

AMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held at The Bowman Centre
on 1st August 2023 at 7.15pm

PRESENT: Cllr Dr M Devendran (Mayor), Cllr T Edwards (D Mayor), Cllr R Yuill, Cllr R Crook, Cllr S Hedge, Cllr J Jaconiah, Cllr E Taylor, Cllr M Verbinnen, Cllr I Mitchell, Cllr A Hagger, Cllr M Strange, Cllr D Kuczera, Cllr J Swindlehurst, Cllr A Buchanan, Cllr L Knight

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs W Bown (Town Clerk) Mrs K Passmore (Admin/Comms Officer)

VISITING PUBLIC: 13

POLICE: 0

		ACTION
	<p>Public Questions Concerns were raised over the Solstice Park planning application PL/2023/04997 based on the experience of difficult conditions during the previous development of the park.</p> <p>Amesbury Town Council was congratulated on the success of the Mayor's celebration.</p> <p>Thanks were given to the police for helping with traffic management at the recent school prom at Antrobus House.</p>	
1.	<p>To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr A Lord (holiday) Resolved: to agree the reasons for absence</p>	
2.	<p>To approve the minutes of the last Meeting dated 4th July 2023 The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p>To receive declarations of interest from members Cllr Swindlehurst declared an interest in Item 12 (planning application 05294). Cllr Strange declared an interest in item 12 (planning application 04997). Cllr Verbinnen declared an interest in item 13. Cllr Crook would declare an interest as necessary.</p>	
4.	<p>Mayor's Remarks The Mayor reported on the opening of Bettycom shop on 15th July; The Mayor's Celebration and Amesbury Town Council's summer event. She confirmed that the men's shed planning application has now been approved and the architect will be putting together drawings to send to Building Control. She confirmed the August Mayor's surgeries, to take place on 4th August, 11am-12pm and 18th August, 1pm-2pm at The Bowman Centre. The Mayor's full report features on the Town Council website and as an attachment to these minutes. www.amesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/mayor-s-blog</p>	
5.	<p>Clerk's Update (to deal with any business from the last meeting) The Clerk reported on Byway 20, an application for a substrative bid has been submitted via LHFIG.</p>	

		ACTION
	<p>An offer has been received to link the town's CCTV with Salisbury. The Clerk is to respond negatively. Councillors agreed.</p> <p>A warm welcome was given to the new town caretaker, Andy Gott, who is settling in very well.</p>	Clerk
6.	<p>Councillors' Questions and Statements</p>	
6.1.	<p>Cllr Mitchell confirmed that new neighbourhood watch signs have appeared around Amesbury.</p> <p>He confirmed the Wiltshire Design Guide consultation has been extended a further 2 weeks.</p>	
6.2.	<p>Cllr Michell referred to the Neighbourhood Plan and confirmed they are looking for 9 councillors/residents/businesses to join the steering group.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor thanked the maintenance team who regularly cut the paths and grass at the Country Park, which is looking more colourful and the wildlife are benefitting.</p>	
6.3.	<p>Cllr Taylor made a request to the Events Committee not to use The Country Park for future events.</p>	
6.4.	<p>Cllr Kuczera reported that the Amesbury Super Fete at Boscombe Down Sports Field is looking to be a fantastic event. Over 60 attractions are booked and at 8pm on 27 August the Red Devils will be jumping in with flares and lights.</p>	
6.5.	<p>Cllr Yuill advised that he has received a letter from the MOD confirming that Boscombe Down playing fields are surplus to MOD requirements. Cllr Yuill will contact the Senior Estates Surveyor and confirm that the Town Council is interested in the sports ground.</p>	RY
6.6.	<p>Cllr Verbinnen confirmed that he is still in daily contact with the residents of Sandell Place as a lot are still living in temporary accommodation he has had a 1-1 meeting with the housing association provider and it was a very tense conversation and he is still very much fighting their corner.</p>	
6.7.	<p>Cllr Hagger asked if there is anything the Town Council can do to support Neighbourhood Watch.</p>	
6.8.	<p>Cllr Jaconiah confirmed that it was resolved at the last events committee meeting that the Country Park has not be used for events this year.</p>	
6.9.	<p>Cllr Hedge thanked all involved in The Summer event, it was a great success.</p>	
6.10.	<p>Cllr Knight reported that she went out with residents of Evergreen Court on a mobility scooter to see how accessible Amesbury is, travelling along byway 20 into the town centre. She asked if a disability audit could be considered by The Health & Wellbeing Committee.</p>	Clerk
7.	<p>To receive the police report</p> <p>The police report was received and noted.</p>	
8.	<p>Payments on accounts (June and July 2023)</p> <p>June 2023</p> <p>Yr to date Income: £347,302</p> <p>Yr to date Expenditure: £ 134,691</p> <p>July 2023</p> <p>Yr to date Income: £362,241</p> <p>Yr to date Expenditure: £177,881</p>	
9.	<p>To Receive a Quarterly Finance Report</p> <p>Report received and noted.</p>	

