Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 15 JUNE 2026

PRESENT:
Councillor Maura Brady (Chair)
Councillor Kelly Thornton (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor Jonathan Allum
Councillor Heena Amarshi
Councillor Jane Barnes
Councillor Paul Edwards
Councillor Elizabeth Kolb
Councillor Mark Roberts
Councillor J Wilkinson
Councillor Simon Woodhead

IN ATTENDANCE:
Councillor M Day (Town Mayor)
Councillor Jim Brown
E Richardson - Town Clerk Finance & Policy

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest.

2. **TO RECEIVE THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26:**
A presentation on the end of year accounts was given by Derek Kemp of BC&A Accounting Solutions. After discussion

It was — Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor H Amarshi

RECOMMENDED that:
The accounts be put before full Council for approval at the Extra-ordinary meeting to be held on 15 June 2026.

3. **TO RECEIVE THE FINANCE REPORTS FOR MARCH/APRIL 2026:**

Financial Year 2025-26
i) Income and Expenditure Reports for period ending 31 March 2026
ii) Balance sheets as at 31 March 2026
iii) Accounts paid to 31 March 2026

It was — Proposed Councillor J Allum
Seconded Councillor K Thornton

RECOMMENDED that the finance reports for the period 1 to 31 March 2026 be accepted.

Financial Year 2025-26

i) Income and Expenditure Reports for period ending 30 April 2026
ii) Balance sheets as at 30 April 2026
iii) Accounts paid to 30 April 2026

It was — Proposed Councillor J Allum
Seconded Councillor K Thornton

RECOMMENDED that the finance reports for the period 1 to 30 April 2026 be accepted.

4. **TO REVIEW THE FINAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT:**

The final internal audit report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members were pleased to note that there were no issues raised by the auditor which required action by the Council. However consideration would be given to the auditor's recommendation that the Council closes the petty cash account, with the residual balance being banked as a "miscellaneous receipt".

It was — Proposed Councillor J Allum
Seconded Councillor H Amarshi

RECOMMENDED to accept the final audit report.

5. **TO REVIEW THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 2025-26 INTERNAL AUDIT:**

Members had received a copy of the final Internal Audit Report for 2025-26.

It was — Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

AGREED that the Internal Audit had been effective.

6. **APPROVE INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR 2025-26:**

Members noted the proposed Audit Plan for the year 2026-27 and

It was — Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

RECOMMENDED that the Audit Plan for 2026-27 be approved.

7. **TO APPOINT THE INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR THE 2026-27 FINANCIAL YEAR**

It was — Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

RESOLVED to appoint Auditing Solutions as the Council's internal auditor for the 2026-27 financial year.

8. **TO FORMALLY SET THE DATES FOR THE 'EXERCISE OF ELECTORS' RIGHTS' FOR THE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026**

It was — Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor J Allum

RECOMMENDED to:

Approve the dates for the Exercise of Electors' Rights as 17 June to 28 July 2026.

9. **<u>GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 1ST ROUND OF GRANT FUNDING FOR 2026-27</u>**

Members noted that only one grant application had been received for the first round of funding for the 2026-27 financial year. After discussion,

It was — Proposed Councillor M Roberts
Seconded Councillor S Woodhead

RECOMMENDED that the Council approves the application from Chiltern Toy Bank for a £1000 grant towards Christmas gifts for the children of local families in need.

10. **<u>REVIEW OF AMENDED GRANTS POLICY:</u>**

Following discussion at the previous meeting, the revised grants policy was redrafted to incorporate revised wording on the value of grants awarded to local organisations.

It was — Proposed Councillor H Amarshi
Seconded Councillor E Kolb

RECOMMENDED that the revised wording for the Grants Policy be approved.

11. **<u>TO AGREE RENEWAL OF COUNCIL'S VEHICLES INSURANCE POLICY:</u>**

The Clerk's report was noted. After brief discussion

It was — Proposed –Councillor H Amarshi
Seconded- Councillor S Woodhead

RECOMMENDED that the vehicles insurance policy for 2026-27 be renewed with Zurich Municipal at a cost of £12,953.

12. **<u>INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC HEATERS AT HERVINES PAVILION TO REPLACE INEFFICIENT GAS BOILER:</u>**

The report from Mark Richardson regarding the comparative running costs of the existing gas boiler against the installation of additional electric heaters was discussed. Given the anticipated savings,

It was — Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor P Edwards

RECOMMENDED that the gas boiler be decommissioned and replaced with electric heaters for hot water and heating in the pavilion.

13. **<u>MATTERS FOR REPORT:</u>**

a) <u>Unmetered electricity supply for street lighting</u>
As agreed at the previous meeting, the Clerk was authorised to sign a new contract for the unmetered electricity supply for the ATC streetlights, based on best value. A new 36-month contract has now been signed with SSE at a cost of £31,069 per annum, representing a saving of £1,704 compared to the 2025–26 charges.

Part two

<u>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS</u>

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.

14. <u>Renewal of Flint Barn House Lease:</u>

The proposals put forward by the current tenant of Flint Barn House for renewal of the lease were considered. After discussion

It was — Proposed Councillor S Woodhead
Seconded Councillor H Amarshi

RECOMMENDED that the Council be prepared to accept the renewal terms as set out in Option 2 proposed by the tenant, in accordance with the recommendation of the Council's Property Working Group; and that the Clerk be authorised to communicate the Council's decision to the tenant.

15. **<u>AMERSHAM BOWLS CLUB – RENEWAL OF LEASE:</u>**

Members noted that a further six-month extension to the Section 25 notice had been agreed with the Bowls Club to allow sufficient time for ongoing negotiations. The comments and proposed actions of the Property Working Group were also noted in respect of the Council's response to the club's recent proposal on renewal terms.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Chairman…………………………………… Date ……………………………