

AMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held at The Bowman Centre
on 6th June 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

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

VISITING PUBLIC: 13

POLICE: 1

		ACTION
	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>A resident raised a question about the signposting of agendas and minutes on the Town Council's Facebook page to increase the footfall to the Council website. The Mayor responded that this would be discussed at item 23.</p> <p>A statement was read out in relation to the ongoing parking issues at Archers Gate and Kings Gate. Cllr Yuill advised that he was waiting for a response to his query from Wiltshire Highways. He confirmed that it is illegal to drive over the pavement. The Mayor confirmed that the police may wish to comment on this at Item 9.</p> <p>Councillors were asked if the public microphone could be put to the side of the room. It was confirmed that this would be possible at future meetings.</p>	
1.	<p>To receive apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr A Buchannan (working), Cllr I Mitchell (working in London) and Cllr J Swindlehurst (personal reasons) Resolved: to agree the reasons for absence</p>	
2.	<p>To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting dated 2nd May 2023 The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p>To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting dated 18th April 2023 The minutes were approved and signed as a true record</p>	
4.	<p>To approve the minutes of the Town Meeting dated 17th May 2023, residents' concerns to be considered at subsequent meetings It was noted that the road name Kilford Close had been missed from Cllr Yuill's report. Once amended the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.</p>	
5.	<p>To receive declarations of interest from members Cllr R Crook declared an interest in Item 11.</p>	

		ACTION
6.	<p>Mayor's Remarks</p> <p>The Mayor reported on her attendance at the Mayor Making Ceremony in Salisbury, the farewell to 'the Hauntings' at Antrobus House, a food festival to raise money for Southampton Hospital and an open evening of the Amesbury Girls Brigade.</p> <p>She spoke about the Mayor's surgeries. giving residents the opportunity to discuss any issues or concerns. The next surgery will take place on 23rd June, 11am-12pm at The Bowman Centre.</p> <p>Special thanks were given to five pupils from The Stonehenge School , Cllr Taylor, Police and Fire Brigade for combating a recent fire at The Country Park. The Mayor will be attending The Stonehenge School with certificates of praise for the pupils involved.</p> <p>The Mayor sent her prayers and thoughts to Cllr Swindlehurst and family for their family bereavement last week.</p>	
7.	<p>Clerk's Update (to deal with any business from the last meeting)</p> <p>The Clerk reported on Ginkgo's progress at the Community Garden. The tender process has been given a new deadline.</p> <p>The Clerk requested time out of the working day to prepare and deliver training sessions for Councillors and for the Operations Manager to attend the training sessions for a greater understanding of procedures and processes. Councillors agreed to the request.</p> <p>The Clerk reported on fly tipping at Carpenter Drive. This will be discussed at the next amenities committee meeting.</p>	Clerk
8.	<p>Councillors' Questions and Statements</p> <p>8.1. Cllr Kuczera reported that he attended a meeting with Wiltshire Highways to review the condition of town centre bollards, signs and drop kerbs. Cllr Kuczera reported on his attendance at the recent pub watch meeting and expressed an interest in being put forward for future meetings as the Town Council's representative.</p> <p>8.2. Cllr Yuill discussed reports from residents from Imber Avenue about the one-way traffic. He has requested a meeting with Wiltshire Highways to address the issues.</p> <p>8.3. Cllr Yuill reported on the latest situation with Byway 20. The question was raised whether the Town Council would be prepared to apply for a substantive bid through LHFIG which could be approximately £20,000 per section.</p> <p>8.4. Cllr Hagger queried the possibility of running an awareness campaign in relation to parking issues at Kings Gate and Archers Gate.</p> <p>8.5. Cllr Verbinnen passed on his deepest condolences to Cllr John Swindlehurst and his wife.</p> <p>8.6. Cllr Hedge was pleased to hear the Mayor praising children from The Stonehenge School and supported the letter, adding that it was great hearing positive words about young people.</p> <p>8.7. Cllr Hedge reported on complaints received about parking at Fairfax Close despite the existence of double yellow lines.</p> <p>8.8. Cllr Taylor asked when the double yellow lines would be painted on Archers Way. Cllr Yuill advised that he is still waiting for a response from Wiltshire Highways.</p> <p>8.9. Cllr Taylor discussed the possibility of getting clarification on the ownership of grass areas to determine Wiltshire Council's cutting schedule.</p> <p>Cllr Devendran confirmed that she would speak with Wiltshire Council and ask</p>	Clerk

