

AMESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Full Council held via Zoom
on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 at 7.15pm

PRESENT: Cllr R Evans (Mayor), Cllr P Osment (D Mayor), Cllr F Westmoreland, Cllr M Strange, Cllr J M Swindlehurst, Cllr JT Swindlehurst, Cllr I Mitchell, Cllr A Williams, Cllr R Crook, Cllr T Edwards, Cllr M Verbinnen, Cllr Goldthorp, Cllr R Yuill, Cllr R Fisher

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs W Bown (Town Clerk)

VISITING PUBLIC: 4

PRESS: None

POLICE: None

Public Questions

None

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Kuczera and Cllr M Kingaby (both working)

2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting dated 12th January 2021

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

3. To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting dated 20/01/2021

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

4. To receive declarations of interest from Members

Cllr Crook would declare an interest as necessary through the meeting.

Cllr Strange would declare an interest as necessary through the meeting.

5. Mayor's Remarks (report)

The Mayor reported a quiet month due to pandemic restrictions. He reported a visit to the new allotments to consider issues currently experienced by plot holders.

6. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on current systems at Wiltshire Council regarding speeding issues.

The Clerk and team were thanked for repairs to the handrails at Ham Hatches.

7. Councillors' Questions and Statements

Cllr JM Swindlehurst reported on emails received regarding intimidating characters following female shoppers.

Cllr Verbinnen reported having received complaints from allotment holders, which he will forward to the Clerk.

He also reported the problem of an increase in dog faeces at the Raleigh Crescent public open space.

Cllr Verbinnen put questions to councillors regarding the biodiversity project at Stockport Avenue, as previously sent to the Clerk. It was noted that this would be covered under item 12.

ACTION

MV

	<p>Cllr Yuill informed councillors that the Recycling Centre at Churchfields, Salisbury, would be closed 22 – 24th February and that the Amesbury Recycling Centre would be open for 7 days for the week covering that period.</p>	ACTION
	<p>Cllr Yuill expressed concern over the condition of Byway 20 between Stockport Road and Stockport Avenue and felt that investigations should be made into the possibility of closing it off at one end. To be added to a future council agenda. Cllr Crook noted that conditions are particularly bad at the moment due to the wet weather and the current works at the allotment site and felt that scalplings would help the situation temporarily.</p>	RY/Clerk
	<p>Cllr Goldthorp reported that she had visited Tidworth Leisure Centre for her Covid-19 vaccination and asked that the organisers be thanked on behalf of the Amesbury community.</p>	Clerk
	<p>Cllr Goldthorp highlighted issues at Hillcrest Mobile Home Park. Cllr Westmoreland to raise the issues with Wiltshire Council's Housing Dept for advice.</p>	FW
	<p>Cllr Yuill confirmed that the addition of a motorbike symbol on Byway 20 is not legal and therefore should be removed. He added that only a section of Byway 20 is to be tarmacked.</p>	
	<p>Cllr Edwards reported that gravel recently laid at entrances to the Centenary Park have now gone leaving a boggy area. He stressed the importance of improving the surface of Byway 20 and the creation of a path around the edge of Centenary Park.</p>	
	<p>Cllr Mitchell commented on the closure of Byways 10, 11 and 12 at Stonehenge and expressed the hope that they will be reopened when conditions permit.</p>	
14.	<p>It was agreed to deal with item 14 at this point of the meeting.</p> <p>To receive a request from Amesbury Rugby Club to support their application for an alcohol licence at the Centenary Pavilion A representative of Amesbury Rugby Club explained that the ability to serve alcohol before and after matches would encourage more supporters to home matches. Councillors advised against storage of alcohol on the premises. Proposed: Cllr Williams Seconded: Cllr Crook Resolved: to support the application for an alcohol licence.</p>	
8.	<p>To receive the Police Report The report was received and noted.</p>	

