obtaining any alternative quotations, after discussion,

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from the recommended contractor at an estimated cost of £9,820.

17. **BENSHEIM TWINNING**

a) Programme for potential visit 5-7 July.

Councillor Roberts reported that members of the Bensheim Freundeskries had been invited to Amersham for the weekend of 5 – 7 July and they have expressed an interest in having a stall at the Altogether Amersham event, though they have yet to confirm their availability. It was agreed that a programme of entertainment for the weekend would be discussed once confirmation is received of their travel plans.

b) Joint activities with Chesham Twinning Association

Members noted the request from the Chesham Twinning Group enquiring about joint twinning activities with Amersham, in conjunction with their own twin town in Germany and Bensheim. It was agreed that Cllr Roberts and Cllr Shepherd would contact the Chesham Twinning Group to obtain further information.

c) Twinning visit to Bensheim in September

It was noted that Councillor Pinkney and Councillor Shepherd would be representing Amersham Town Council at the twinning visit to Bensheim in September.

18. Hervines Park Playground

Mark Richardson's report on the playground had been circulated prior to the meeting and some sample designs from several playground companies were tabled, giving an indication of budget options. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor Shepherd

RESOLVED that the Council would commit to a maximum budget of £150,000 for a new playground at Hervines Park and that the Clerk would apply for grants for the project. More detailed design options will be requested from the playground equipment companies for council's consideration and to enable public consultation.

19. **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS**

a) Consultation on Draft Street Trading Policy

The Clerk's draft response on the consultation had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Roberts also reported on his attendance at one of the workshops organised by Bucks Council. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor E Shepherd
	Seconded	Councillor M Dormer

RESOLVED to submit the comments already prepared by the Town Clerk, with an additional statement on the documentation the Town Council collects from commercial traders who take part in town council events.

20. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

There were no matters for report.

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.

There were no matters for discussion.

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.

Chairman Date

Council