8.10.	for confirmation. Cllr Verbinnen confirmed as a Wiltshire Councillor that Wiltshire Council's Policy is to let grass grow unless it is unsafe due to visibility. Cllr Devendran confirmed that parts are on order for the repair of the underpass on Countess Road, which will prevent further flooding issues. A meeting is due to be arranged to discuss.	ACTION Mayor
9.	To receive the Police Report Inspector Ricky Lee sympathised with residents' parking issues, but explained the need to prioritise dangerous incidents where there are elements of risk and harm to the public. Cllr Yuill offered the idea of councillors helping by arranging a leaflet campaign to give advice on parking. The Inspector confirmed that the police are happy to work alongside Amesbury Town Council with such a campaign.	Clerk
10.	To receive a presentation on Amesbury Live (Colin Holton) The item was deferred to a later meeting.	
11.	Planning Matters Following recommendations by the planning committee it was resolved to support the following applications: PL/2023/03704 , Householder Planning Permission, Two storey & single storey rear extension,44 SALISBURY ROAD, AMESBURY, SALISBURY, SP4 7HL PL/2023/03035 , Householder Planning Permission, Loft conversion including addition of blind dormer in the valley and two dormer windows with windows in the gables to front and rear, 10 STONEHENGE ROAD, AMESBURY, SALISBURY, SP4 7BA PL/2023/03503 , Full Planning Permission, Proposed works to the Hampshire Avon involving the restoration/habitat improvements to a 3km length of the Hampshire Avon, RIVER AVON, SOUTH OF COUNTESS ROUNDABOUT TO POINT NORTH OF TOTTERDOWN CLUMP ADJACENT WOODHENGE AND TO INCLUDE ACCESS WORKS AT RATFYN AND FROM BULFORD.	
12.	Payment of accounts: to note the list of accounts for payment April 2023 and May 2023 April 2023 Income: £328,070 Expenditure: £24,266 May 2023 Income: £334,109 Expenditure: £86,119	
13.	To receive the results of the internal audit and to comment on recommendations from the auditor Councillors noted that there were no recommendations from the auditor.	

		ACTION
14.	<p>To approve the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accounting Statement for the year ended 31st March 2023 Proposed: Cllr Hagger Seconded: Cllr Crook Resolved: To approve the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Accounting Statement for the year ended 31st March 2023.</p>	
15.	<p>To note changes to the Committee memberships Proposed: The Mayor Seconded: Cllr Hedge Resolved: To approve the membership changes as presented. Cllr Kuczera was added as the representative at LHFIG.</p>	
16.	<p>To agree to the following sub-committees: Tourism/ Country Park/ Neighbourhood Plannings / Grounds Maintenance Contract and to agree the committee membership for 2023/24 Proposed: the Mayor Resolved: To approve the membership as presented, with the addition of Cllr Kuczera to the Tourism sub-committee.</p>	
17.	<p>Neighbourhood Planning: next steps A meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee is to be arranged.</p>	
18.	<p>To agree payment of £5,000 to the Hoppa Bus under the General Power of Competence Proposed: Cllr Verbinnen Seconded: Cllr Crook Resolved: to approve payment of £5,000 to the Hoppa Bus and to invite members of the Hoppa Bus Committee to give a presentation at a future council meeting</p>	Clerk
19.	<p>To receive a report from the Finance Committee and to agree dedicated funding under the general reserve: IT support and website provision CCTV Town Entrance Gates Microphones/sound system/streaming equipment for meetings The finance committee resolved that 6 months' Precept should be retained as the level of general reserve with the remainder used for the stated projects. The finance committee minutes were noted. Cllr Devendran confirmed that she had spoken with Wiltshire Council about their outstanding debt and will hopefully have an update for the next finance committee. Proposed: Cllr Devendran Seconded: Cllr Hedge Resolved: to agree the dedicated funding for the stated projects as per the finance committee's recommendations.</p>	Clerk
20.	<p>To receive a report from external committees: World Heritage Site Report received and noted</p>	

