

Amersham Town Council

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Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2025

Present: Councillor J Barnes (Chair)
Councillor P Edwards (Vice Chair)
Councillor J Brown
Councillor M Day
Councillor E Kolb
Councillor D Pinkney
Councillor S Woodhead (Town Mayor)
Councillor K Thornton
Councillor J Noaman
Councillor A Vyas
Councillor M Roberts

In Attendance: Councillor H Amarshi
Steve Catanach; Town Clerk - Community Services
Five members of the public (part meeting)

12. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

Open Session

- (i) Two representatives from *Citizens Advice Bucks* gave a presentation to the committee, outlining the work the charity undertakes locally. The presentation highlighted that the key issues affecting residents in Amersham are related to debt, tax credits, and housing. The representatives also emphasised the need for funding to enable volunteers to provide support to residents within the Amersham Town Council area.
- (ii) Representatives from *Goonj Events* outlined a proposal to organise a fan park for next year's Football World Cup at King George V Playing Field.

13. **To consider a proposal to have a fan park on KGV Playing Field at next year's FIFA World Cup**

Following a lengthy discussion, the committee felt that they would be unable to support the proposed fan park at King George V Playing Field due to concerns around security, site management, and safety.

Proposed Councillor K Thornton
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

14. **Amersham in Bloom update**

The Clerk provided a brief update on the *Amersham in Bloom* initiative, highlighting key activities over the past couple of months. These included the floral displays in the Memorial Gardens, the art trail, and the wildflower plantings. The committee noted the success achieved in the regional Bloom competition and expressed their thanks to the staff and volunteers for their efforts over the past year.

The committee *agreed* that the Council should offer a Christmas tree recycling service to residents, with proceeds going towards funding *Amersham in Bloom*.

Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor A Vyas

15. **To agree the appointment of a Town Crier**

Following discussion, it was *agreed* to appoint Councillor Joe Noaman as the new Town Crier. Cllr Noaman, who applied following a local recruitment campaign, gave a short address to the committee.

Cllr Noaman *agreed* to source an appropriate costume, with a recommended maximum cost of £500. It is hoped that the Town Crier's first civic engagement will be the Christmas event in Amersham-on-the-Hill.

Proposed Councillor J Barnes
Seconded Councillor P Edwards

16. **Update on Visit Amersham**

The report circulated by Natalia Khimich prior to the meeting was noted, and the committee extended their thanks. The working party will continue to meet to support the project.

17. **To review the current charges for hall and pavilion hire, sports pitch hire and fees associated with the cemeteries**

The report circulated prior to the meeting was noted. Following discussion, the committee made the following recommendations:

(i) Halls and Pavilions

That the current hire rates for all halls and pavilions be increased by £1.00 per hour (rounded to the nearest 50p) from April 2026, with a further £1.00 increase from April 2027.

Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor D Pinkney

(ii) Sports Pitch Hire

That all sports pitch hire fees be increased by 5% (rounded to the nearest 50p) from April 2026, with a further 5% increase from April 2027.

A 10% discount will be applied for King Church Football Club.

Proposed Councillor E Kolb
Seconded Councillor D Pinkney

(iii) Burial Fees

That all fees relating to interments and memorials—including the purchase of plots, interment fees, and memorial applications—be increased by 5% (rounded to the nearest 50p) from April 2026, with a further 5% increase in April 2027.

Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor J Noaman

18. To consider a programme of events in 2026 and an update on the Community Christmas Events

The Clerk gave a brief summary of the events that took place over the summer and provided a short update on the two upcoming community Christmas events.

A proposed programme of events for 2026 was outlined prior to the meeting. Following discussion, the committee *approved* the list of events, which includes a summer family fun day in Amersham-on-the-Hill. It was *recommended* that a delegation from Bensheim be invited to Amersham over this weekend.

A working party was established – Cllr Kolb, Cllr Pinkney and Cllr Roberts- to formalise the programme should the delegation accept the invitation.

Date	Event
W/C Monday 16 March 2026	Town Meeting at Amersham Free Church Mayor's Awards
Sat 28 March	Great British Spring Clean
25 April	Climate Action Day
17 May (clash with market)	1 st Band Concert
31 May	2 nd Band Concert
14 June	3 rd Band Concert
20 June	KGV music/community event
28 June	4 th Band Concert
12 July	5 th Band Concert
26 July	6 th Band Concert
9 Aug	7 th Band Concert
23 Aug	8 th Band Concert
6 Sept	Heritage Day

Proposed Councillor J Noaman
Seconded Councillor K Thornton

19. To consider to proposal to install new finger posts in AOTH

The clerk outlined a costing to replace the finger posts throughout Amersham on the Hill. Following discussion, the committee *recommended* that the all the 'signs' are replaced with a budget up to £10,000. A working party – Cllr Barnes, Cllr Day and Cllr Brown- would meet to decide what information is added to each (directional) finger, prior to placing an order.

Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor M Day

20. Update on the town strapline initiative

The minutes from the Amersham Strapline Working Party meeting were circulated prior to this meeting. Following discussion, the committee *agreed* to proceed with the proposed actions. The working party will take the lead in compiling a survey to be distributed to residents and local businesses, with the aim of gathering current views on the High Street and insights into how they would like to see it develop.

Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor A Vyas

21. Update from the working group on the potential installation of a pump track in Amersham

Cllr Brown gave a presentation to the committee outlining the findings of the Pump Track Working Party. It was noted that identifying a suitable location remains the biggest challenge. As a result, the committee *recommended* that the working party accompany

the Clerk on a walkaround of the three open spaces owned by the Council, to assess and identify any areas within the parks that may be suitable for the siting of a pump track.

22. **To consider purchasing a replacement noticeboard for outside Amersham Station.**

Following discussion, the committee recommended the replacement of the noticeboard located outside the station with a new, branded noticeboard.

Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor J Noaman

23. **Matters to Report**

Following a request from Councillor Vyas, the Clerk noted that installing a bench beside the bus stop on Woodside Road, between Plantation Road and Duncombe Close, would require permission from Buckinghamshire Council and appropriate groundworks. The committee *recommended* that the Council consider the cost of such an installation during its upcoming budget discussions, and after the new raised zebra crossing has been installed.

The meeting ended at 10.26pm

Chairman

Date.....