

Amersham Town Council

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Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 23 JUNE 2025

Present:

Councillor J Barnes (Chair)
Councillor P Edwards (Vice Chair)
Councillor H Amarshi
Councillor J Brown
Councillor M Day
Councillor E Kolb
Councillor A Thornton
Councillor J Noaman
Councillor A Vyas

In Attendance:

Councillor M Roberts
Steve Catanach; Town Clerk - Community Services
Natalia Khimich; Sponsorship & Marketing Coordinator (part meeting)
Three members of the public (part meeting)

1. **Apologies** Councillor S Woodhead
Councillor D Pinkney

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Barnes and Councillor Day declared a non-pecuniary interest on Minute 9, as members of the Amersham Museum and or Amersham Action Group.

Open Session

Three members of the public, including two teenagers, gave a presentation to the Committee outlining a proposal to install a purpose-built pump track for cycling in one of the Council's open spaces.

3. **Update on Visit Amersham**

Natalia provided the Committee with an overview of the Visit Amersham initiative, outlining her community engagement efforts, partnerships with local businesses, and her intention to expand the project further.

It was *agreed* that Councillor Kolb, Councillor Vyas, and Councillor Noaman will form a working party with Natalia to support her ongoing work with Visit Amersham.

Proposed Councillor L Kolb
Seconded Councillor J Noaman

4. To consider the feasibility of installing a pump track in Amersham

Following a request raised during the open session of the meeting, and subsequent discussion, the Committee *agreed* to establish a working group to assess the feasibility of installing a pump track in Amersham.

The working group, comprising Councillor Thornton, Councillor Amarshi, and Councillor Jim Brown, will explore potential locations, costings, and practical considerations, and will report their findings to the Committee at the next meeting.

Proposed Councillor J Barnes
Seconded Councillor Amar Vyas

5. Amersham in Bloom update

The Clerk provided a brief overview of the Amersham in Bloom initiative, highlighting the positive impact the programme has had on the town through horticultural and environmental improvements.

The Committee was informed that the newly created metal stag sculpture, which will form part of the forthcoming Amersham Children's Art Trail, is to be installed at the location receiving the most votes in a poll to be completed by Committee members.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to assume management, (with the support of the Amersham Action Group) of the newly installed red BT Box on Hill Avenue, which is now owned by the Council

Proposed Councillor J Noaman
Seconded Councillor H Amarshi

6. Civic event update including the membership of the Heritage Day, Amersham in Bloom and Christmas sub-committees:

It was agreed that the membership of the sub-committees would be as noted below:

Heritage Day- *Councillor Day, Councillor Noaman, Councillor Thornton*
Amersham in Bloom- *Councillor Kolb, Councillor Edwards, Councillor Vyas*
Christmas - *Councillor Barnes, Councillor Amarshi, Councillor Brown*

Proposed Councillor J Noaman
Seconded Councillor L Kolb

The committee noted that the official opening of the new Children's Playground at Hervines Park would take in the school holiday. The Clerk was asked to invite a representative from each infant/primary school to attend the opening.

Proposed Councillor K Thornton
Seconded Councillor M Day

Following a brief discussion, the Committee *agreed* to proceed with the proposal to appoint a Town Crier. The Clerk was instructed to invite applications, with shortlisted candidates invited to participate in a competition at Heritage Day, during which a successful applicant will be selected to take on the role of Town Crier.

Proposed Councillor A Vyas
Seconded Councillor P Edwards

7. To consider the feasibility of installing an all-weather path at one of the Council's open spaces

Following discussion, the Committee *recommended* that the proposal to install an all-weather self-binding gravel path around the perimeter of Hervines Park be referred for further consideration at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. It was *agreed* that, due to budgetary implications, the project could be delivered in two phases, with half of the path completed in the current financial year and the remaining half in the following year.

Proposed Councillor H Amarshi
Seconded Councillor J Noaman

8. Update on the town strapline initiative

Councillor Pinkney provided the Committee with an update on the project, including a summary of work previously undertaken prior to the meeting.

Following a vote (4 in favour, 3 against, and 2 abstentions), it was *agreed* that a new working group be established to take the project forward. The working group will comprise Councillor Amarshi, Councillor Vyas, Councillor Noaman, and Councillor Edwards, with either Councillor Roberts or Councillor Pinkney to join the group due to their previous involvement in the project.

In addition, Natalia, through her continued involvement with Visit Amersham, will also be included in the working group.

Proposed Councillor H Amarshi
Seconded Councillor J Noaman

9. **To consider a proposal to work in partnership with the Amersham Action Group (AAG) and Amersham Museum to erect Heritage Boards around Amersham**

The committee *agreed* with the proposal to work in partnership with the AAG and Amersham Museum to install heritage boards on the finger posts throughout Amersham.

Proposed Councillor A Vyas
Seconded Councillor H Amarshi

10. **To consider a proposal to upgrade the finger posts (black signs) throughout Amersham**

The Clerk noted that the existing fingerposts are outdated and no longer accurate, as several of the services and buildings they reference—such as the Police Station, Council Offices, and the recycling centre—are no longer available or open. The Clerk advised that it would be more cost-effective to replace the signs entirely, rather than refurbish them.

As a result, the committee *recommended* that the cost of replacements (approximately £8,000) be confirmed, and the proposal brought forward to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

Proposed Councillor J Noaman
Seconded Councillor L Kolb

11. **Matters For Report**

Councillor Roberts informed the committee that Buckinghamshire Council is currently holding a public consultation regarding the proposed installation of CCTV cameras in Amersham, with the consultation scheduled to close on 3 August.

In addition, Councillor Thornton reported that Buckinghamshire Council intends to carry out repairs to the defective parking machines on King George V Road in the near future.

The meeting ended at 10.01pm

Chairman

Date.....