

Amersham Town Council

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF

THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD AT FLINT BARN COURT, CHURCH STREET, AMERSHAM
ON MONDAY 23 MARCH 2026

PRESENT:

Councillor Simon Woodhead (Town Mayor)
Councillor Jim Brown (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillor Heena Amarshi
Councillor Jane Barnes
Councillor Maura Brady
Councillor Martin Day
Councillor Paul Edwards
Councillor Elizabeth Kolb
Councillor Dominic Pinkney
Councillor Mark Roberts
Councillor Kelly Thornton
Councillor James Wilkinson

IN ATTENDANCE: Elizabeth Richardson (Town Clerk Finance & Policy)
Three members of the public

83. APOLOGIES: Councillor Jonathan Allum
Councillor Amar Vyas

84. ABSENT: Councillor Joseph Noaman

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
There were no declarations of interest.

86. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

- a) Councillors were asked whether consideration could be given to converting any remaining modern-style streetlights in the centre of Old Amersham and around St Mary's Church so that they match the heritage-style columns used elsewhere along the High Street. The resident was advised to use the interactive map on the Council's website to pinpoint the exact locations of the lights in question, as most streetlights owned by the Town Council have already been upgraded to the heritage style. Any non-heritage lights still present in the Old Town are generally not under the Town Council's ownership.
- b) Councillors were asked whether consideration could be given to reducing the height of the fencing around the Barn Meadow play area and the Barn Meadow Community Hall. They responded that this could be reviewed in due course; however, any change would have significant budget implications. The existing mesh fencing cannot simply be cut down in height and would need to be fully replaced if a lower fence were considered appropriate.
- c) A resident enquired about an update on the repair of potholes primarily in Amersham Old Town. It was noted that this is not within the remit of Amersham Town Council and is the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council Highways Department. Cllr Roberts responded

in his capacity as a Buckinghamshire Councillor, that he had held repeated discussions with the Buckinghamshire Local Area Technician to request priority for pothole repairs in the town and advised the resident to use the Buckinghamshire Council's 'Fix-my-street' portal, as the most direct method to report highway faults.

87. **MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS –19 JANUARY TO 23 MARCH 2026:**

The list of engagements was noted.

88. **COUNCIL MINUTES**

a) **Council Meeting – 19 January 2026**

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Day
	Seconded	Councillor D Pinkney

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 19 January 2026 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

b) **Extra-ordinary Council Meeting – 23 February 2026**

It was	Proposed	Councillor J Barnes
	Seconded	Councillor H Amarshi

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 February 2026 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

89. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:**

There were no matters arising.

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

a) **Planning and Footpaths Minutes – 26 January, 16 February & 9 March 2026**

It was	Proposed	Councillor J Brown
	Seconded	Councillor K Thornton

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Footpaths Working Group Meetings held on 26 January, 16 February & 9 March 2026 be accepted, and the recommendations therein be adopted.

b) **Finance & General Purposes Minutes – 23 February 2026**

It was	Proposed	Councillor J Barnes
	Seconded	Councillor P Edwards

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 23 February 2026 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

c) Climate Action Working Group Minutes – 5 March 2026

It was	Proposed	Councillor J Barnes
	Seconded	Councillor K Thornton

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Climate Action Working Group meeting held on 5 March 2026 be accepted and the recommendations therein be adopted.

91. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:**

There were no matters arising from these minutes.

92. **ADOPTION OF REVISED STANDING ORDERS:**

It was noted that the Council's Standing Orders had been revised, based on the latest Model issued by the National Association of Local Councils.

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor M Roberts

AGREED that the revised Standing Orders be formally adopted.

93. **REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL RISK REGISTER:**

The Annual Risk Assessment had been circulated prior to the meeting with Councillors noting the items requiring attention.

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor J Barnes

RESOLVED to accept the Risk Register and note the actions required.

94. **PROPOSAL FROM SUSTAINABLE AMERSHAM TO SUPPORT THE SCREENING OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY BRIEFING FILM ON 2 JULY:**

The proposal from Sustainable Amersham for the Council to support the screening of the National Emergency Briefing Film was discussed.

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor K Thornton

AGREED to support the group with the screening at the Lifestyle Centre on 2 July.

95. **VOLUNTEER AMERSHAM PROPOSAL:**

A proposal had been circulated prior to the meeting outlining the plan from 'Community Impact Bucks' to implement a dedicated Volunteer Amersham page within the Volunteer Bucks platform.

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor M Roberts

RESOLVED that the Council proceed with the proposal, noting that a budget of £5,000 had already been approved at the Council meeting held in January 2026. It was agreed that a

copy of the content be sent to the Town Council for approval prior to being uploaded to portal.

96. **AMERSHAM MARTYS' PLAY- USE OF MARKET HALL:**

After brief discussion

It was	Proposed	Councillor M Roberts
	Seconded	Councillor J Brown

AGREED that the cast of the forthcoming production of the Amersham Martyrs' Play can use Market Hall free of charge for their rehearsal sessions, in preparation for the performance of the play in 2027, with rehearsals being organised around existing regular bookings of the hall.

97. **BENSHEIM-AMERSHAM FREUNDESKREIS VISIT:**

Councillor Robert's briefing, outlining the timetable for the Bensheim Freundeskries visit on Friday 1st May was noted.

98. **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL MATTERS:**

a) Devolved Services Agreement:

The terms of the new Agreement from Buckinghamshire Council for devolved services were noted.

It was	Proposed	Councillor D Pinkney
	Seconded	Councillor E Kolb

AGREED that the Agreement be signed for implementation from 1 April 2026.

b) Filming on Hill Avenue:

Councillor Roberts reported on the suspension of parking bays on Hill Avenue being implemented by Buckinghamshire Council during filming at the Record Shop on Hill Avenue.

99. **MATTERS FOR REPORT**

a) Barn Meadow Playground upgrade

The Clerk reported that a public survey on the two design proposals for the new play equipment was underway. Once the survey has been completed and the data evaluated, the favourite design as chosen by the public will be ordered, with a view to installation during the first week of the school summer holidays, in order to avoid the peak usage of the playground during term time.

PART II – Confidential Matters

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

Councillor Edwards reported on the recent meeting of the Working Group members with the Amersham Bowls Club representative. The options suggested at the meeting were discussed, together with the points raised in a subsequent email received from the Club Chairman. Councillor Edwards will draft a response to the email, outlining the Council's position.

101. **APPOINTMENT OF GROUNDSMAN ON 6 MONTH CONTRACT:**

It was agreed to offer a 6 month fixed term groundsperson contract to the current work experience student from Stony Dean School, starting on 7th April 2026 at SCP6.

102. **CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS FOR REPORT:**

a) **Lease of Flint House:**

The Clerk provided an update on the leaseholder's response to the proposed Heads of Terms for the lease renewal due in December 2026. It was agreed that the Working Group would review the amendments requested by the leaseholder and prepare a formal response.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman Date

COUNCIL