

AMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held at The Bowman Centre
on 4th July 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, Cllr A Lord

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

VISITING PUBLIC: 8

POLICE: 1

	Public Questions	ACTION
	<p>A resident raised a question about the opening of the road at Archers Way. Cllr Yuill responded that the road is currently in a maintenance condition and would be open once it is safe to do so.</p> <p>Councillors were asked when the finance committee would be looking at the matrix for the choice of solicitor. The Mayor responded that this shall be resolved soon. The next finance committee will be held at the end of July.</p> <p>Concerns were raised over the redacting of information from The Stonehenge Chamber of Trade’s letter in relation to the closure of the A345 for the Mayor’s parade. Cllr Verbinnen confirmed that he would speak with resident after meeting as the Chair of the Stonehenge Chamber of Trade. Cllr Hagger asked that the result of the conversation be made known to the council.</p> <p>Questions were raised around the planning of the Remembrance parade. The Mayor confirmed this is due to be discussed at the next Events Committee meeting.</p> <p>The Carnival Committee confirmed that there are plans to hold a super fete at MOD Boscombe Down playing fields. The event is likely to be held on Sunday 27th August.</p>	
1.	<p>To receive apologies for absence None. All Councillors were present</p>	
2.	<p>To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting dated 6th June 2023 The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p>To receive declarations of interest from members Cllr A Buchanan declared an interest in Item 20. Cllr D Kuczera declared an interest in item 20. Cllr M Verbinnen declared an interest in item 18.</p>	

	Mayor's Remarks	ACTION
4.	<p>The Mayor reported on her attendance at the Stonehenge School to thank a group of students who stopped a fire; the re-opening of Alabare Charity shop; the re-opening of The George Hotel; the re-opening of One-Stop shop; a charity night at Amesbury Methodist Church to raise money for the church and Christian Aid; a coffee morning at Evergreen Court.</p> <p>The Mayor was devastated to hear the Fire Incident and met with the residents that night at the Bowman Centre and Sandell Place. She met with the authorities and housing association the following day to discuss the future management plan. She sent her thoughts and prayers to all affected by the Sandell Place fire and sent thanks to all Councillors, Town Council staff and community volunteers that helped during the incident.</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 7th July, 1pm-2pm at The Bowman Centre. The Mayor's full report features on the Town Council website. www.amesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/mayor-s-blog</p>	
5.	<p>Clerk's Update (to deal with any business from the last meeting)</p> <p>The Clerk reported on the transfer of the land at Kingsgate playparks 2-5. Funding has been confirmed and this will be discussed at the next finance committee.</p> <p>2 Flower Court is up at auction on 6th July. The Town Council's lease runs to December 2024.</p> <p>Results of traffic survey for Earl's Court Road were discussed.</p> <p>The Clerk reported on information received about a memorial for HM Queen Elizabeth II. Councillors would need to discuss whether this is something they would like to do.</p>	Clerk
6.	<p>Councillors' Questions and Statements</p>	
6.1.	<p>Cllr Hagger would like to see some more policies, criterias and processes introduced. He would like to see the finance committee have a task and finish sub-group that looks at a clear procurement and purchasing process that will be applied to Town Council expenditure and the process around the declaration of interests.</p>	
6.2.	<p>Cllr Taylor thanked the maintenance team who are regularly cutting the country park and making the paths wider.</p>	Clerk
6.3.	<p>Cllr Kuczera commented on the letter from the Chamber of Trade in relation to a resident's questions earlier. He confirmed that names were not redacted.</p>	
6.4.	<p>Cllr Crook advised that he would like to speak on item 17.</p>	
6.5.	<p>Cllr Yuill reported that he has conducted a door to door survey on Imber Avenue, after a suggestion was made that it should change to a 2 way road. His survey confirmed that residents wanted it to remain one way. Concerns were raised about signage and a meeting shall take place with highways in relation to this.</p>	
6.6.	<p>Cllr Yuill advised that he was alerted to the fire at Sandell Place by Cllr Verbinnen. They both provided response and comfort to the residents of Sandell Place.</p> <p>Cllr Verbinnen thanked Cllr Yuill, the Town Clerk, the fire brigade, the police, and residents for the help with Sandell Place fire. He confirmed he is still in daily contact with the residents, they are still in hotels.</p>	
6.7.	<p>Cllr Lord asked if a 'lessons learned' document could be produced following the Sandell Place fire reflecting on things that happened. Cllr Verbinnen confirmed this is already a work in progress.</p>	

