

# Amersham Town Council

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## Amersham Town Council

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2024

- Present:**
- Councillor J Barnes (Chair)
  - Councillor R Dineley (Vice Chair)
  - Councillor D Pinkney (Town Mayor)
  - Councillor M Flys
  - Councillor M Roberts
  - Councillor A Lamont
- In Attendance:**
- Steve Catanach; Town Clerk - Community Services
  - Natalia Khimich; Sponsorship and Marketing Coordinator
  - Walid Marzouk; Chairman of Dementia Respite Care (part meeting)
25. **Apologies**
- Councillor E Shepherd (Deputy Town Mayor)
  - Councillor C Jones
  - Councillor S Woodhead
26. **Absent No Apologies**
- Councillor S Scott-James
27. **Declarations of Interest:**
- There were no declarations of interest.
- Open Session**
- Walid Marzouk, Chairman of Dementia Respite Care, outlined a plan that would see Amersham become a Dementia Friendly Town.
28. **To consider a proposal to partner with Dementia Respite Care to make Amersham a Dementia Friendly Town**
- Following the presentation in the open session, the committee discussed the proposal from Dementia Respite Care to make Amersham a Dementia Friendly Town.

While the committee could wholeheartedly see the merits of the project, the committee did not feel that any funding could be given. It was also agreed that further clarity on the objectives and how these will be achieved would be required before the committee could offer any commitment from the Council.

29. **Amersham in Bloom Update including a proposal to hire hanging baskets next summer.**

The Clerk updated the committee on the recent bloom activities, while noting that the groups recent work had involved working in collaboration with children and young people. The committee thanked the Amersham in Bloom team for the regional and national success, which culminated in Amersham winning a national award for working with young people.

The Clerk noted that the group had accepted an invitation from Thames and Chilterns in Bloom to represent the region at next year's National Finals.

Hire of hanging baskets

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

£4309 – Old Amersham (61 baskets)

£4530– AOTH (66 baskets)

**Total £8839**

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 M Roberts  
Seconded Councillor A Lamont

30. **To agree a civic event calendar for 2025**

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 (2025)	Event
March	Mayor's Awards
18 March	Town Meeting (8pm)
Sat 29 March	Great British Spring Clean
4 May	1 <sup>st</sup> Band Concert (VE-Day Special Concert)
18 May	2 <sup>nd</sup> Band Concert
1 June	3 <sup>rd</sup> Band Concert
15 June	4 <sup>th</sup> Band Concert
29 June	5 <sup>th</sup> Band Concert
13 July	6 <sup>th</sup> Band Concert
27 July	7 <sup>th</sup> Band Concert
10 Aug	8 <sup>th</sup> Band Concert
24 Aug	9 <sup>th</sup> Band Concert (potential VJ- Day Concert)
7 Sept	Heritage Day
W/C 7 Dec	Mayor's Community Carol Concert

*Post meeting note. We have been informed that the pre-election period commences on 18 March and therefore a date prior to 18 March must be found to hold the Town Meeting. The Clerk will contact the Amersham Free Church for availability.*

Proposed Councillor J Barnes  
Seconded Councillor M Roberts

31. **A proposal to have the War Memorials cleaned**

A report and accompanying quote from Cliveden Conservation were circulated prior to the meeting. Following a discussion the committee **agreed** to have the WWI memorial cleaned and the inscriptions repainted as outlined in the quote. The total cost for the works being £7805.10

Proposed Councillor M Flys  
Seconded Councillor R Dineley

32. **Review of the rent and deposits payable by tenants of the council owned allotments**

Following discussion, which noted the rents charged by neighbouring parishes, it was **recommended** that the allotment rents payable by tenants of the Council's three sites should be increased to the following, as of October 2025- £35 for a full plot; £20 for half a plot, while the refundable deposit raised from £35 to £50.

Proposed Councillor M Flys  
Seconded Councillor R Dineley

33. **Update on Visit Amersham**

The report distributed by Natalia Khimich prior to the meeting updated the committee on the Visit Amersham initiative. Natalia noted that over the next couple of months she will be contacting the 'hidden' businesses to increase engagement.

34. **Matters to report**

The Clerk reported that a letter from Woodside School had been received, asking for the mayor to offer support in the school's attempt to apply for funding which would enable them to replace the ageing biomass heating system. The committee was happy to send a letter of support, while also suggesting that they contact Sarah Greem MP.

The meeting ended at 8.57pm

Chairman .....

Date.....