

Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor M Roberts (Chair)
Councillor D Pinkney (Town Mayor)
Councillor E Shepherd (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor J Barnes
Councillor M Flys
Councillor V Head
Councillor H Maitland-Jones
Councillor P Milliner

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor S Woodhead
E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy
S Catanach - Town Clerk Community Services & Engagement

18. **APOLOGIES:** Councillor M Dormer

19. **ABSENT NO APOLOGIES:** Councillor A Lamont

20. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**
There were no declarations of interest.

21. **OPEN SESSION:**
Edward Copisarow, (Chair of the Amersham Society and Trustee of the Buckinghamshire Historic Buildings Trust), addressed the committee to ask if the Town Council would consider placing Market Hall into charitable trust status. He also requested an initial contribution of approx £1000 from the council towards an archaeological survey of the building and a survey of local organisations to establish possible future use of the building. The Clerk was asked to investigate the proposal and report to Council at the next meeting.

22. **TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR MAY & JUNE 2024:**

- i) Income and Expenditure Reports for periods ending 31 May & 30 June 2024
- ii) Balance sheets as at 31 May & 30 June 2024
- iii) Accounts paid from 1 May to 30 June 2024

It was

Proposed - Councillor P Milliner
Seconded – Councillor D Pinkney

RECOMMENDED that the finance reports for the period 1 May to 30 June 2024 be accepted.

23. **TO APPOINT A DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

It was Proposed – Councillor H Maitland-Jones
Seconded – Councillor P Milliner

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Shepherd as Deputy Chair of the Finance Committee.

24. **TO CONSIDER TENDERS AND APPOINT A CONTRACTOR FOR THE COUNCIL'S IT SUPPORT:**

The Town Clerk reported on the assessment carried out by Cllr Woodhead on the tenders received against the evaluation criteria.

It was Proposed – Councillor M Roberts
Seconded – Councillor J Barnes

AGREED to appoint the recommended contractor for a 4 year term commencing on 1st October 2024, at a cost of £6,254 per annum plus an initial one-off payment of £555.

25. **TO CONSIDER TENDERS AND APPOINT A CONTRACTOR TO OVERSEE THE COUNCIL'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:**

After noting the Clerk's verbal report

It was Proposed – Councillor E Shepherd
Seconded – Councillor H Maitland-Jones

RECOMMENDED to appoint the suggested contractor for a 4 year term at £18,951 per annum.

26. **TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR BUILDINGS REINSTATEMENT COST ASSESSMENTS:**

Members noted that only one quote had so far been received to undertake the work, though two other quotes are awaited by the Clerk. After discussion

It was Proposed Councillor M Flys
Seconded Councillor P Milliner

AGREED in principle to appoint a contractor to undertake the work, up to a total cost of £2670, once the Clerk had obtained all comparative quotes.

27. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

The Clerk reported on the comments and concerns received from residents of Hervines Road in relation to the proposed replacement playground at Hervines Park.

Members were informed of the urgent need to undertake repairs to the wooden bridge over the River Misbourne next to Church Mead. Although the bridge is not owned by the Town Council, nor is the council liable for its maintenance, the current condition of the bridge poses a safety risk. Given the urgency of the issue, it was agreed that depot team would carry out repairs, at an approximate cost of £1,500, with formal approval being agreed at the next Council meeting.

The Clerk reported that materials would be purchased at a cost of £3000 to replace the model of the lone soldier in the Memorial Gardens. The work to replace the model had already been agreed at a previous meeting.

Part two

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.

28. DEPOT STAFFING:

The Committee gave retrospective approval for the temporary appointment of a groundsman on a one month contract to cover the current staffing shortage due to staff sick leave and to extend MO's 6 month contract for a further 3 months, as detailed in the Town Clerk's report

It was

Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor P Milliner

AGREED to appoint the nominated candidate for a one month fixed term contract at SCP 8 (£24,702 + £689 per annum – pro-rata for a 1 month contract) and extend MO's contract by 3 months.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman.....

Date

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