

AMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held at The Bowman Centre
on 4th April 2023 at 7.15pm

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

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

VISITING PUBLIC: 12

POLICE: 2

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| 1. | <p>Public Questions</p> <p>A statement was read out in relation to recent articles in News Valley News. Concerns were raised about the recent election and the lack of information on how to vote.</p> <p>The Mayor confirmed that polling cards were not issued due to cost. Two elections are to take place in June and the Mayor thanked the resident for the valuable feedback. Bodyworks was thanked for the offer of a meeting place, but all council meetings are now held at The Bowman Centre.</p> <p>A resident questioned the results of the Country Park consultation. The Mayor confirmed this shall be reviewed at a future meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Crook left the meeting.</p> <p>Councillors were asked about the Viney’s Farm development, for an update on the History Centre and re. comments made in relation to it being used for other purposes.</p> <p>The Mayor confirmed that until a formal proposal has been received for comment it was not appropriate for the Town Council to comment on Viney’s Farm.</p> <p>The CIO Trust will decide on the opening date for the History Centre. An agreement on the lease is imminent.</p> <p>The Mayor confirmed that the History Centre will only be used for its intended purposes as an exhibition/museum.</p> <p>Cllr Crook returned to the meeting.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about cars driving on pathways at Kings Gate and about speeding on Salisbury Road, London Road and Countess Road. The Mayor responded that a Working Group is looking at the issues at Kings Gate.</p> <p>Metro Counts have recently been conducted and results confirm ‘no further action’. The Town Council has recently purchased a speed indicator device which collects data to be forwarded to the authorities to help combat speeding.</p> <p>To receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr A Buchannan (working) and Cllr T Edwards (working).</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Swindlehurst</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr Jaconiah</p> <p>Resolved: to agree the reasons for absence</p> | Clerk |

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| 2. | <p>To approve the minutes of the Full Council Meeting dated 7th March 2023. Cllr Hedge requested amendments be made to 6.4 to include 'two phone calls' Proposed: Cllr Hedge Seconded: Cllr Jaconiah Resolved: With the agreed amendment, the minutes were approved and signed as a true record.</p> | |
| 3. | <p>To receive declarations of interest from members Cllr M Verbinnen declared an interest in Item 14.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Mayor's Remarks The Mayor reported on a site visit to the Air Ambulance Head Quarters. He spoke about an email received from a resident regarding anti-social behaviour in Harvard Park. This will be reviewed and the local police shall be involved.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Clerk's Update (to deal with any business from the last meeting) The Clerk reported on a meeting with Ginkgo about the Community Garden. Tenders have been sent to contractors with work to commence in August. A meeting was attended with McDonalds Representatives. To help promote McDonalds 'Love Where You Live' principles, it has been agreed that regular litter picking along London Road/Porton Road would be much appreciated by many local residents. The Amesbury Carnival & Show Committee has withdrawn its request for use of the Country Park.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Councillors' Questions and Statements 6.1. Cllr Strange discussed playpark equipment options for children with autism. 6.2. Cllr Swindlehurst mentioned a service at St Mary & St Melor Church on Sunday 9th April at 10am, all Councillors have been invited. 6.3. Cllr Hedge discussed the Town Council's Instagram account and expressed an interest in learning this social media platform. 6.4. Cllr Yuill reported that Wiltshire Council is looking at the issues on Byway 20. 6.5. Cllr Devendran thanked those residents who attended the quiz night on 11th March and thanked Councillors for their help and support. 6.6. Cllr Devendran has taken forward residents' requests for an additional pharmacy. If it is found that there is a gap in the market there will be an option for a provider to submit an application. 6.7. Cllr Devendran confirmed that bollards have now been installed in Church Street. 6.8. Cllr Devendran reported on 2 future events: a coffee afternoon on 25th April 3pm-4pm at the Stonehenge School and a 'meet the police commissioner' event on 28th April 6pm-7pm at Christ the King Church.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>To receive the Police Report The report was received and noted.</p> | |
| 8. | <p>Payment of accounts: to note the list of accounts for payment February 2023 Income: £761,283 Expenditure: £645,209</p> | |

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| 9. | <p>Planning Matters</p> <p>PL/2023/01744 Full planning permission. Change of use from E (a) retail to E (e) healthcare clinic. UNIT 3, STONEHENGE WALK</p> <p>PL/2023/01747 Full planning permission. Change of use from agricultural storage to B2 (car repairs and restoration) UNIT2, RATFYN FARM, AMESBURY</p> <p>PL/2023/01924 Full planning permission. The installation of a new plant to the rear elevation and enclosure of existing plant with an acoustic enclosure. 18-20 SANDELL PLACE, AMESBURY</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Vebinnen Seconded: Cllr Swindlehurst Resolved: To support the above applications</p> | Clerk |
| 10. | <p>To receive a report from the Amenities Committee</p> <p>The Amenities Committee Chair reported on a resident's request for the installation of post-boxes to Heaven in the Cemeteries. Committee members voted against this.</p> <p>Cllr Yuill confirmed that parking meter issues in the Central Car park have been resolved.</p> | |
| 11. | <p>To receive a report and recommendations from the Finance Committee:</p> <p>Creation of a Neighbourhood Planning EMR – Report received & noted.</p> <p>Creation of a Staffing/Asset Transfer Consultant EMR – report received & noted.</p> <p>Award of a grant of £200 to the Alzheimers Association under the General Power of Competence</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Verbinnen Seconded: Cllr Swindlehurst Resolved: To award grant of £200</p> <p>Award of a grant of £200 to St John Ambulance under the General Power of Competence</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Verbinnen Seconded: Cllr Crook Resolved: To award grant of £200</p> | Clerk |
| 12. | <p>To receive a report from the Policy Group</p> <p>The Mayor discussed queries about the Pavilion storage regarding the noise issue. The Policy Group agreed to amend plans to rotate the building and have the doors looking out onto the field. A noise management plan has been produced by Cllr Yuill. This will be submitted to Wiltshire Council. The deadline has been extended by a further 30 days.</p> | |
| 13. | <p>To receive a report from the Projects Committee</p> <p>The Mayor reported that the CCTV system has now been moved to the History Centre from Flower Court. A new 360° camera will soon be installed in the town centre.</p> <p>A working group has been formed to consider the Bonnymead refurbishment</p> <p>The Stockport Avenue Disc golf direction sign has been installed and the</p> | Clerk |

