

Amesbury Town Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council
Tuesday 5th March 2024
At 7.15pm in the Bowman Centre

Present: Cllr Dr M Devendran (Mayor), Cllr T Edwards (Deputy Mayor), Cllr R Yuill, Cllr R Crook, Cllr J Swindlehurst, Cllr M Strange, Cllr S Hedge, Cllr A Lord, Cllr A Hagger, Cllr L Knight, Cllr D Kuczera, Cllr J Lord, Cllr E Taylor, Cllr Jaconiah

In Attendance: Mrs SJ Tucker (Town Clerk) Mrs K Passmore (Operations Manager)

Visiting Public: 6

Public Questions

A resident thanked the neighbours, council staff and contractors responsible for the recent works at the sundial.

The resident also questioned if progress has been made to link the Town Council with Stonehenge School's Student Parliament in respect of working together in some way, this was discussed at May 2023 meeting. Are there any plans to create an initiative.

The Mayor confirmed that we can take this forward as an initiative and progress.

They also raised Item 51, offering to pay for 6 months charges if the Town Council moved to the Antrobus House for meetings.

A resident requested an update on the progress of land disposal at the Boscombe Down playing fields. Cllr Yuill confirmed he has no further update from the last meeting as the legal disposal process starts in spring.

An update was requested on the progress of the Storage Facility/Men's Shed Project.

The Mayor confirmed that the tenders are currently being reviewed. CIL Reserves are being discussed in item 43.4.4 to cover the extra investment required. This is a work in progress.

35/2024. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr I Mitchell and Cllr A Buchanan MBE.

36/2024. To approve the minutes of the last meeting dated 6th February 2024.

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

Proposed: The Mayor

Seconded: Cllr R Crook

Resolved

37/2024. To receive Declarations of Interest from Members

No Declarations of Interest received.

38/2024. To Present Mr Jeff Coy with the Citizen's Award 2023 for services to the Community

The Mayor presented Jeff Coy with the award. Jeff thanked The Mayor and all Councillors for the nomination.

39/2024. To receive the Clerk's update (to deal with business from the last meeting)

The clerk confirmed the new tipper truck will be delivered on 12th March. Work on the new website has begun, a meeting scheduled on 7th March will progress the design and layout based on the recent submissions, expected roll out will be the beginning of April.

The new cemetery and allotment software has been installed with both the Operations Manager and I undertaking some training. Allotments are now being managed via Rialtus, Stockport Avenue Cemetery information is being transferred onto Rialtus and is being used for any new applications.

The Bookings and Events Officer is looking into marshal/volunteer training for events. There have been over 30 applications for the Admin and Communications role advertised, the Staffing Panel will meet on 8th March to review. There are ongoing issues at the Central Car Park Toilets with drug takers, the Police have been informed and are conducting regular patrols.

The Clerk had issued a report to Councillors regarding a land disposal proposal from a resident in 2022. Cllr Edwards was of the opinion that the Council had agreed not to dispose of any land. The clerk would look into this as the Minutes from the associated meeting did not state this.

40/2024. Councillors' Questions and Statements

- AL.** Cllr Lord discussed the implications of the Stonehenge Tunnel works, both during the building works and after completion. He requested an informal meeting to discuss, for each full council meeting and every committee meeting to have it as a standing agenda item.
The Mayor confirmed that a Working Committee shall be appointed to liaise with Highways and Wiltshire Council, this will feedback to the Council on a regular basis.
- JJ.** Cllr Jaconiah raised concerns with the state of sanitation in some locations in relation to Wiltshire Council's involvement and to what extent does Amesbury Town Council get involved. The Mayor asked Cllr Jaconiah to email her the locations affected and she will escalate with Public Protection at Wiltshire Council.
- AH.** Cllr Hagger reiterated his concern regarding implications for Amesbury if the tunnel goes ahead. He would like it made clear what will happen with the tunnel and who does what within the Council at the next meeting.
- SH.** Cllr Hedge questioned if the 'Visit Wiltshire' site provided the Town Council with value for money as Amesbury is not listed on the website despite subscribing to the service.
- ET.** Cllr Taylor supported Cllr Hedge's comments.
Cllr Yuill confirmed that Wiltshire Council have withdrawn funding due to lack of exposure. The Clerk confirmed that she had had a meeting with Visit Wiltshire this week and discussed the Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) which is a nationwide project and at the moment Wiltshire Council are not part of this as they are considering other options. Visit Wiltshire are still trying to get the Towns and Parishes to join so an LVEP can be formed. She confirmed she will go back to Visit Wiltshire and check their website and report back to the Council as she had submitted the information packs for Visit Wiltshire.
- JS.** Cllr Swindlehurst asked for an update on the A303 underpass at Countess Road as it has flooded again.