9. **To note income and expenditure for January 2021**
Income: £67,470 Expenditure: £1,047,590
10. **New Website: to receive comments from Members and to resolve to move the website administration / maintenance in-house**
The link to the new website was sent to councillors in advance of the meeting. The site is tablet/mobile phone-friendly and satisfies the rules of accessibility. It was confirmed that staff members have editing permissions and will receive training on the administration of the site.
Proposed: Cllr Osment
Seconded: The Mayor
Resolved to move the website administration / maintenance in-house.
11. **To receive a report on the Wiltshire Local Plan Review and to return a comment for the consultation**
Cllr Mitchell circulated notes of a recent briefing in advance of the meeting. Three hundred and fifty houses are to be added for development in Amesbury. Three possible locations have been identified.
A Town Council submission is to be made before the deadline of 9th March 2021.
It was noted that the consultation is based on a preliminary document and a series of consultations will follow.
The Town Council is to publish the details to the electorate to make them aware of the consultation.
Councillors are to send any comments to the Mayor/Cllr Mitchell to form a response to Wiltshire Council.
12. **Kings Gate biodiversity and land management – update report**
Cllr Osment confirmed points of note:
The disc golf and dog walking area will not be adversely affected by the plan. An email has just been received from Natural England confirming the need for a 25-year partnership agreement.
Bloor Homes is working on a transfer plan for the calcareous grassland. S.106 funds will be transferred as originally planned.
Wiltshire Council's Ecology Team has confirmed that the plan is compatible with the current LEMP but have advised that a more detailed management plan is required.
The Legacy Fund requires the inclusion of 16 hectares of land.
The question remains of what would be done should the Town Council wish to expand the allotments and whether alternative sites could be identified.
- Questions were raised about the level of rent, frequency of cutting at the dog walking area, management of land at the disc golf site and caution regarding whether the Town Council would be mis-managing its assets. A query was raised concerning whether all information had been passed to councillors.

Clerk

Clerk

		ACTION
13.	<p>To consider a Highways Improvement Request, recommendation to be forwarded to CATG</p> <p>Proposed: The Mayor Seconded: Cllr Fisher Resolved: to support the Highways Improvement Request and to forward to CATG</p>	Clerk
15.	<p>To consider a request to create a hard standing area by the Stockport Avenue allotment gates</p> <p>A problem exists for deliveries to the allotment site due to the ground being muddy. It was agreed that nothing could be done until work on the new site was completed and sufficient funds were available.</p>	
16.	<p>To receive a report from the Policy Group on the continuation of the Grounds Maintenance Contract for a further 12 months</p> <p>Due to recent changes to ideas for grounds management, there is insufficient time to re-assess the town's maintenance plan. Covid-19 has reduced companies' man-power. The Town Council's maintenance team is due to expand. To extend the contract would give 12 months to consider a more involved management plan.</p> <p>Propose: The Mayor Seconded: Cllr Osment Resolved: to continue with the current contractor for a further 12 months</p>	Clerk
17.	<p>To receive a report from the Finance Committee and to consider a recommendation regarding the Community and Visitors Centre: future housing of the CCTV system / assignment of the lease</p> <p>It was reported that £15,480 had been received in January: £12,000 rates relief £3,480 interest from the CCLA Property Fund</p> <p>Concern was expressed about the cost of running the Community & Visitors Centre and councillors were asked to consider the possibility of marketing the premises for a transfer to a new tenant. It was noted that agreement by the Landlord would be required.</p> <p>Work is progressing to move the CCTV recording system.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Williams Seconded: The Mayor Resolved: to investigate the reassignment of the lease</p>	Clerk
18.	<p>To resolve to exclude the public and press for the following items due to the confidential nature of quotations</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Osment Seconded Cllr JT Swindlehurst Resolved: to exclude the public and press for the following items due to the confidential nature of quotations</p>	

		ACTION
19.	<p>To consider quotations received for play park enhancements</p> <p>The recommendation from the Finance Committee was received, with a note from the Town Clerk that the Town Council has not used the company previously.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Williams</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr Fisher</p> <p>Resolved: To award the contract to Vitaplay for reasons of cost.</p>	Clerk
20.	<p>To consider quotations received for disc golf tee pad replacements</p> <p>The recommendation from the Finance Committee was received.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Williams</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr Osment</p> <p>Resolved: To consider the repair again once a Maintenance Team Leader has been appointed, bringing the work in-house, working with volunteers from the Disc Golf Club.</p>	Clerk
21.	<p>To consider quotations received for a tree survey and maintenance programme</p> <p>The recommendation from the Finance Committee was received.</p> <p>Proposed: Cllr Williams</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr Osment</p> <p>Resolved: To award the contract to Tree Technique, as a local company who provided a comprehensive quotation.</p>	Clerk
22.	<p>Items for the next meeting</p> <p>Any items should be forwarded to the Town Clerk for inclusion in the next meeting.</p>	
23.	<p>Date of next meeting to be arranged</p>	
	Meeting closed at 8.50pm	