

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF

THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD AT FLINT BARN COURT, CHURCH STREET, AMERSHAM  
ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Councillor D Pinkney – Town Mayor  
Councillor E Shepherd – Deputy Town Mayor  
Councillor J Barnes  
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)  
Steve Catanach (Town Clerk Community Services)  
Mark Richardson – Depot & Facilities Manager  
John McGrath (Buckinghamshire College Group) – Open Session only  
Nick Harman (Rappor) – Open Session only

OPEN SESSION:

Members were pleased to welcome representatives from Amersham College and Rappor to give a presentation on the proposed SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space) on land between Buckinghamshire College and Willow Wood.

55. APOLOGIES: Councillor V Head  
Councillor A Lamont  
Councillor P Milliner

56. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

As Vice-Chair of the Buckinghamshire Council Strategic Sites Committee, Cllr Flys declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 62 – the proposed SANG on land adjacent to Willow Wood.

57. MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS –30 SEPTEMBER TO 18 NOVEMBER 2024:

The list of engagements was noted, with some additional attendances for both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor being reported verbally.

58. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:

a) Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 September 2024

It was Proposed Councillor M Roberts  
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 September 2024 be confirmed as a true record and to be signed by the Chair.

**59. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 30 September 2024:**

There were no matters arising.

**60. RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:**

**a) Planning and Footpaths Minutes –14 October, & 4 November 2024**

It was Proposed Councillor H Maitland-Jones  
Seconded Councillor R Dineley

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Working Group Meetings held on 14 October and 4 November 2024 be accepted, and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**b) Finance & General Purposes Minutes – 21 October 2024**

It was Proposed Councillor M Roberts  
Seconded Councillor E Shepherd

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21 October 2024 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

**c) Grants Sub-Committee Minutes – 21 October- 2024**

It was Proposed Councillor M Roberts  
Seconded Councillor E Shepherd

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee meeting held on 21 October 2024 be accepted and the recommendations therein adopted.

**d) Climate Action Working Group minutes – 7 November 2024**

It was Proposed Councillor R Dineley  
Seconded Councillor J Barnes

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Climate Action Working Group meeting held on 7 November 2024 be accepted and the recommendations therein adopted, noting that a comment needed to be added that Lizzie Richardson and Cllr Barnes would be drawing up a Climate Policy for discussion at the next Climate Action Working Group Meeting.

**61. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:**

There were no matters arising.

**62. PROPOSED SANG (SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE NATURAL GREENSPACE) ON LAND BETWEEN AMERSHAM COLLEGE & WILLOW WOOD:**

Following discussion on the points raised during the open session of the meeting,

It was	Proposed	Councillor S Woodhead
	Seconded	Councillor C Jones

**RESOLVED** to approve in principle the use of Town Council land as part of the proposed SANG, which would enhance the area as public open space.

**63. INTERNAL AUDITOR'S FIRST INTERIM REPORT FOR 2024-25:**

The audit report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor E Shepherd

**RESOLVED** to formally receive the report and note the comments therein.

**64. APPROVAL OF GRANTS FROM MAYORAL BUDGET:**

The grant applications to the Mayor's Community Grant Fund were discussed.

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor M Roberts

**RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £400 for the proposed improvements to the verge/bed at the junction of Springfields and Lexham Gardens. There were two further applications, for which more detailed information has been requested before they can be considered.

**65. APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR FOR REPLACEMENT OF HERVINES PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND CONFIRM LOCATION WITHIN THE PARK:**

It was noted that analysis of the public consultation showed that 69% of 520 respondents favoured the design by HAGS UK Ltd. The recommendations of the Hervines Park Playground Working Group were also noted. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor R Dineley
	Seconded	Councillor M Roberts

**RESOLVED** to award the contract to HAGS UK Ltd, keeping the new playground in the same location as the original site, with an extension down the field towards Dr Challoner's Grammar School, with a total cost of £150,000. The addition of activity boards and a sign language board will be discussed with the supplier. The Clerk will now seek outside funding towards the project.

**66. TRIAL TO REMOVE WASTE BINS FROM HERVINES PARK:**

Cllr Barnes reported that the Climate Action Working Group had proposed a trial to remove the bins from Hervines Park in order to encourage visitors to recycle their waste at home. It was noted that where recycling bins are provided in the Council's open spaces, they become contaminated with general waste, so the contents cannot be recycled, leading to recyclable waste going to landfill or incineration. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor J Barnes
	Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

**RESOLVED** to remove the waste bins from Hervines Park for a one month trial, when the new play area is installed in Spring 2025. The matter would be reviewed at the end of the trial period.

**67. BARN MEADOW PLAYGROUND – REPLACEMENT OF SEVERAL ITEMS OF PLAY EQUIPMENT:**

Mark Richardson reported on the approximate costs to replace and enhance some of the play equipment in the playground at Barn Meadow. After discussion,

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

**RESOLVED** that a decision to purchase additional equipment be deferred until the outcome of grant applications for the Hervines Park play area is known and an appropriate budget can be allocated.

**68. INSTALLATION OF BROADBAND PROVISION IN MARKET HALL AND BARN MEADOW COMMUNITY HALL:**

The Clerk's report concerning broadband provision in the halls was noted. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor E Shepherd
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

**RESOLVED** to arrange for broadband provision in both halls, in order to attract additional bookings and enable remote and more efficient control of the heating systems.

**69. RESURFACING OF THE PLATT ACCESS ROAD:**

The Clerk's report was noted, as well as the communication from a resident of the Platt, containing a proposal for resurfacing of the access road. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor S Woodhead

**RESOLVED** that the Council offer £2,160 towards the project, this being 1/11<sup>th</sup> of the total cost of the work.

**70. APPROVAL OF SALARY INCREASES FOR STAFF ON NATIONAL JOINT COUNCIL(NJC) CONTRACTS:**

The Clerk's report on the nationally agreed salary increase for 2024/25 for all staff employed on the NJC contracts was noted.

It was Proposed Councillor D Pinkney  
Seconded Councillor C Jones

**RESOLVED** to implement the salary increase for all Town Council staff, as directed by the National Association of Local Councils, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

**71. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:**

**a) Highways Devolved Contract 2025-26 – expression of interest**

The proposal from Buckinghamshire Council for a renewal of the devolved highways contract was considered. It was noted that Buckinghamshire Council will not be confirming the value of the contract until February 2025, which is after the Town Council must submit its final precept request. After discussion

It was Proposed Councillor C Jones  
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

**RESOLVED** that the Town Council would express an interest in the renewal of the devolved highways contract.

**b) Work on Shardeloes roundabout**

It was noted that Buckinghamshire Council will be closing the Shardeloes roundabout between 7pm and 7am for 5 days from 26 November, whilst remedial work is undertaken.

**72. MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

**a) Market Hall Project**

It was noted that Buckinghamshire Council has stipulated a full road closure of the High Street adjacent to Market Hall while the southern section of the hall is redecorated and the brickwork repointed. With a 3 month waiting time for a road closure application to be processed by Buckinghamshire Council, the project will have to be deferred until April 2025, as the application of lime-mortar to the brickwork cannot be undertaken during the winter months.

It was also reported that there has been no update from the Council's solicitor regarding the proposal from the Amersham Society for the hall to be put into trust status.

**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.**

**73. 126 Station Road – Town Council land adjacent to property:**

The Town Clerk's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion,

It was Proposed Councillor D Pinkney  
Seconded Councillor E Shepherd

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk would write to the letting agent concerning parking at the property and, if necessary, seek legal advice on the matter.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman ..... Date .....

Council