

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF

THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD AT FLINT BARN COURT, CHURCH STREET, AMERSHAM
ON MONDAY 15 JULY 2024

PRESENT: Councillor D Pinkney (Town Mayor)
Councillor R Dineley
Councillor M Dormer
Councillor M Flys
Councillor C Jones
Councillor H Maitland-Jones
Councillor M Roberts
Councillor S Scott-James
Councillor S Woodhead

IN ATTENDANCE: Elizabeth Richardson (Town Clerk Finance & Policy)

28. APOLOGIES: Councillor J Barnes
Councillor V Head
Councillor J Keeler
Councillor A Lamont
Councillor P Milliner
Councillor E Shepherd

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
There were no declarations of interest.

30. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS –13 MAY TO 7 JULY 2024:
The list of engagements was noted.

31. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:

a) Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 June 2024

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Council Meeting held on 17 June 2024 be confirmed as a true record and to be signed by the Chair.

b) Planning and Footpaths Minutes –20 May, 10 June & 8 July 2024

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Working Group Meetings held on 20 May, 10 June & 8 July 2024 be accepted, and the recommendations therein be adopted.

c) Finance & General Purposes Minutes – 17 June 2024

It was	Proposed	Councillor	M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor	H Maitland Jones

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17 June 2024 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

32. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

33. RENEWAL OF RESOLUTION FOR BACS/CHAPS PAYMENTS

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor M Roberts

RESOLVED that the Council continues to allow BACS/CHAPS transactions for the payment of invoices.

34. REQUEST FOR EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE – CLLR HEAD:

A letter from Councillor Head requesting an extended leave of absence was circulated prior to the meeting.

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor C Jones

RESOLVED to accept Councillor Head's request for an extended leave of absence for 3 months.

35. HS2 ROAD SAFETY FUND APPLICATION – GRIMSDILLS LANE:

Members noted an email from the Amersham Community board Manager, requesting the Council's opinion on an application for £10,000 funding towards footpath improvements on Grimsdells Lane under the HS2 Road Safety Fund. Members felt they could not support the application because –

- there was no evidence that the HS2 project had affected pedestrian safety on Grimsdells Lane
- pedestrians are able to cross safely to the pavement on the northern side of the road
- the installation of a pavement on the southern side of the road would reduce the width of the carriageway, making it difficult for vehicles to pass
- the scheme would likely cost considerably more than the £10,000 funding being sought, so would be unviable and not a priority.

It was	Proposed	Councillor R Dineley
	Seconded	Councillor S Woodhead

RESOLVED that Council would not support this application.

36. APPLICATION FOR SIGNS FOR AMERSHAM FOOTBALL CLUB:

An email from the Vice Chair of the Amersham Football Club was noted, in which support was sought for two standard brown football stadium signs to be fixed to existing lamp-posts on the Rectory Hill / School Lane junction and the Church Street / School Lane junction. After brief discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor C Jones
	Seconded	Councillor M Roberts

RESOLVED to support the club's application for the signs to be installed.

37. HERVINES PARK PLAYGROUND – DESIGN OPTIONS:

The design options submitted by several playground equipment companies for a replacement playground at Hervines Park had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor R Dineley
	Seconded	Councillor M Dormer

RESOLVED to put forward 3 designs for public consultation. Other designs had been rejected as it was not felt they had entirely met the brief and did not offer sufficient play value. Consultation will be via the council's social media, as well as at Heritage Day. The Clerk was also asked to investigate the possibility of a consultation event on St Michael's Church forecourt, with a suggested date of Saturday 31 August, as well as sending the consultation to local junior schools via the PTA's.

38. VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE – BOOT & SLIPPER

The application for a variation in the premises licence was considered.

After discussion,

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor M Flys

RESOLVED that Members had no objection to the proposed alteration to the opening times and sale of alcohol hours. However, they would not want the extended evening hours to include use of the garden area, where they felt the current conditions of use at night should apply.

39. TRUSEE FOR AMERSHAM UNITED CHARITIES:

The email from one of the trustees of AUC had been circulated prior to the meeting. After consideration,

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor S Woodhead

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to AUC to confirm that the Council does not have any volunteers to take on the role of trustee, nor do Members think it appropriate to appoint an external representative in the circumstances. It was suggested that the AUC could amend their constitution to remove the requirement for an Amersham Town Council representative.

40. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:

There were no matters for discussion.

41. MATTERS FOR REPORT:

a) Market Hall renovations

The Clerk reported on the delay with Buckinghamshire Council in processing the request for a partial road closure of the High Street to complete the external redecoration of Market Hall. With a likely delay for a further 3 months whilst the application is being processed by Bucks Council, the project may have to be deferred until Spring 2025 if the work cannot be completed before the Autumn frosts.

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 8.14pm.

Chairman Date