		ACTION
10.	<p>To receive a report from the Amenities Committee The Amenities Committee Chair reported that Bloor Homes have confirmed their priority for transferring Byway 20, Cllr Yuill is hopeful that regular meetings will be set up. The Japanese knotweed at Stockport Avenue allotments has received its first treatment. The generator has been purchased. The Events Committee has discussed the remembrance parade and possible venues for fireworks. Cllr Yuill confirmed that planning permission has been granted for the Men's Shed.</p>	
11.	<p>To receive a report from the Finance Committee and to consider recommendations The Finance Committee Chair reported that one more attempt is to be made to retrieve the outstanding debt from Wiltshire Council. Councillors agreed to the recommendation to charge Amesbury Green Fingers £1 per year for the community allotment plot. It was agreed not to set up a procurement and grants sub committee. Proposal: to agree the procurement criteria as presented. Proposed: Cllr Mitchell Seconded: The Mayor Resolved: to adopt the procurement criteria as presented</p>	Clerk
12.	<p>Planning: To consider the following applications: PL/2023/04941 Householder Planning Permission Erection of garage and study in place of existing surface parking area (Resubmission of P/2022/08838) 38 PRINCESS WAY Proposed: Cllr Yuill Seconded: Cllr Hedge Resolved: To not support the application</p> <p>PL/2023/05089 Householder Planning Permission Proposed single storey garage extension/minor alterations to existing single storey bungalow. LITTLE PINES, CHURCH LANE Proposed: Cllr Yuill Seconded: Cllr Crook Resolved: To support the application</p> <p>PL/2023/05172 Householder Planning Application New driveway with vehicular dropped kerb to existing bungalow. 53 LONDON ROAD, AMESBURY Proposed: Cllr Yuill Seconded: Cllr Crook Resolved: To support the application</p> <p>PL/2023/05294 Householder Planning Permission Proposed rear extension, dormer windows and conversion of existing</p>	

		ACTION
	<p>garage. 50 CHURCH STREET, AMESBURY. Proposed: Cllr Yuill Seconded: Cllr Mitchell Resolved: To not support the application. 6 Councillors abstained. Cllr Kuczera, Cllr Verbinnen, Cllr Hagger, Cllr Knight, Cllr Swindlehurst and the Mayor</p> <p>PL/2023/04997 Full Planning Permission Full planning application for 4 units comprising Use Class E(iii), B2 and B8 uses, alongside associated access, parking, and landscaping and services. LAND TO THE SOUTH OF SUNRISE WAY,SOLSTICE PARK Proposed: Cllr Yuill Seconded: Cllr Crook Resolved: To support the application. Cllr Strange noted her objection. 5 Councillors abstained</p> <p>PL/2023/05729 Full Planning Permission Erection of additional plant compound and associated boundary treatment works to east of existing store. ALDI, SALISBURY STRET Proposed: Cllr Yuill Seconded: Cllr Crook Resolved: To support the application</p> <p>Statutory Consultation: Draft Wiltshire Design Consultation has now been extended. A Planning Committee meeting will be held week commencing 7th August 2023.</p> <p>Cllr Verbinnen left the meeting</p>	
13.	<p>To consider a request from Amesbury History Centre CIO to amend the lease agreement to enable the sale or consumption of alcohol. Amesbury History Centre CIO Trustee and treasurer confirmed that alcohol would be on sale in the gift shop or consumed on the premises during lectures/talks. The History Centre needs to raise funds to cover its running costs and this would be a good source of revenue. Proposed: Cllr Mitchell Seconded: Cllr Kuczera Resolved: to support the request. Cllr Jaconiah abstained.</p> <p>Cllr Verbinnen re-joined the meeting.</p>	Clerk
14.	<p>To consider an application to LFIG reference Christ the King School, Parsonage Road Proposed: The Mayor Seconded: Cllr Kuczera Resolved: Support application</p>	
15.	<p>Marshal training: to consider the option of training councillor volunteers Proposed: Cllr Kuczera Seconded: Cllr Hedge Resolved: to extend the provision of traffic marshal training to members of the public as well as councillors. Funds to be used from the events budget.</p>	Clerk

