

AMERSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF

THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD AT FLINT BARN COURT, CHURCH STREET, AMERSHAM
ON MONDAY 20 JANUARY 2025

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 A Lamont
Councillor H Maitland-Jones
Councillor M Roberts
Councillor S Woodhead

IN ATTENDANCE: Elizabeth Richardson (Town Clerk Finance & Policy)
Steve Catanach (Town Clerk Community Services)

74. APOLOGIES: Councillor V Head
Councillor C Jones
Councillor P Milliner

75. ABSENT – NO APOLOGIES:
Councillor S Scott-James

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

77. MAYOR’S ENGAGEMENTS –18 NOVEMBER 2024 to 20 JANUARY 2025:
The list of engagements was noted, with two additions – The Mayor attended the Royal British Legion conference on 19 January and the Deputy Mayor attended a talk with the cubs on 19 November.

78. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES:

a) Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 November 2024

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 November 2024 be confirmed as a true record and to be signed by the Chair.

79. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 18 NOVEMBER 2024:

There were no matters arising.

80. RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES:

a) Planning and Footpaths Minutes –25 November & 16 December 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 25 November and 16 December 2024 be accepted, and the recommendations therein be adopted.

b) Finance & General Purposes Minutes – 9 December 2024

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor J Barnes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 9 December 2024 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

c) Community Services & Engagement Minutes- 2 December 2024

It was	Proposed	Councillor J Barnes
	Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Community Services & Engagement meeting held on 2 December 2024 be accepted and the recommendations therein adopted.

81. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:

There were no matters arising.

82. REQUEST FOR EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

A letter from Cllr Head requesting an extended leave of absence for 3 months was considered. Cllr Flys also requested that an extended leave of absence be considered for Cllr Milliner

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor E Shepherd

RESOLVED to accept an extended leave of absence for both Councillors owing to their personal circumstances.

83. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL'S 2025/26 BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUEST:

The Town Clerk's reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. The revised budget figures were noted, based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

AGREED to increase the precept from £1,029,865 TO £1,079,277 for 2025/26, representing an increase of £7.08 per annum (4.80%) for a Band D equivalent property. This would be achieved by reducing the capital provision from the recommended sum of £70,272 to £40,000 and supplementing the reduced capital provision with the expected budget surplus on the 2024/25 outrun.

84. APPROVAL OF MEETINGS SCHEDULE FOR 2025/26 CIVIC YEAR:

The draft calendar had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor M Dormer

RESOLVED to approve the draft calendar of meetings, including the postponement of the Community Services & Engagement Committee meeting from 3 March to 10 March 2025.

85. FLINT BARN ACCESS DRIVEWAY:

The inspection report from the surveyor on the condition of the driveway was considered. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor S Woodhead
	Seconded	Councillor E Shepherd

RESOLVED that a full survey of the driveway be conducted, including a camera inspection of the culvert. The Clerk was also asked to obtain a quotation for a specification of works from the surveying company, as well as to ascertain from Historic England whether the cobbles could be altered to be more accessible for pedestrians/ pushchairs etc.

86. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:

a) Consultation on Lane Rental Scheme

Members discussed the content of the consultation document and agreed that the proposals to charge a daily rate for lane closures would be a positive step in reducing disruption caused by repeated road closures during work undertaken by utility companies. However, there was some concern about the cost implications for other projects – eg where a lane closure was necessitated for maintenance work carried out on buildings abutting the highway and it was felt that some concession should be granted in these instances.

It was	Proposed	Councillor S Woodhead
	Seconded	Councillor R Dineley

RESOLVED that the Clerk should respond to the consultation with the the comments and concerns voiced by Members.

87. REVIEW OF COUNCIL’S STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:

A copy of the revised financial regulations (as recommended by the National Association of Local Councils – NALC) had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor M Roberts

RESOLVED to adopt the amended Financial Regulations and note there were no recommended alterations to Standing Orders.

88. APPROVAL OF HIRE PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT DEPOT VAN:

Mark Richardson’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members were disappointed to see that the option to lease an electric vehicle remained unviable, given the lack of sufficient power to tow a trailer, as well as being more expensive. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor M Roberts

RESOLVED to lease a replacement diesel van but to keep reviewing electric options for future renewals.

89. MATTERS FOR REPORT:

- a) The Clerk reported that an application had been made to Lottery Funding for a £20,000 grant towards the Hervines Playground – a response is due in mid March.
- b) The Clerk updated Councillors with news on the potential lease of the rear garden of 146/148 Station Road.

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.

90. 126a Station Road – Town Council land adjacent to property:

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report on the parking on land owned by Amersham Town Council adjacent to 126a Station Road. The Clerk will now write to the leaseholder’s solicitor about the current situation.

The meeting closed at 8.07pm.

Chairman Date