

**CESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

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

held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**PRESENT** Councillor Miss E. A. Culverhouse – Town Mayor (presiding)

|            |                 |            |                   |
|------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------|
| Councillor | A.K. Bacon      | Councillor | Mrs J. E. MacBean |
| "          | M.Z. Bhatti MBE | "          | R.C. McCulloch    |
| "          | N.L. Brown      | "          | S.P. Willmoth     |
| "          | M. Fayyaz       | "          | Mrs D. M. Varley  |
| "          | A.W. Franks     | "          | N. Varley         |
| "          | P. J. Hudson    | "          | F.S. Wilson       |
| "          | D. MacBean      | "          | P.W. Yerrell      |

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. W. Shaw and B.R. Whitfield.

75. **COUNCILLOR DEREK LACEY**

The Mayor and other Members paid tribute to the late Councillor Derek Lacey who sadly passed away after a long illness in late December. His period of long service and unceasing work on behalf of the Council and the community within his Ridgeway ward were remarked upon by those who spoke. The Mayor then called for a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Lacey which was duly observed by all those present within the Chamber.

76. **MINUTES**

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

77. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 as a Member of Buckinghamshire County Council.

78. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Town Mayor invited questions from the public.

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

79. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

80. **RESOLUTION MOVED ON NOTICE**

Pursuant to 'Resolution Moved on Notice' in accordance with Council's Standing Orders no. 10, Councillor Bacon moved the following motions:

- '1. When necessary in the remainder of this winter, Chesham Town Council staff spread salt in the High Street and Market Square and refill grit bins around Chesham within working hours, provided that the County Council provides the salt.*
- 2. The Town Council seek urgently to include these services in a revised devolved services agreement with the County Council.'*

In moving his motions, Councillor Bacon decried the fact that these tasks used to be undertaken by this Council under a previous agreement with the County Council but this had not been included in the current Devolved Services agreement and local residents were suffering the consequences when periods of cold weather occurred.

The Mayor advised that a recent meeting between the Clerk, the Parks and Premises Manager and the new Transport for Buckinghamshire's (TfB) Network Operations Manager on this subject had been very positive. It had been agreed that this Council would grit/salt and clear the High Street of snow when necessary and seek an agreed payment for time undertaken. TfB also agreed to provide the salt at no cost. The question of filling of grit bins was less of an imminent concern and further discussions upon this would take place and be brought to a future Recreation and Arts Committee meeting which would also consider the second of Councillor Bacon's motions.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Parks and Premises team undertake the gritting and clearing of snow within the High St as a short term measure as discussions with Buckinghamshire County Council proceed on salt bin refilling and a possible subsequent contract with the County Council for this and other related services.

81. **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 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017, be received and approved.

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 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017, be received and approved.

82. **RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE**

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

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Recreation and Arts Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017, be received, approved and adopted.

83. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor D. MacBean and seconded by Councillor N.L. Brown and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018, be received and approved.

Arising out of Minute No. 35, Councillor Bacon questioned the accuracy of the Minutes in respect to there being agreement on ensuring unapplied reserves being replenished regularly though he noted that unapplied reserves had now subsequently been allocated to the General Reserve which, he opined, was more sensible. However other Members of the Finance Committee suggested this Minute did reflect the view of the meeting and it was possible that Councillor Bacon had misconstrued the position.

84. **CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Council received a presentation from Mr Joseph Baum in respect to re-establishing a Youth Council for Chesham following conversations with the Town Mayor.

Members were very supportive of the initiative and it was

**RESOLVED**

that the reformation of the Chesham Youth Council be agreed in principle and Mr Baum and any other interested young persons be invited to meet with officers to agree a working constitution and operation.

85. **UPDATE ON COUNCIL'S VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND TOWN CLERK'S ANNUAL OBJECTIVES**

The Council considered the Clerk's report in respect to the Council's Vision and Strategic Objectives and the Town Clerk's Annual Objectives.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Report be noted.

86. **FORMATION OF WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP ELGIVA THEATRE EXTENSION BUSINESS PLAN**

Members agreed it would be advisable to set up a Working Group to develop a robust business plan to look at the potential usage, income and costs for any proposed extension to the Elgiva Theatre.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that Councillors Miss Culverhouse, Mrs MacBean, Wilson and Yerrell along with the current Chairman of the Elgiva Board and officers as appropriate be delegated to consider a business plan for the Elgiva Theatre extension.

87. **ANNUAL BUDGET 2018/19 AND PRECEPT 2018/19**

A discussion took place on the budget and precept for the next financial year as proposed by the Finance Committee.

Councillor Bacon, while accepting that a precept was necessary, moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Fayyaz, to be added to the two recommendations, namely that: *'The Council notes the very large drawdown of the Reserves forecast in this financial year and will work to keep budgets on track in the coming year'*.

This amendment was **LOST** by 3 votes to 9 with 1 abstention.

The Mayor then moved the recommendations from the report, namely:

1. *That the 2018/19 budget as set out in the budget summary be confirmed.*
2. *That the total funding requirement for 2018/19 to be levied on the Chiltern District Council be set at £930,000.*

These recommendations were **CARRIED** unanimously.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

1. That the 2018/19 budget as set out in the budget summary be confirmed.
2. That the total funding requirement for 2018/19 to be levied on the Chiltern District Council be set at £930,000.

88. **PAYMENTS NO. 6**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 6, it was

**RESOLVED**

that Payments Sheet No. 6 in the grand total of £356,868.48 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

89. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

CHAIRMAN