

**CESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL**

held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs J. E. MacBean – Deputy Town Mayor (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	P. J. Hudson
"	M.Z. Bhatti MBE	"	R.C. McCulloch
"	N.L. Brown	"	S.P. Willmoth
"	M. Fayyaz	"	F.S. Wilson

**Officer:** Mr W. Richards - Town Clerk

**In attendance:** Messrs A. Garnett, T. Molesworth, R. Payne and R. Smith – Chesham Renaissance Community Interest Company.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Q. Chaudhry, Miss E. A. Culverhouse, A.W. Franks, D. MacBean, M. W. Shaw, B.R. Whitfield and P.W. Yerrell.

90. **MINUTES**

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a true record.

91. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest that were brought to the Deputy Mayor's notice

92. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Deputy Mayor invited questions from the public.

There were no questions which were brought to the Deputy Mayor's notice.

93. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from 16<sup>th</sup> January – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

94. **PRESENTATION BY THE CHESHAM RENAISSANCE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY**

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the representatives of the Chesham Renaissance Community Interest Company (CRCIC) to the meeting and invited them to update the Council on their proposals pertaining to the Chesham Masterplan.

Mr Tony Molesworth opened the presentation by explaining that, working on the assumption that all Members were conversant with the main planks of the Masterplan vision, he was intending to mainly inform the Council on the results and findings of the consultation. He reported that public consultation had taken place with as many residents as possible in the HP5 postcode. The response numbers had been very good, with 4,334 website unique visits, 578 website video viewings and 679 completed questionnaires received. The CRCIC was very encouraged that over 70% of the respondents agreed with the overall approaches set out in the Masterplan. Mr Molesworth advised on other headline responses, including nearly three-quarters of the respondents disagreeing with the District Council's possible option to build on Green Belt land; the support for more smaller and affordable housing; three quarters of people supporting development of housing in the town centre and nearly half supporting high density buildings with two or three storeys: overwhelming support for employment sites being developed on old brownfield sites and nearly two-thirds supporting a multi-story car park on the periphery of the town centre. He opined that other suggestions such as a transport hub near the station, while generally approved of, would need further consideration after some people had raised legitimate mobility issues in accessing the site. Finally Mr Molesworth raised matters for the Council to consider, such as the devising of a Neighbourhood Plan to complement the Masterplan vision and to help with inclusion in the Chiltern District Council Local Plan and a financial contribution to support the CRCIC in its next stage of progression.

Councillor Mrs MacBean thanked Mr Molesworth for his presentation and opened up the meeting to allow Members to ask questions and make observations accordingly.

Councillor Bhatti asked a range of questions pertaining to retail, housing and transport. In respect to the former, he opined that the current quality and range of shops were not good enough and bigger, nationally renowned, stores should be encouraged to come to Chesham. Representatives of the CRCIC replied that they did not necessarily agree the current retail options were poor and, moreover, big retail companies would ultimately be governed by footfall and size of building available. In respect to the latter, Councillor Bhatti asked whether the transport hub would include taxi ranks and whether East St could be made into a two way road. The CRCIC representatives suggested both would be considered but would need to be given greater analysis in a transport study.

Councillor Bacon enquired about the actual delivery of the vision of the Masterplan which he was still unsure about. Mr Ray Payne replied that it would definitely need a major delivery partner and discussions were proceeding in this area but he could not indicate with whom at this stage for obvious commercial sensitivity reasons. Councillor Wilson opined that, to ensure interest from potential delivery partners, it

was important all tiers of local government indicated their respective support for the Masterplan.

Councillor MacBean added that the efforts of the CRCIC was to be commended and there were many exciting ideas, though some proposals, such as the pedestrianisation of Red Lion St, were likely to be challenging in terms of implementation.

The Council then briefly discussed the merits of committing to a Neighbourhood Plan but it was agreed that this was a major resource issue and would need further investigation. Mr Andy Garnett advised that it was within the gift of the District Council to confirm the Masterplan as a supplementary planning document to the Local Plan even without a Neighbourhood Plan in place.

There being no more questions and comments, the Deputy Mayor thanked the CRCIC representatives for their presentation and attendance and they left the meeting.

95. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor N.L. Brown and seconded by Councillor P.J. Hudson and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018, be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor P.J. Hudson and seconded by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018, be received and approved.

96. **STAFFING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and seconded by Councillor F.S. Wilson and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018, be received and approved.

97. **RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and seconded by Councillor M. Fayyaz and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Arts Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018, be received and approved.

98. **DATA PROTECTION AND GDPR UPDATE**

The Council considered the report from officers on the new GDPR (data protection) legislation coming into force and the draft policy devised by the Policy and Projects Officer in respect to this.

Firstly, the Deputy Mayor congratulated officers on their proactive approach to this important change in the law, particularly by engaging with the Information Controller's Office (ICO) directly. It was noted that the policy would be updated and brought back to the Council once issues such as the appointment of an external Data Protection Officer, a correct procedure for reporting/investigating a breach and the procedures for each section had been clarified but it was agreed that the draft policy provided an excellent framework to develop.

Members then discussed the importance of their own training and, especially, the need to register with the ICO. It was agreed that those Members who were not either also District or County Council Members should have their £35 registration fee refunded.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the report and draft Policy be noted and all Members be strongly encouraged to register with the ICO if they had not already done so and have their fee refunded where appropriate.

99. **COUNCIL SURGERIES**

Having considered the officers' report on the difficulties in ensuring the Members' surgery stall in the High Street was fully staffed on Market days, coupled with the usually sparse public participation, it was

**RESOLVED**

that Council surgeries be held only during significant events in Chesham when attendance might be higher, for example at the Schools of Chesham Carnival and at Christmas in Chesham, and at other ad hoc, high profile, events and consultations as and when they are convened.

100. **PAYMENTS NO. 7**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 7, it was

**RESOLVED**

that Payments Sheet No. 7 in the grand total of £297,311.52 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

101. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

CHAIRMAN

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