		ACTION
21.	<p>To agree to the hire of robes for the Mayor’s official engagements where appropriate to be worn, funded through the Mayor’s allocated budget Proposed: Cllr Kuczera Seconded: Cllr Verbinnen Resolved: that research is to be carried out on the wearing of robes with a report for the next meeting. No robes are to be hired through the Mayor’s allocated budget in the interim.</p>	Clerk
22.	<p>To agree to change the protocol to hold a Mayor’s Celebration Reception shortly following the Annual Meeting with a parade to church Letters of support and opposition have been received, including a letter from the Stonehenge Chamber of Trade. Councillors discussed the timing of the event. Advice was given from a member of the Amesbury Carnival Committee regarding the cost of organising and manning the road closure with qualified marshals. Proposed: Cllr Verbinnen Seconded: Cllr Kuczera Resolved: that the parade should go ahead with no road closure and an alternative route is to be taken.</p>	
23.	<p>To agree for Draft Minutes to be published following agreement with the Mayor/appropriate committee chair Proposed: Cllr Verbinnen Seconded: Cllr Hagger Resolved: to publish draft minutes with links on the Town Council’s Facebook page directing residents to minutes and agendas.</p>	A&C
24.	<p>To agree to a change to the Constitution : Policy Group Terms of Reference Terms of Reference are now to include the creation and review of Town Council Policies for ratification by Full Council. Proposed: the Mayor Seconded: Cllr Hagger Resolved: agree the change to the Constitution</p>	Clerk
25.	<p>To agree to submit the following to LHFIG as high priorities: Speed limits on Countess Road and Stonehenge Road Councillors were informed of a trial at Netheravon to review how Wiltshire Council sets speed limits. Proposed: Cllr Verbinnen Seconded: Cllr Hedge Resolved: to wait until the trial is completed in Netheravon before submitting a traffic survey request.</p>	
26.	<p>Land transfer – Kings Gate: to agree the transfer of park areas 2-5 from Bloor Homes and the transfer of land from Persimmon It was reported that pre-transfer conditions had been satisfactorily met.</p>	

		ACTION
	<p>Proposed: Cllr Verbinnen Seconded: Cllr Strange Resolved: to agree the land transfers</p>	Clerk
27.	<p>To receive a report from the Policy Group on its decision to agree to an external grant application from the rugby club for pitch maintenance The report was received and noted.</p>	
28.	<p>To receive an update on North 85 and to agree to move the pitch inside the park gate at Bonnymead Proposed: Cllr Kuczera Seconded: Cllr Yuill Resolved: to agree to move the pitch to inside the park gate at Bonnymead.</p>	Clerk
29.	<p>To receive a pre-planning consultation for a proposed base station installation upgrade at Boscombe Business Park, Mills Lane Proposed: Cllr Devendran Seconded: Cllr Verbinnen Resolved: to respond with no comment.</p>	Clerk
30.	<p>Youth: to agree to the Town Council's ongoing commitment to youth and to consider the request to appoint two councillors to take an active role in the Amesbury Youth Service Cllr Kuczera volunteered to take an active role and to establish further details of the project. A report is to be presented at a future meeting. The Town Clerk to look into the position of the Town Council being a member of a charity.</p>	DK Clerk
31.	<p>To receive a recommendation for pest control at the allotments Proposed: Cllr Verbinnen Seconded: Cllr Edwards Resolved: that the recommendations from Wiltshire Council's Pest Control Office is to be managed by the Officers.</p>	Clerk
32.	<p>Date of next meeting: 7.15pm on Tuesday 4th July at The Bowman Centre</p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.40pm</p>	