

Amersham Town Council

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Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 16 September 2024

- Present:**
- Councillor J Barnes (Chair)
 - Councillor R Dineley
 - Councillor D Pinkney (Town Mayor)
 - Councillor E Shepherd (Deputy Town Mayor)
 - Councillor M Flys
 - Councillor S Woodhead
- In Attendance:**
- Steve Catanach; Town Clerk - Community Services
 - Member of Amersham College Group and Buckinghamshire Council (open session only)
13. **Apologies**
- Councillor C Jones
 - Councillor M Roberts
 - Councillor A Lamont
14. **Absent No Apologies**
- Councillor S Scott-James
 - Councillor J Keeler
15. **Declarations of Interest:**
- Councillor Flys declared a non-pecuniary interest on Minute 23, as vice chair of the Strategic Sites Committee at Buckinghamshire Council
- Open Session**
- A representative from Buckinghamshire Council and Buckinghamshire College Group addressed the committee outlining a proposal for a potential SANG initiative on the land beside to Amersham College/Willow Wood.
16. **Update on civic events**
- The Clerk provided a quick review of the programme of events organised by the Council, with Heritage Day the highlight. The committee thanked the staff for their hard work which ensured the success of the events, most notably Heritage Day.

17. **Amersham in Bloom**

The Clerk updated the committee on the recent bloom activities, noting that it has been another busy and successful year with some lovely floral displays. The committee expressed their thanks to the bloom team, both staff and volunteers.

18. **A proposal to remove the large conifer tree in the Memorial Gardens**

The Clerk outlined a plan to fell a large conifer tree in the Memorial Gardens, noting that it has outgrown the space. Following a brief discussion it was **agreed** to remove the tree, once permission had been granted from Buckinghamshire Council.

Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor E Shepherd

19. **A proposal to replace the chairs used at band concerts.**

Following a brief discussion the committee **agreed** to replace 100 of the foldable chairs used at band concerts. The chairs being replaced, were purchase over 10 years ago and are no longer serviceable.

Proposed Councillor E Shepherd
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

20. **Update on Visit Amersham**

The report distributed by Natalia Khimich prior to the meeting was noted. Following discussion, it was **agreed** that a *Frequently Asked Questions* section would be added to the Visit Amersham website. It was also **agreed** that any sponsorship sought for the Visit Amersham website should be restricted to businesses within Amersham.

21. **The purchase of new litter bins for the Memorial Gardens**

The Clerk reported that the litter bins in the Memorial Gardens are looking tatty and are beginning to fall into a state of disrepair. Following discussion, the committee **agreed** to replace the seven bins located within the gardens, with recycled plastic bins at a cost of £590 plus VAT per bin.

Proposed Councillor M Flys
Seconded Councillor R Dineley

22. **Installation of a poppy veil on the Market Hall for Remembrance Day**

The Clerk outlined a plan to install a hand-made poppy veil onto the eastern face of the

Market Hall, commemorating Armistice Day. Following discussion, it was **agreed** that the veil, made by The Beacon School, would be installed 10 days prior to 11 November, remaining up for 14 days.

Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor D Pinkney

23. **A proposal for a potential SANG initiative on the land beside Amersham College/Willow Wood**

Following the presentation in the open session, the committee discussed the proposal for a potential SANG on the land beside the college, which would include the use of part of Willow Wood. The committee, while favourable in principle of the initiative, requested that the SANG is redesigned before any formal decision could be made. The Clerk, agreed to join a site visit with representatives from the college and Buckinghamshire Council, to help identify which section of Willow Wood/Jubilee Wood, could potentially form part of the SANG.

24. **Matters to Report**

Councillor Barnes noted the consultation on the draft Buckinghamshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, which ends on 13 October 2024.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm

Chairman

Date.....