Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF

THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT FLINT BARN COURT, CHURCH STREET, AMERSHAM
ON MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2026

PRESENT: Councillor Simon Woodhead (Town Mayor)
Councillor Jim Brown (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor Jonathan Allum
Councillor Heena Amarshi
Councillor Maura Brady
Councillor Martin Day
Councillor Paul Edwards
Councillor Joseph Noaman
Councillor Dominic Pinkney
Councillor Mark Roberts
Councillor Kelly Thornton
Councillor Amar Vyas

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

60. **APOLOGIES:** Councillor Jane Barnes
Councillor Elizabeth Kolb
Councillor James Wilkinson

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

62. **MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS –10 NOVEMBER 2025 TO 19 JANUARY 2026:**
The list of engagements was noted.

63. **COUNCIL MINUTES**

a) Council Meeting – 10 NOVEMBER 2025

It was Proposed Councillor D Pinkney
Seconded Councillor H Amarshi

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 10 November 2025 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

64. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:**
There were no matters arising.

Council

65. **RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

a) Planning and Footpaths Minutes –17 November, 8 December 2025 & 5 January 2026

It was	Proposed	Councillor K Thornton
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Working Group Meetings held on 17 November, 8 December 2025 and 5 January 2026 be accepted, and the recommendations therein be adopted.

b) Finance & General Purposes Minutes – 15 December 2025

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Day
	Seconded	Councillor J Allum

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 15 December 2025 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

c) Community Services & Engagement Minutes – 12 January 2026

It was	Proposed	Councillor K Thornton
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Community Services & Engagement Committee meeting held on 12 January 2026 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

66. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:**
There were no matters arising from these minutes.

67. **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL'S 2026/27 BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUEST:**
The Town Clerk's reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. The revised budget figures based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee were noted.

It was	Proposed	Councillor P Edwards
	Seconded	Councillor K Thornton

AGREED to increase the precept from £1,079,277 to £1,174,441 for 2026/27, representing an increase of £13.35 per annum (8.63%) for a Band D equivalent property. The increase incorporates a number of new community-based initiatives.

68. **APPROVAL OF 2026-27 CIVIC YEAR MEETING SCHEDULE:**
The schedule of meetings and civic events for 2026-27 was noted.

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor J Brown

Council

RESOLVED to approve the calendar, which the Clerk will re-circulate, together with outlook reminders to enable Councillors to upload the dates to their online calendars.

69. **TO APPROVE MEMBERSHP OF THE BENSHEIM WORKING GROUP:**
As discussed at the recent Community Services Meeting

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor M Roberts

RESOLVED that the Working Group comprise Councillors Roberts, Pinkney, Thornton, Kolb, Allum and Noaman. The Group will consider arrangements for the forthcoming visit of the Bensheim Freundeskreis in April and the potential visit by members of the Bensheim Stadt in June, as well as the proposal to install a Bensheim fingerpost sign in Amersham.

70. **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE PUBLIC CONSULTATION:**
The consultation document had been circulated prior to the meeting. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor A Vyas
	Seconded	Councillor K Thornton

AGREED that the Clerk would draft a response on behalf of Council and circulate to Members for approval prior to submitting to the Chief Fire Officer.

71. **QUOTATION FROM SCRIPTI FOR 3 YEAR PROFESSIONAL PLATFORM LICENCE FOR AI SOFTWARE:**
Members noted that the free trial period for the software was nearing its end. After discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor J Noaman
	Seconded	Councillor J Allum

RESOLVED that the annual cost of the three-year licence could not be justified at this time. However, Council may reconsider this decision in the future should the cost be reduced to a level deemed acceptable.

72. **PROPOSED TREE WORKS AT THE PHYGTLE ALLOTMENT SITE:**
Steve Catanach reported that quotations for the work are awaited. It was therefore agreed that the matter would be deferred until the Finance meeting in February.

73. **ADOPTION OF MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME:**
It was noted that the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) had issued a revised Model Publication Scheme for parish and town councils.

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor K Thornton

RESOLVED to formally adopt the revised Model Publication Scheme.

Council

74. **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councillor Roberts reported on the following matters:

a) Street Trading Policy: The new policy will be implemented by Buckinghamshire Council from 1 April 2026, having been significantly revised following last year's public consultation. It was noted that community events and those organised by town and parish councils are exempt from the scheme.

b) Consultation on Council Tax Reduction Scheme: It was noted that Buckinghamshire Council is currently seeking views via the 'Your Voice' section of their website on changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. It was suggested that Councillors respond individually via the portal prior to the deadline of 2 February 2026.

75. **AMERSHAM STRAPLINE WORKING GROUP:**

As suggested at the recent Community Services Committee meeting,

It was	Proposed	Councillor A Vyas
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

RESOLVED that the Strapline Working Group should join the Visit Amersham Working Group to discuss progress with the Amersham 'strapline' initiative.

76. **MATTERS FOR REPORT**

The Clerk presented the new artwork from playground designers for the new equipment at the Barn Meadow Playground. This will be used by the Playground Working Group to consult with youngsters on their preferred design.

PART II – Confidential Matters

77. **RENEWAL OF THE AMERSHAM BOWLS CLUB LEASE:**

A verbal update was given on the latest progress regarding the renewal of the Bowls Club lease. It was noted that members of the Working Group will meet again shortly to consider the next steps before arranging a meeting with representatives of the Bowls Club.

78. **RENWAL OF LEASE FOR FLINT HOUSE:**

The Clerk reported that the tenant had been notified of the suggested heads of terms for the lease, which is due for renewal in December 2026. The tenant's response is awaited.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Council