		ACTION
16.	<p>To discuss current issues at Bonnymead (camping/parking) After some discussion, it was agreed to monitor the situation with overnight parking by holiday makers.</p>	
17.	<p>To receive a report from the Policy Group on decisions made in July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of generator • Hire of marshals for the summer fair <p>The report was received and noted.</p>	
18.	<p>To discuss the possible addition of names to the war memorial as recommended by the Amenities Committee in June 2023, Estimated cost £2,630.00 Proposed: Cllr Edwards Seconded: The Mayor Resolved: Move forward with the project and to consider funding options with RBL.</p>	Clerk
19.	<p>To receive a report on funding opportunities for tree planting at Stockport Avenue Proposed: Cllr Edwards Seconded: The Mayor Resolved: To accept the proposal from Wiltshire Council's Tree Officers to access funding for the tree planting project.</p>	Clerk
20.	<p>To agree to apply for a partial car park closure for the Tree of Light event on 3rd December 2023 (£30/bay). Proposed: The Mayor Seconded: Cllr Hedge Resolved: to support the request and to apply for the closure.</p>	Clerk
	<p>The Mayor commented on a meeting that she attended with the integrated care board on 28h July. A pharmaceutical needs assessment was conducted in October 2022 which concluded that Amesbury did not meet the need for an additional pharmacy. The Mayor has requested a re-assessment. The Mayor encouraged residents to contact her via her Wiltshire Council email address monica.devendran@wiltshirecouncil.gov.uk regarding the need for an additional pharmacy in Amesbury.</p>	
21.	<p>To resolve to exclude the public and press for the following items due to the confidential nature of discussing staffing and legal matters All public left the meeting.</p> <p>The Town Clerk and Admin Officer left the meeting.</p>	
22.	<p>To receive a recommendation from the Staffing Panel to close the office to the public at 4pm due to a flexible working agreement. Proposed: The Mayor Seconded: Cllr Verbinnen</p>	

		ACTION
	<p>Resolved: The Town Council office will close to the public at 4pm, Monday to Friday.</p> <p>The Clerk and Admin Officer returned to the meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
23.	<p>To agree a deed of easement over land at Kings Gate Proposed: Cllr Kuczera Seconded: The Mayor Resolved: To agree to the deed of easement over land at Kings Gate.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
24.	<p>Date of next meeting: 7.15pm on Tuesday 5th September 2023 at the Bowman Centre</p>	

Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that she opened a shop called Betty Com Market in the Town Centre on the 15th July.

The Mayor reported that the Mayor's Celebration service took place on 15th July at the St Mary and St Melor Church with about 165 Guests at the service/reception.

She thanked Amesbury Town Councillors – Cllr Crook, Cllr Swindlehurst, Cllr Strange, Cllr Mitchell, Cllr Hedge, Cllr Hagger, Cllr Knight, Past Mayors and Wendy Bown the Town Clerk. Mayors with their consorts from other Wiltshire towns and cities were present at this special occasion. The Mayor rendered a special thanks to Father Darren - Vicar of St Mary and St Melor Parish Church, the Trustees, and Catherine - Business Manager of Antrobus House, The George Hotel, Amesbury Town Band, and all those who helped to make this event a grand success.

She finally thanked her family for their outstanding support and generous gifts.

The Mayor's chosen charity on this occasion was The Friends of the Church.

The Mayor reported that the Amesbury Town Council's Summer Event was a grand success which was held on the 23rd July 2023. She thanked each and every one who worked extremely hard to make the day a grand success. A special thanks to Cllr Richard Crook for lending his trailer and accompanying us for site visits prior to the event, Cllr Eric Taylor who was the DJ for the event, Councillors who were present on site and helped were - Cllr Alan Hagger, Cllr Steve Hedge, Cllr John Swindlehurst, Cllr Laura Knight, Cllr Tim Edwards, Cllr Andrew Lord. Thanks to the Bookings and Events Officer Jennifer Taylor for working hard in the background and for the efforts on the day. The Mayor informed that the Mayor's Surgery will take place on the 4th from 11 AM to 12 PM and 18th of August from 1 PM to 2 PM.

The Mayor said that she was delighted to know that the planning application for the Men's Shed has been approved.