The Mayor confirmed that new circuits had been installed which should have resolved the issue, as this is a continuing issue she will make this a priority and ask Highways for an update.

MS. Cllr Strange asked if the Town Council can look back at its information on the Stonehenge Tunnel to determine what it originally thought about the affect it was going to have on Amesbury.

TE. Cllr Edwards confirmed that work is progressing on the Community Garden. He also noted that vehicles are repeatedly driving over the sundial and grassed area around it, he commented that bollards had previously been installed on the estate for this reason. He suggested planting hedging.

Cllr Edwards raised a concern at the amount of meetings that take place that the Council are invited/involved in, particularly during working hours. He suggested staffing levels be reviewed along with staff workloads in order to meet the demands of attending these meetings, as staff are best placed to attend the meetings. The Mayor advised that the Staffing Panel are meeting on 8th March and they shall discuss the staffing structure. Feedback shall be brought back to Full Council in due course.

41/2024. To receive the Mayor's remarks (report)

On February 22nd, I hosted a Bingo Afternoon as part of my Mayor's Charity Appeal to raise funds for the Amesbury Girls Brigade. I extend my gratitude to the residents, local businesses, and community champions who generously contributed and helped raise £522 towards this initiative.

On March 3rd, 2024, my Consort and I attended the Rule of Law service at Salisbury Cathedral.

Regarding the inquiry made about Sandell Place, Stonewater wrote to me on February 2nd with the following response: "We are closely working with the residents at Sandell Place during this time and can confirm the following:

- Six customers have been rehomed permanently either with Stonewater or the council.
- Three customers are currently rehomed in Stonewater properties until work has been completed at Sandell Place and they can return home
- Two customers are rehomed in private accommodation, sourced by Stonewater on a long-term basis
- Four customers are currently in hotel accommodation until we can find a more suitable outcome.

A few residents wrote to me enquiring about the situation of Holders Field which was then referred to Wiltshire Council and Stonehenge School. The response in brief from Wiltshire Council is as follows:

"The speculation may have arisen as a result of the works that are currently underway on the main school site to create an additional playing field and assured that the Council owns Holders Field and has no intention of selling it. The school would also be wholly against such a proposal." I will attach the full response as part of my report.

Email from Wiltshire Council

Dear Resident,

I have been asked to contact you by Cllr Devendran regarding Holders Field. I understand that there is concern in the local community that the Holders Road playing fields are going to be sold by the school. I believe this speculation may have arisen as a result of the works that are currently underway on the main school site to create additional playing field. I can assure you that the Council owns Holders Field and has no intention of selling it. The school would also be wholly against such a proposal.

As with all community schools, the land and buildings are owned by the Council and used by schools. There is no lease in place between the Council and schools. There are also regulations around the amount of playing field and outdoor space that schools must have. Without the Holders Road playing field the school would not meet the minimum size requirements, Stonehenge School therefore needs to have access to the Holders Road playing fields in perpetuity. The works that are currently being undertaken on the main school site will replace the area of field that was lost when the school was expanded. This was a requirement from Sport England and included in the planning conditions. Whilst this will create some much needed play space on the main school site, it will not provide the large full size sports pitches that are available at Holders Road.

All school playing fields are protected by Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act, which exists to ensure that schools continue to have sufficient playing field. The Council would need to apply to the Secretary of State if it wished to dispose of the field, and this application would likely be refused as the school would be left with insufficient field. Such a proposal would also require consultation with the local community. In any case, the Council has absolutely no plans to make such an application.

When Cllr Devendren was elected, she approached me about the lack of security for pupils using the Holders Road field. We both visited the site and spoke with the headteacher to understand the issues they were experiencing with the field e.g. dog mess, inadequate fencing. Therefore the Council subsequently invested over £100k in new fencing to ensure that the school can safely use the field. The field is essential to curriculum delivery, plus the wellbeing and welfare of pupils in the school. Now that the Holders Road field is secure, the school is planning further investment in sports equipment. You may find it useful to read this recent press article - - [Stonehenge school PE now a winning formula with improved facilities \(planetradio.co.uk\)](http://planetradio.co.uk) .

I hope I have allayed your concerns regarding the field, please let me know if I can be of further help.

Kind regards
Clara Davies
Head of School Place Commissioning
Wiltshire Council

42/2024. To receive the Police Report

The Police report was received and noted.

43/2024. To receive reports/updates and proposals from Committees and Working Groups

43.1/2024. Planning (Meeting of 5th March 2024)

PL/2024/01421, Listed building consent (Alt/Ext)

Dismantle a 1960s brick and glass lean-to and replace it with a brick porch.

