

Amesbury Town Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Full Council
Tuesday 6th February 2024
At 7.15pm in the Bowman Centre

Present: Cllr Dr M Devendran (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 I Mitchell, Cllr A Buchanan MBE, Cllr J Lord

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

Visiting Public: 13 (5 online)

Public Questions

Concerns were raised over the vehicle speed on Porton Road. A resident asked if the speed could be lowered to 30 mph due to accidents on the road. The Mayor confirmed this has already been escalated to LHFIG and she is speaking with the Traffic Engineering Team. This will also be discussed at the LHFIG meeting on 7th Feb and hopefully a solution can be agreed.

A question was raised about Boscombe Down playing fields, as it is registered as a Community Asset. Cllr Yuill confirmed he had received an email from the MOD/DIO last month stating that they are starting the disposal process in Spring this year. MOD/DIO have acknowledged the Town Council's interest. Hopefully the Town Council will have an opportunity to participate in the disposal process. Cllr Yuill confirmed that he has made Wiltshire Council aware, and has found out they have been working behind the scenes on our behalf at Director level with senior MOD representatives at Boscombe and DIO.

A resident requested an update on the progress of the Storage Facility/Men's Shed. The Mayor confirmed that the tender closes on the 12th February, then there shall be a further update once this is completed.

A question was raised in relation to the training of marshals for events held in Amesbury. The Mayor confirmed that the Events Committee shall be looking into marshal training and then an update will be given at the next meeting.

17/2024. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr E Taylor, Cllr Jaconiah and Cllr T Edwards.

18/2024. To approve the minutes of the last meeting dated 16th January 2024.

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

Proposed: The Mayor

Seconded: Cllr R Crook

Resolved

19/2024. To receive Declarations of Interest from Members

No Declarations of Interest received.

20/2024. To receive the Clerk's update (to deal with business from the last meeting)

The clerk confirmed work has been completed on the Pavilion to replace the rotten timber and to install new cladding.

A new flag has been purchased for the Bowman Centre along with a retaining hook to determine if this will resolve the flag getting wrapped around the pole.

The maintenance team have recovered around 2 tonnes of wooden fence line that has fallen down along Stockport Avenue.

The office team are getting quotes for a Height Barrier at Bonnymead Rec to start the security improvements, they are also liaising with companies about fencing for Harvard Park.

The Firework Investigation report is being finalised and this will hopefully be circulated later this week or earlier next week.

21/2024. Councillors' Questions and Statements

RY. Cllr Yuill reported that Bloor Homes have not updated him about the adoption of the ByWay. He will chase this.

AH. Cllr Hagger requested that a review of the Terms of Reference for all Committees is conducted following confusion at the last meeting. He suggested that Cllr A Lord and Cllr J Lord could be involved.

Cllr Kuczera asked for clarification on the request, as Terms of Reference already exist for Committees. The Town Clerk and Cllr Kuczera shall liaise to determine what is already in place and what TOR are outstanding.

SH. Cllr Hedge congratulated The Clerk and Office staff for the Agenda pack in the new format.

AL. Cllr A Lord confirmed he would be happy to work on a review of The Term of Reference for Committees. The Mayor clarified that the Policy Group would meet to review.

Cllr J Lord joined the meeting.

22/2024. To receive the Mayor's remarks (report)

I was invited to meet the residents at Lanfear Close on January 19th. We had insightful discussions about various local issues, some of which were passed on to the authorities at Wiltshire Council and resolved effectively.

My sincere appreciation goes out to the remarkable residents, local businesses, generous donors, and community champions who joined hands to support the Mayor's Charity Appeal for the Amesbury Town Band during the Bingo Afternoon held on January 25th at Christ the King Church Hall in Amesbury.

As we know, the Amesbury Town Band brings the community together through the power of music. The event raised a sum of £447.

It was a delight to meet the Amesbury Girls Brigade on January 23rd, 2024, and engage in a meaningful discussion with them. I handed over a cheque of £200 on behalf of the Town Council. It was inspiring to witness their dedication and commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others.

A couple of councillors inquired about the status of the residents at Sandell Place. I wrote to Stonewater asking if residents were rehomed to permanent accommodation. I received a response from the customer feedback team that they aim to respond by February 15th. If it takes longer, they will let me know.

