

Amersham Town Council

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Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 10 March 2025

Present:

Councillor J Barnes (Chair)
Councillor R Dineley (Vice Chair)
Councillor D Pinkney (Town Mayor)
Councillor E Shepherd (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor M Flys
Councillor M Roberts
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor S Woodhead

In Attendance:

Steve Catanach; Town Clerk - Community Services
Natalia Khimich; Sponsorship and Marketing Coordinator
Two retailers from Old Amersham

35. **Absent No Apologies** Councillor S Scott-James
Councillor C Butcher

36. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

Open Session

Two retailers from Old Amersham addressed the committee outlining the plans for the Christmas event in Old Amersham along with a request of support from the Council.

37. **Update on Visit Amersham**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. The committee was pleased to hear that both social media accounts are seeing an upward trend in followers, indicating growing engagement and interest.

Noting that Natalia is making a concerted effort to secure sponsorship for both the events organised by the Council and for Visit Amersham, the committee requested to be kept informed of any sponsorship that is received for Visit Amersham

38. Civic event update, including updates on the Christmas events

It was noted that the bands for the summer concerts have now been successfully booked. The RAF Halton Voluntary Band and the RAF Squadronaires are scheduled to perform at the VE-Day and VJ-Day commemorative concerts, respectively

Following the request for support in the open session by the lead organisers of the Christmas event in Old Amersham, the committee had a lengthy discussion on how the Council could assist the organisers of both of Amersham's community Christmas events

It was agreed that Cllr Roberts and Cllr Flys would arrange a meeting with the lead organisers to discuss a proposal which would involve Council offering financial backing for the event in Old Amersham, more specifically underwriting the costs associated with the funfair. Various caveats, including the need to obtain sponsorship would have to be agreed by the organisers. The committee also emphasised the need for the organisers to provide detailed information on how the event will be funded in the future to ensure its long-term sustainability. It was noted that it could not be assumed that ATC would be able to underwrite the costs in the future.

The event is due to take place on Friday 5 December.

The committee agreed that Council will collaborate with the Amersham Action Group to organise the event in AOTH which is due to take place 29th November. Additionally, it was noted that, if deemed appropriate, Council should consider any financial support requested by the Amersham Action Group, should such a request be made.

Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor E Shepherd

39. To consider a proposal to hire portable toilets to be placed in Barn Meadow and Hervines Park during the summer.

Following a brief discussion the committee agreed to hire portable toilets to be placed in Barn Meadow (from 1 April until 8 September) and Hervines Park (from 5 May until 8 September) at a cost of £38.50 a week per location.

Proposed Councillor M Flys
Seconded Councillor M Roberts

40. Amersham in Bloom update including various proposals

The Clerk updated the committee on the recent bloom activities, noting that the group's recent work had involved working on environmental/sustainable projects in

collaboration with children and young people. The tree planting project undertaken in conjunction with Paradigm Housing was also noted.

The following proposals were agreed by the committee:

- The installation of five oversized metal roses on the verge beside Ambers, a project that will be delivered in partnership with the leaders of the 1st Chesham Bois Scout Group

Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor A Lamont

- To create a 'miniature' forest with the planting of additional trees, on the northeastern border of King George V Playing Field. The mini forest is to be planted in conjunction with the community.

Proposed Councillor R Dineley
Seconded Councillor E Shepherd

It was also noted that a small ribbon of grass, on the northern and eastern perimeters of Barn Meadow would be left unmown as a trial this spring/summer. This is to increase biodiversity within the field.

41. To consider a proposal to install a hearing loop in the Barn Meadow Community Hall

Following a request from a local group, it was agreed to install a hearing loop in Barn Meadow Community Hall, at a cost of approximately £1000.

Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

42. Matters for Report

It was noted that residents of Hervines Road and Devonshire Avenue have been informed about the upcoming works to replace the children's playground at Hervines Park. This information was shared through a letter drop to ensure that residents were aware of the planned changes.

Part 2

Resolved 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.

43. A consider a request from the family of Ruth Ellis for permission to erect a memorial stone on her grave in St Mary's Cemetery

The Clerk noted that Council had received a request from the family of Ruth Ellis to erect a memorial stone on her grave. Following discussion, the committee approved this proposal, on the proviso that all contactable members provide written approval of this request.

Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

The meeting ended at 8.50pm

Chairman

Date.....