

Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2025

PRESENT:

Councillor Martin Day (Chair)
Councillor Jonathan Allum
Councillor Heena Amarshi
Councillor Jane Barnes
Councillor Paul Edwards
Councillor Elizabeth Kolb
Councillor Mark Roberts
Councillor James Wilkinson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Dominic Pinkney
Councillor James Brown
Elizabeth Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy
Steve Catanach – Town Clerk Community Services & Engagement

43. **APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Maura Brady
Councillor Simon Woodhead (Town Mayor)

44. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

45. **TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR SEPT/OCTOBER 2025:**

- i) Income and Expenditure Reports for period ending 30 September and 31 October 2025
- ii) Balance sheets as at 30 September & 31 October 2025
- iii) Accounts paid from 1 September to 31 October 2025

It was

Proposed - Councillor J Barnes
Seconded – Councillor M Roberts

RECOMMENDED that the finance reports for the period 1 September to 31 October 2025 be accepted.

46. **TO CONSIDER COUNCIL BUDGET FOR 2026-27:**

Councillors discussed potential additional initiatives to be added to the 2026/27 budget. These were recommended as follows:

Community Grants Fund	Increase budget from £5k to £15k
Community Events (summer and Christmas events)	Increase budget from £3k to £11.3k
Youth Council set up costs	Allocate £2.5k from reserves
Youth Council running costs	Add £500 to budget
Neighbourhood Plan survey	Allocate £10k from reserves
Dedicated Amersham Volunteering Portal	Allocate 5k from reserves
Staffing costs for additional community projects	Increase budget by £12k

After discussion

It was

Proposed – Councillor P Edwards
Seconded – Councillor H Amarshi

RECOMMENDED that the additional community initiatives be submitted for inclusion in the 2026/27 budget, to be considered for approval at the Full Council meeting in January. It was further recommended that the budgeted increase in staff salaries be reduced to 4%, ensuring that the overall precept increase remains below 10%. The F&GP Committee will hold an informal discussion on 5 January to review the updated figures relating to the revised precept.

47. **REVIEW OF GRANTS POLICY:**

With the planned increase in the Council's funds for grants to local community groups in the 2026–27 budget, it was considered appropriate to review the Council's current Grant Policy.

It was

Proposed – Councillor M Day
Seconded – Councillor J Allum

AGREED that the Grants Sub -Committee be appointed to review the current policy and recommend any amendments to the Finance Committee for consideration.

48. **MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

There were no matters for report.

Part two

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.

49. **UPDATE ON RENEWAL OF LEASE OF FLINT HOUSE:**

The Clerk's report on the updated valuation of Flint House was considered. After much discussion

It was

Proposed – Councillor H Amarshi
Seconded – Councillor M Roberts

RECOMMENDED to offer the current tenant a new lease in the same terms and conditions as the existing lease.

50. **CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS FOR REPORT - BOWLS CLUB LEASE:**

It was noted that further emails had been received from the Bowls Club, regarding the lease renewal and the club's purchase of a second mower. The Clerk reported that an on-line discussion had been arranged with the Council's legal advisor.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman.....

Date