HAY COTTAGE, SOUTH MILL ROAD, AMESBURY, SALISBURY, SP4 7HR

Resolved: Support

PL/2024/00765, Housholder Application

Creation of off-street parking within the garden boundary by removing some of the breeze block wall and erecting a gate

HAY COTTAGE, SOUTH MILL ROAD, AMESBURY, SALISBURY, SP4 7HR

Resolved: Support but concerns raised over parking provisions going onto the highway

PL/2023/11074, Consent to display an advertisement.

- Replace 1no. projecting signage with new 500mm. Retain existing bracket. - Replace 1no. grey fascia panel with blue & 1no. Lozenge logo with new 290mm logo height. - Replace 2no. ATM surrounds and decals with new. - Replace safety manifestation with new in side elevation.

37 Salisbury Street, Amesbury, Salisbury, SP4 7AW

Resolved: Object. Does not meet criteria – within a conservation area

PL/2023/11158, Full Planning Permission

Installation of a Portakabin Limited Titan Building to be used as a remote site welfare unit for ambulance crews. Involves the marking of 3 Ambulance parking bays with Vehicle shorelines and hatching

South Western Ambulance Service, Holiday Inn, Mid Summer Place, Amesbury, Salisbury, SP4 7SQ

Resolved: Object. Lack of information. Additional details required (waste, illumination)

43.2/2024 To approve the Minutes of the Projects' Committee (19th February 2024)

Proposed: Cllr Hagger

Seconded: Cllr Swindlehurst

Resolved

Cllr A Hagger provided an update on the work taking place with the LGRC on the Wiltshire Town's Program.

43.2.1/2024. To consider the priority of refurbishing Bonnymead Rec at an anticipated cost of 750k (based on affordability, resources, other projects)

As Chair of the Projects' Committee, Cllr Hagger wanted to understand where this was in the Town Council's list of priorities, particularly given the scope and potential costs. Cllr Kuczera confirmed that this is a priority based on the age and serviceability of the equipment. He anticipated that this work would start in the next 3-4 years. It was agreed that this should be taken back to the Projects Committee for review with a full action plan

and costings to be presented to Full Council in order that a public consultation could follow.

Proposed: Cllr Hagger

Seconded: The Mayor

Resolved

43.3/2024. To approve the Minutes of the Amenities' Committee (20th February 2024)

Proposed: Cllr Swindlehurst

Seconded: Cllr Kuczera

Resolved

43.3.1/2024. To approve the payment of £4445.79 to Amesbury Town Football Club for the cost of electricity supplied to ATC lights at Bonnymead Rec over the period 2019-2023.

It was proposed to approve the payment to Amesbury Town Football Club and to look into getting separate meters installed.

Proposed: Cllr Edwards

Resolved: Cllr Swindlehurst

Resolved

43.3.2/2024. To approve the purchase and installation of the Height Barrier at Bonnymead Rec in accordance with the recommendations of the Amenities Committee (Aremco £4000).

It was proposed to accept the quote provided by Aremco

Proposed: Cllr Swindlehurst

Resolved: Cllr Hagger

Resolved

43.4/2024 To approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee (23rd February 2024)

Proposed: The Mayor

Seconded: Cllr Swindlehurst

Resolved

43.4.1/2024 To approve a £200 grant to Age UK

Proposed: The Mayor

Seconded: Cllr Swindlehurst

Resolved

43.4.2/2024 To approve a £216 grant to Carer Support Wiltshire

Proposed: The Mayor

Seconded: Cllr Swindlehurst

Resolved

43.4.3/2024 To approve expenditure of CIL Reserve 19/20 as per the list provided by the Clerk, this is to be spent by 31st March 2024 – failure to spend may result in WC requesting the funds to be returned.

Proposed: The Mayor
Seconded: Cllr Swindlehurst
Resolved

43.4.4/2024 To approve the expenditure of CIL Reserves 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23 for match funding of Wiltshire Town Fund (implementation of recommendations - £30k) and funding the contribution required towards the costs of the Men's Shed Project (an extra £125k-£163k is required on top of the £170k allocated, based on current tender submissions). The total amount in these 3 years of CIL EMR = £187,790. Whilst the costs are known, the architect is still reviewing the tenders and will submit a report for Projects and Full Council to review. Cllr A Lord stressed that this was not approval to spend without Full Council approving each project, just approval to Ear Mark.

