

Amersham Town Council

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Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 12 JANUARY 2026

Present: Councillor P Edwards (Chair)
Councillor J Brown
Councillor M Roberts
Councillor M Day
Councillor E Kolb
Councillor K Thornton
Councillor S Woodhead
Councillor D Pinkney

In Attendance: Steve Catanach; Town Clerk - Community Services

24. **Apologies** Councillor J Barnes
Councillor J Noaman

25. **Absent No Apologies** Councillor A Vyas

26. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Pinkney declared a non-pecuniary interest on Minute 27, as a member of the Amersham Action Group.

27. **To agree that the Council takes over the organisation of the Christmas Festival in AOTH and to agree the date of the event**

Following discussion, it was **agreed** that the Council would assume responsibility for organising the Christmas Festival in AOTH, scheduled to take place on Saturday, 28 November 2026.

The Clerk reported that the organisers of the Old Amersham Christmas event will return £2,207.29 to the Council following the funds provided by the Council to support the event last year.

Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor M Roberts

28. **Civic event update**

The Clerk reiterated the dates of the civic events for the coming year. Following discussion, it was **agreed** to rearrange the date of the Town Meeting, which will include the Mayor's Awards, and will now take place on Tuesday 28 April at 7.45pm.

Councillor Roberts noted that the Freundeskreis has arranged a visit to the UK from 29 April to 3 May. It was therefore **proposed** that a working party be established at the upcoming Council meeting to discuss this visit and other matters relating to Bensheim, including a potential new sign or fingerpost relating to the twin town.

Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor D Pinkney

29. **To agree the dates for the two 'Free Parking' days as allocated by Buckinghamshire Council**

It was **agreed** to request 6 September and 28 November from Buckinghamshire Council as the Council's two 'free' parking days. The Committee further suggested that, prior to making a decision on dates for next year, that Council liaises with local businesses to seek their views on which two days should be allocated for free parking.

Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor K Thornton

30. **Amersham in Bloom -Update**

It was noted that Amersham would not submit a Bloom entry this year, following both the regional and national accolades received in 2026.

The Clerk assured the Committee that, despite not entering the competition, there would be no deterioration in either the level of effort or the standard maintained.

31. **Visit Amersham – Update**

Natalia was unable to attend the meeting and was therefore unable to provide an update; however, the Committee requested that a report and marketing plan be circulated prior to the next Community Services and Engagement Committee meeting. A meeting of the working party is also to be arranged.

The Committee suggested that the Strapline Working Party join the Visit Amersham Working Party, as both initiatives would complement each other. It was suggested that this is discussed at next week's Council meeting.

32. **Finger Post Replacement**

The Fingerpost Working Party recommendations were circulated prior to the meeting. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to accept these recommendations, subject to the following two amendments:

- a. To include *Children's Playground* beneath Hervines Park.
- b. That the finials include the wording *Amersham Town Council*.

Proposed Councillor L Kolb
Seconded Councillor K Thornton

33. **To consider a proposal to install waymarkers through Parsonage Woods, highlighting the route from the top of Rectory Hill to Old Amersham.**

The Clerk outlined a proposal to add waymarkers directing people through Parsonage Woods. Following discussion, the Committee was in favour of the project and requested that the Clerk report back at the next meeting with full costings and a design for the waymarker, which is to be made from recycled plastic.

34. **To consider the amended proposal to install an all-weather path between the car park at Hervines Park and Bluebell Wood.**

The Clerk outlined the updated proposal to install a self-binding gravel path from the car park to the south-western corner of Hervines Park, extending beyond the orchard and the area of bluebells, noting that the cost would be approximately £8,500. Following discussion, the Committee approved the proposal, subject to the inclusion of a small 'turning circle' at the end of the path and the addition of two benches.

Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor M Day

35. **To consider a proposal to hire hanging baskets from Windowflowers this summer**

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

£4,353.25 – Old Amersham (61 baskets)
£4,618.65 – AOTH (66 baskets)

The Committee also **agreed** with the proposal to offer hanging baskets to residents and shops in the High Street, Broadway, Sycamore Road, and Hill Avenue. This would be at no cost to the Council, other than the additional administration involved.

Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor M Roberts

36. **To approve a Bench Policy**

The Clerk circulated a draft bench policy prior to the meeting. Following a lengthy discussion, the policy was agreed with the following amendments:

- a. Condition 3.8 is to be amended to remove the option of renewal, so that, after the 15-year period, the plaque is to be returned to the donor.
- b. Following a vote (4 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention), it was agreed that only residents or former residents of Amersham—i.e., residents of properties within the civic parish of Amersham —may apply to purchase a bench.

Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

37. **Matters For Report**

The Clerk noted that a request had been received from a sports event management company to use Hervines Park for a women-only walking event. Organised on behalf of *Stylist*, the event will see up to 425 women take part in a non-competitive 13-mile challenge.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed in principle to allow the event to take place (not on 20 June), subject in the first instance to an event management plan and a traffic management (including mitigation) plan being submitted and approved by the Council.

The meeting ended at 9.43pm

Chairman

Date.....