		ACTION
6.8.	Cllr Strange thanked the Clerk and Operations Manager, who worked at The Bowman Centre until very late on the night of the Sandell Place fire. Thanks were also passed to the Air Cadets who provided and set up camp beds and to members of the community who reacted in a very short time.	
6.9.	Cllr Swindlehurst thanked the Councillors who attended his daughter's funeral, a total donation of £500 was raised for the Air Ambulance.	
6.10.	Cllr Edwards confirmed that the pothole on the A303 fly over has now been fixed.	
6.11.	Cllr Knight reported on her attendance to the online pothole seminar. She confirmed that £26m has be allocated to Wiltshire for the potholes and a lot of them are temporary, breaking down after a few months. She would like to make residents more aware of how to log the potholes.	
7.	To receive the Police Report Police report received and noted	
8.	Payments on accounts The item was deferred to a later meeting.	
9.	To note changes to the Sub-Committee memberships Proposed: Cllr Kuczera Seconded: Cllr Hedge Resolved: To approve the memberships as presented.	Clerk
10.	To receive a report from the Amenities Committee and to consider any recommendations Cllr Jaconiah reported on the Japanese knotweed at Stockport allotments. Bawdens will address the problem, which will take a number of years. Fly-tipping on Carpenter Drive has been reported to Wiltshire Council. The War Memorial was discussed. Cllr Kuczera and Cllr Buchanan confirmed that this had been spoken about at a previous meeting. It is unusual for someone to be mentioned on two memorials. Cllr Edwards confirmed that the cost of an additional plaque will be obtained. Cllr Jaconiah reported on the need for a bollard outside the Bowman Centre, to prevent people driving through the gap between the Bowman Centre and the Nursery. Cllr Yuill has registered an objection with Google to advise that this road is now closed and said that we should all do to get this permanently removed from google.	
11.	To receive a report from the project committee and to consider any recommendations Cllr Hagger reported that he would like each project to have a Councillor to be lead role. Cllr Hagger acknowledged how much work had been done especially by Cllr Kuczera.	
12.	To receive a report from external committees No reports received.	

		ACTION
13.	<p>To receive a report on the Amesbury Youth Services Cllr Kuczera met with Jonathan Russell. Jonathan would like to form a network of youth groups to develop over the years. He is very keen to use the youth area for all youth groups not just the ones he is involved in. He would like more people to get involved with this and make this network a success.</p>	
14.	<p>To agree to apply for a substantive bid through LHFIG for work to Byway 20. Cllr Yuill confirmed that costs will not be determined until the application is submitted. The highways team compete an estimation once received. Highways engineers have already been out to the byway looking at different areas that require work. Proposed: Cllr Yuill Seconded: Cllr Mitchell Resolved: To apply for substantive bid.</p>	Clerk
15.	<p>To consider in principle the request to sub-let to Amesbury Rugby Club the area of Holders Field currently in the possession of the Town Council Proposed: Cllr Kuczera Seconded: Cllr Swindlehurst Resolved: To support the request in principle. Cllr Crook voted against the motion.</p>	
16.	<p>To receive grant applications under the General Power of Competence: Amesbury Green Fingers Community Garden £700 Proposed: Cllr Edwards Seconded: Cllr Verbinnen Resolved: To grant £350 Amesbury Green Fingers is to be advised to provide details of the exceptional circumstances if they wish to re-apply for a further grant next month.</p>	Clerk
	<p>Citizens Advice £250 Proposed: Cllr Mitchell Seconded: Cllr Kuczera Resolved: to award £200</p>	Clerk
17.	<p>To consider a request from Amesbury Green Fingers for the installation of a standpipe within their section of the allotments Proposed: Cllr Crook Seconded: Cllr Mitchell Resolved: request denied due to water wastage, potential increased water bill, installation costs and water troughs already in place Cllr Verbinnen left the meeting</p>	
18.	<p>To consider a premises license application from Amesbury History Centre The license would be for History related talks and the selling of local wines and spirits in the gift shop. Proposed: Cllr Edwards Seconded: Cllr Kuczera Resolved: to support the application. Four councillors abstained.</p>	

	<p>CLlr Verbinnen re-joined the meeting.</p>	ACTION
19.	<p>To resolve to exclude the public and press for the following items due to the confidential nature of discussing contracts All public left the meeting</p>	
20.	<p>To consider quotations for the provision of security at the Town Council's Summer Fair CLlr Buchanan and CLlr Kuczera left the meeting CLlr Jaconiah gave an account of how the Events Committee reached their decision on the favoured company for the summer fair's security. Quotations were received from three suppliers. CLlr Jaconiah, on behalf of the Events Committee, recommended the employment of YSS. Following a vote by councillors, it was agreed to award the contract to YSS.</p> <p>CLlr Buchanan and CLlr Kuczera re-joined the meeting</p>	Clerk
21.	<p>Date of next meeting: 7.15pm on Tuesday 1st August 2023 at the Bowman Centre</p>	