

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 3rd December 2018

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

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	R.C. McCulloch
"	M.Z. Bhatti MBE	"	N.T. Southworth
"	N.L. Brown	"	Mrs D.M. Varley
"	A.W. Franks	"	N. Varley
"	M. Fayyaz	"	F.S. Wilson
"	D. MacBean	"	P.W. Yerrell

Officer: Mr W. Richards - Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Q. Chaudhry, Miss E.A. Culverhouse, P.J. Hudson, M. W. Shaw, B.R. Whitfield and S.P. Willmoth.

65. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 22nd October 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

66. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Bacon, Mrs MacBean, Mrs Varley, Varley and Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 13 as Members of Chiltern District Council.

67. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

68. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from 23rd October – 3rd December 2018.

69. **CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Chesham Youth Council held on the 15th October 2018.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

70. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor N.L. Brown and seconded by Councillor N.T. Southworth and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 29th October 2018, be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor N.L. Brown and seconded by Councillor N.T. Southworth and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19th November 2018, be received and approved.

It was noted that Councillor Southworth had been in attendance at the meeting of the 19th November but this had not been recorded.

71. **RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and seconded by Councillor R.C. McCulloch and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Arts Committee held on 29th October 2018, be received and approved.

72. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor D. MacBean and seconded by Councillor R.C. McCulloch and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 12th November 2018, be received and approved.

73. **STAFFING 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 Staffing Committee held on 19th November 2018, be received and approved.

74. **MAYORAL AWARDS**

The Council was reminded that the current Mayoral Awards scheme runs annually with categories of the People's Award and the Business Award. The judging panel of the awards had expressed its view that it was very difficult to judge individuals and groups for the same award. The panel recommended that a separate Volunteer Team award should be established specifically for voluntary groups and that the People's Award should only be open to nominations of individuals.

Members agreed it would be a good idea to set up a new award and it was

RESOLVED

that the Council creates a new Volunteer Team award as part of the Mayoral Awards and a prize of £100 be committed to the winners.

75. **MARKETING SUPPORT SERVICE**

Members were advised that the current freelance Marketing Officer was finishing her employment with the Council at the end of the month and had duly circulated a report with various recommendations for future marketing support including her view that she did not believe a like-for-like replacement was required for her. However the view was expressed and supported that it would be desirable to have a freelance part-time position which, as well as assisting with the marketing across the Council, could assist with communications across the town, particularly with the many voluntary bodies who worked with the Council.

While it was agreed that the financial aspects and a job description required further scrutiny at foregoing Committees, the concept of such a position should be supported in principle.

Members also offered a Vote of Thanks for the departing Marketing Officer.

It was

RESOLVED

that a job description of, and finances for, a new marketing/communications officer be progressed as soon as practicably possible.

76. **HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Members raised no apparent areas for concern on the half year Performance Indicators other than Members' attendance at meetings being below the target. It was also agreed to

be desirable to have the previous year's figures presented for comparison purposes in future.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

77. **PAYMENTS NO. 4**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 4, it was

RESOLVED

that Payments Sheet No. 4 in the grand total of £359,593.42 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

78. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

It was moved by the Mayor and

RESOLVED

that the public and the press be excluded from the following item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Access to Meetings) Act 1960, as matters which are considered to be confidential are about to be discussed.

79. **FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

Members had a lengthy debate in respect to possible major repairs to the Chesham Culvert and the apparent inability of the Environment Agency and Chiltern District Council to agree a way forward on this matter. It was agreed that, if this was not resolved, it could have very serious implications for the town. While it was noted that the report had been deemed confidential following a request from the Environment Agency on certain sensitive matters, there was general consensus that, unless the current situation could be progressed by the two parties, the significance of the culvert falling into further disrepair would need to be highly publicised for the benefit of both residents and businesses in and around the town centre.

In the interim, it was agreed the Clerk, in liaison with the Mayor, write to senior officers and Members of the Environment Agency and the District Council to raise this Council's very real concerns on the lack of progress; to ascertain what other options were being considered and to invite relevant parties to a meeting at the Town Hall to try and help broker a satisfactory way forward.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Town Clerk, in liaison with the Mayor, write to the Environment Agency and Chiltern District Council reflecting the views expressed at this meeting.

80. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.

CHAIRMAN

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