I attended the Patient Participation Group at St. Melor surgery today (February 6th, 2024), where the surgery was keen to take feedback to improve the services. They are

eager to have more members joining the PPG group; therefore, those residents who are registered with St. Melor surgery can be contacted if you wish to be part of the PPG.

Thanks to the Town Clerk and the staff for their help and support.

23/2024. To receive the Police Report

The Police report was received and noted.

24/2024. To receive reports/updates and proposals from Committees and Working Groups

24.1/2024 Planning (Meeting of 6th February 2024)

PL/2023/11142 Full Planning Permission, Installation of external wall insulation
1-2, 4-17 AND 19 ALLINGTON WAY, AMESBURY, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE, SP4 7JS AND
1-20 BAWDSEY ROAD, AMESBURY, SALISBURY, WITSHIRE, SP4 7LW

Resolved: Support

25/2024. To receive reports/updates from external meetings attended

Cllr Kuczera provided an update in relation to The Stonehenge Chamber of Trade. £1000 raised for Wiltshire Air Ambulance, £1000 for The Stars Appeal and £750 for The Food Bank and Amesbury Pantry at the Baptist Church.

26/2024. To approve Payment of Accounts and Bank Reconciliation

An updated copy of Income and Expenditure against Budget was provided to the Council as on 31st January.

It was proposed to approve the January Payments and Bank Reconciliation.

Income: £1,570,488

Expenditure: £525,435

Proposed: The Mayor

Seconded: Cllr I Mitchell

Resolved

27/2024. To review the Interim Audit Report and comments made

Cllr J Lord questioned if the recommendations for two signatories for payroll are to be carried out, The Town Clerk confirmed that it was an omission on the forms she had provided and this has now been rectified.

Cllr Kuczera congratulated The Town Clerk for the Interim Audit work given the short space of time since she had joined the Town Council.

28/2024. To consider the website proposals and agree on a provider

It was proposed to accept the quote provided by Aubergine.

Proposed: Cllr D Kuczera

Seconded: The Mayor

Resolved

29/2024. To approve expenditure for cemetery and allotment software

It was proposed to approve the quote from Rialtus in line with the document provided.

Proposed: Cllr Kuczera

Seconded: The Mayor

Resolved

30/2024. To provide comments for the LHFIG form to submit to Wiltshire Council about issues at Solstice Park

Cllr Lord confirmed that a further meeting has been arranged for 29th February with the Solstice Park Development Manager and Wiltshire Council's Principal Highways Engineer. It was proposed to support the LHFIG application.

Proposed: Cllr A Lord

Seconded: Cllr Kuczera

Resolved

31/2024. To consider the quote for Heritage inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan

It was proposed to accept the quote provided by Troy Planning to include Heritage inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Proposed: Cllr Mitchell

Seconded: The Mayor

Resolved

32/2024. To review the Amesbury Area Analysis and approve the Local Green Space Methodology as part of Neighbourhood Planning

Cllr Mitchell reported on the analysis and Local Green Space Methodology. Feedback was requested from Councillors for aspects of particular interests to them in the Amesbury Area Analysis.

Cllr Mitchell referred to 6.11 onwards in the Local Green Space Methodology, this is a key part of designing the layout of Amesbury and land use.

Cllr Yuill commented on the charging points in Amesbury within the analysis, this information is incorrect as there is significantly more in relation to what is listed. He confirmed that this needs to be revised.

Following a query from Cllr Yuill about the timing of our Neighbourhood Plan and Wiltshire Council's Draft Local Plan, Cllr Mitchell confirmed that it is a key thing that the Neighbourhood Plan fits within the Local Plan regarding timings.

Cllrs S Hedge and L Knight both highlighted the importance of Tourism and requiring expert help and guidance for Amesbury to be able to 'cash in' on this. There was a discussion about the Stonehenge Tour Bus not stopping in Amesbury as its on a direct

route from Salisbury to Stonehenge. Cllr R Yuill suggested it would take a change in the Salisbury Reds model of operating.

Cllr A Lord commented that the inclusions within sector 8 were very important covering the Town Centre and facilities. He raised a question as to which items are the responsibility of the Town Council and secondly to ensure we accept our responsibilities and allocate the appropriate resources to take forward.

33/2024. To approve the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Proposed: Cllr Crook
Seconded: Cllr Hagger

Resolved

34/2024. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7.15pm

Meeting closed 8pm.