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| | <p>planting of trees by Bawdens on Stockport Avenue is ongoing. It was noted that some roundabout signs are missing. A report is to be produced to locate which further roundabouts are to be sponsored.</p> <p>Cllr Verbinnen left the meeting</p> | |
| 14. | <p>To receive a report from the History Centre Committee and to consider the content of the Lease Agreement.</p> <p>Cllr Mitchell reported that work on the lease will be completed soon.</p> <p>Cllr Verbinnen joined the meeting.</p> | |
| 15. | <p>Reports from external meetings: TJ Morris RDC Local Forum (no representative)</p> <p>Cllr Verbinnen volunteered to attend these meetings in the future. Councillors agreed.</p> | |
| 16. | <p>To consider whether to request the issue of polling cards for the election on 8th June 2023</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Michell Seconded: Cllr Hagger Resolved: To request polling cards for the next election</p> | Clerk |
| 17. | <p>To receive a request for the renewal of Neighbourhood Watch signs</p> <p>A request was received from the Neighbourhood Watch and the Neighbourhood Police teams to renew old signs around Amesbury. Neighbourhood Watch confirmed they would liaise with the police to establish how many signs are required.</p> <p>The team is to apply for a General Power of Competence Grant to fund the new signs.</p> | |
| 18. | <p>LHFIG: To support a Highways Improvement Request for Kilford Close</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Yuill Seconded: Cllr Verbinnen Resolved: To support the application to LHFIG</p> | Clerk |
| 19. | <p>To respond to the consultation on the introduction of one hour free parking for blue badge holders which will be added onto any parking stay purchased</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Mitchell Resolved: to respond to the consultation to agree to one hour free parking without needing the first hour purchase on the basis that there is a dial on the blue badge. One hour to start as per the dial.</p> | Clerk |
| 20. 20.1. | <p>Reports from sub-committees: King's Coronation: Cllr Devendran reported that the Town Council is to host two events – a tea party at the Bowman Centre, 3-5pm on 6th May and a picnic at Bonnymead on 8th May. Both events will be free.</p> <p>Councillors queried whether anything was planned for the Big Help Out. The committee is to look into the possibility of litter picking. Cllr Yuill confirmed that there are strict regulations, but that it was possible with appropriate PPE and risk assessments.</p> | |

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| 20.2. | <p>Country Park: The sub-committee has considered the future possibility of installing wooden benches and updating the board. Bawdens are to be asked to quote for planting yellow rattle and wild flowers. The committee is to look further at future events and the use of the field. A recommendation was put to councillors re a change in the name. Proposed: Cllr Taylor Seconded Cllr Crook Resolved: to change the name from 'Country Park' to 'Lynchets Field'</p> | |
| 21. | <p>To receive a report on a meeting with North 85 on trading at Bonnymead and to consider the future operation of the food outlet at the park The Mayor and the Operations Manager met with Mr McCletchie. A request was received to continue trading from Easter through the summer, after which a report is to be presented to councillors with future discussions on a potential ground rent. It was noted that Salisbury City Council has an agreement with similar companies who occupy a regular pitch. The Mayor believed that the Town Council could give North 85 'authority to trade' The Mayor recommended that a generator should be used initially. The request to connect to the lamp post could be considered in the future. Proposed: Cllr Crook Seconded: Cllr Strange Resolved: to give permission to North 85 to trade at Bonnymead with no charge until the end of the summer, with a donation towards Bonnymead in November.</p> | |
| 22. | <p>To receive the results of a traffic survey on Main Road Councillors noted that the results recommended 'no action'.</p> | |
| 23. | <p>Emergency Alerts (report) A Government initiative, the test alert is on 23rd April.</p> | Clerk |
| 24. | <p>Mayor's Allowance – to agree to allocate the remaining funds to the Events budget for use by the Events Officer in 2023/24 The Mayor proposed that the remainder of the Mayors Allowance (2022/23 be carried forward as a restricted reserve for use by the Events Officer for community events (2023/24). Proposed: the Mayor Seconded: Cllr Verbinnen Resolved: to carry forward £1373 as a restricted reserve for use by the Events Officer for community events (2023/24)</p> | |
| 25. | <p>To resolve to exclude the public and press for the following item due to the confidential nature of discussing contracts Proposed: Cllr Devendran Resolved: to exclude the public and press for the following item due to the confidential nature of discussing contracts</p> | Clerk |

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| 26. | <p>To receive the recommendation from the Finance Committee to accept the quotation for works to the Bowman Centre stage</p> <p>It was noted that, due to the specialist work required, it had been difficult to source companies with appropriate skills.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Verbinnen</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr Yuill</p> <p>Resolved: to commission Wessex Handy Solutions to undertake the work at a cost of £4,930</p> | <p>ACTION</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 27. | <p>Date of next meeting: Annual Meeting: 7.15pm Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at The Bowman Centre</p> <p>Meeting closed at 9.25pm</p> | |