Proposed: The Mayor
Seconded: Cllr Hagger
Resolved

43.4.5/2024 To approve the Earmarking of funds from the General Reserves from 31st March 2024 in order that 50 percent of the Precept (£355k) is held in General Reserve as recommended by the Internal Auditor. Up to £100k of remaining General Reserve funds to be placed into EMR 320 for the upgrade of the Bowman Centre audio/soundproofing. Any amount above £100k to be moved to Projects' EMR 358. Cllr A Lord stressed that this was not approval to spend, just to Ear Mark.

Proposed: The Mayor
Seconded: Cllr Hagger
Resolved

43.5/2024 To approve the Minutes of the Events' Committee (23rd February 2024)

Cllr Hagger proposed that the Council draw up a list of annual events that the Council wish to support. The Council will then engage with The Chamber of Trade and other external organisations to find the best people to deliver the events.
The Report was received and noted.

Proposed: The Mayor
Seconded: Cllr Edwards
Resolved

43.6/2024 Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (4th March 2024)

Cllr Mitchell is currently working with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group which met yesterday, and feedback has been sent to Cllr Mitchell. If there any questions or clarifications needed, The Mayor asked Councillors to get in touch with Cllr Mitchell direct.

44/2024. To receive reports/updates from external meetings attended

Cllr Kuczera reported that he attended Salisbury Hospital with The Chamber of Trade where a cheque was presented for £1000 to a unit that deals with blood disease and cancer.

44.01/2024 Solstice Park Meeting with the WC Principal Engineer

Cllr A Lord provided an update on a meeting held with Kate Davey and local stake holders on 29th February, where they had a tour of the area. Kate, the WC Highways Principal Engineer was supportive of the proposal to place double yellow lines throughout Solstice Park, she would begin the process with the LHFIG. The process could take up to 12 months for approval to be granted.

45/2024. To approve Payment of Accounts and Bank Reconciliation

It was proposed to approve the February payments and Bank Reconciliation

Income: £1,528,425

Expenditure: £579,416

Proposed: The Mayor

Seconded: Cllr A Lord

Resolved

46/2024. To receive Councillor comments and actions to take following the Firework Investigation Report

Cllr Kuczera and Cllr Yuill thanked the Clerk for the comprehensive and detailed report. Councillors agreed mistakes had been made and lessons learned. Moving forward, events will be handled differently and the report highlights the need for professional support on Council led events.

A proposal was made for Councillors to approach external organisations to see if they were willing to organise a Firework Event this year, with the Town Council's support. The deadline for this is 30th April.

Proposed: Cllr A Lord

Seconded: Cllr Hagger

Resolved

47/2024. To appoint a representative to the Amesbury Carnival Superfete Committee

Cllr Kuczera put himself forward as a formal representative for the Council.

Proposed: Cllr Kuczera

Seconded: The Mayor

Resolved

48/2024. To consider financial support to the Superfete Committee through GPOC/Grants Budget (current grant expenditure = £8136 from a budget of £12100)

A proposal was put forward for the underspend of £3964 from the GPOC/Grants fund to allocate to the Superfete Committee for the event planned for 6th/7th July 2024 upon the receipt of a formal grant application by 31st March.

Proposed: Cllr Lord

Seconded: The Mayor

Resolved

49/2024. To provide comments for the LHFIFG form to submit to Wiltshire Council for a replacement bus shelter on London Road (following its removal post damage in early 2024)

The LHFIFG request was approved by the Council with a comment questioning the location and shelter suitability due to it being hit by a vehicle twice over the past two years.

Proposed: The Mayor

Seconded: Cllr Kuczera

Resolved

50/2024. To propose to set up a Sports Team Working Group of Councillors and representatives from the various teams using ATC facilities

Cllr Knight and Cllr J Lord put themselves forward for the Sports Team Working Group. Councillors would meet with the various representatives from the sports teams to discuss use of the sports pitches and maintenance requirements.

Proposed: Cllr Edwards

Seconded: The Mayor

Resolved

51/2024. To consider moving Full Town Council meetings to Antrobus House on a temporary basis (April-December), whilst the Town Council review and implement improved audio equipment/soundproofing in the Bowman Centre. The cost will be £17 per hour

Following a debate for and against the idea, Cllr Kuczera proposed that the move is deferred and a plan is put in place for improvements to be made to the Main Hall, considering the ear marked funds that will now become available. The plan will then be presented to Full Council.

Proposal: Cllr Kuczera

Seconded: Cllr Edwards

Resolved

52/2024. To propose the Town Meeting is held on 13th May 2024, with the usual format of speakers with the addition of local organisations advertising their cause/charity

Proposed: The Mayor

Seconded: Cllr Edwards

Resolved

53/2024. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7.15pm