

## **CESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

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

held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018

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

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	N. T. Southworth
"	M.Z. Bhatti MBE	"	Mrs D. M. Varley
"	N.L. Brown	"	N. Varley
"	Q. Chaudhry	"	B.R. Whitfield
"	A.W. Franks	"	S.P. Willmoth
"	P. J. Hudson	"	F.S. Wilson
"	Mrs J. E. MacBean	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	R.C. McCulloch		

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Fayyaz, D. MacBean and M. W. Shaw.

#### 102. **MAYORAL WELCOME**

The Mayor formally welcomed Councillor Nick Southworth to his first meeting as the newly elected Member for the Ridgeway Ward.

#### 103. **MINUTES**

It was

#### **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a true record.

#### 104. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

All Members who were also Members of the District Council or County Council declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9.

#### 105. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Mayor invited questions from the public.

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

106. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from the 27<sup>th</sup> February - 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The Mayor advised she had also attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the RAF which took place in the town on the 15<sup>th</sup> April.

107. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor N.L. Brown and seconded by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018, be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor N.L. Brown and seconded by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018, be received and approved.

108. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor F.S. Wilson and seconded by Councillor A.K. Bacon and

**RESOLVED**

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

109. **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 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018, be received and approved.

110. **REVISED STANDING COMMITTEES' MEMBERSHIP**

Following the election of Councillor Nick Southworth at a recent bye-election in the Ridgeway ward, Members considered the revised Committee membership circulated by the Clerk to reflect the new political balance of the Council.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the proposed revised Committees' membership, as presented, be confirmed for the remainder of the administrative year.

*Note: Councillor Chaudhry arrived at the meeting at 7.58pm*

111. **REVIEW OF COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2018/19**

Members reviewed the current Committee structure after its almost one year period of operation and also considered the draft calendar of meetings for 2018/19.

It was agreed no changes were required to the Council's operation and it was

**RESOLVED**

1. That the current Committee structure remains unchanged.
2. That the proposed Calendar of Meetings be adopted.

112. **POSSIBLE UNITARY AUTHORITY FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

The Council was asked to consider, what, if any, response the Council wishes to make in respect to the Secretary of State's decision to initially support a single unitary authority for Buckinghamshire.

Councillor Varley opined that he believed it would be difficult for the Council to agree on a consensus as to which unitary model it favoured but stated he believed it was important that the Council responded to the consultation on the Secretary of State's 'minded to' decision. He suggested that such a response should focus on three main areas of potential concern namely:

- The need for any new authority to ensure quality of elected Member representation.
- While welcoming the opportunity for increased devolved services, to seek assurances that a new authority would provide the necessary funding when necessary and there would be no obligation to take services on.
- To seek confirmation that any new structure would not have a negative impact on this Council's overall finances.

Members broadly agreed with Councillor Varley's sentiments and it was

**RESOLVED**

that the Clerk, in liaison with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, be delegated to draft a reply to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's consultation reflecting the views expressed at the meeting.

113. **DATA PROTECTION AND GDPR UPDATE**

The Council was presented with a draft policy from officers on the new GDPR (data protection) legislation coming into force in May which needed to be adopted to ensure compliance with the new laws. The Deputy Mayor commended the Policy and Projects Officer on her efforts in this area and Members were happy to approve the policy as presented.

Councillor Willmoth enquired as to whether further information on registering with the ICO would be forthcoming as indicated at the last Council meeting. It was agreed that officers would circulate electronically the appropriate link to the ICO website for registration in due course.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the draft Data Protection Policy be adopted as presented.

114. **ALLOCATION OF LOCAL AREA FORUM MONIES**

The Council debated what, if any, financial bids it wished to make to Buckinghamshire County Council's Local Area Forum budget.

It was agreed that no bids should be made to the 'Chesham Parishes Well-Being' budget due to its comparative smallness in size. However various suggestions were made for the larger non-specific plot. These included:

- Grasscreting for Hivings Hill
- Replacement of bus shelter in Upper Belmont Road
- Various grit/salt bins
- Improvements to White Hill footway

To facilitate these bids it was

**RESOLVED**

The Clerk, in liaison with the Chairman of the Planning Committee; Mayor and Deputy Mayor, be delegated to coordinate and submit the bids accordingly before the 14<sup>th</sup> May deadline for applications.

115. **PAYMENTS NO. 8**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 8, it was

**RESOLVED**

that Payments Sheet No. 8 in the grand total of £400,871.77 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

116. **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.

117. **MARKETING MANAGER'S POST**

Members agreed the current incumbent of the Marketing Manager's post was doing an excellent job and it was

**RESOLVED**

that the Marketing Manager's post be continued for a further 12 months from June 2018 and Ms Peters continued to be engaged within this position.

118. **POSSIBLE CAPITAL WORKS AT THE GYM AND SWIM CENTRE**

The Mayor reminded Members that the previous Recreation and Arts Committee had recommended that the proposal to commission a Quantity Surveyor to price up the architect's designs which were presented at the meeting be determined at this Council.

Some Members were of the view that a further consideration should be given to the design before engaging a Surveyor but others argued that it was imperative that an idea of building costs were provided before a robust business plan could be considered to determine the feasibility of the project.

After some debate, Councillor Yerrell, seconded by Councillor Bacon, moved an amendment to the recommendation proposing *'that the commissioning of PCP Surveyors be referred back to the next Recreation and Arts Committee for further scrutiny of the architect's proposals'*.

This amendment was **LOST** by 2 votes to 12 with 2 abstentions.

The Mayor then moved the original recommendation *‘that the Council agrees to commission PCP Surveyors at a cost outlined within the report to undertake a full elemental Cost Plan based on Mr Hardy’s extension proposals.’*

This motion was **CARRIED** by 12 votes to 2 with 2 abstentions.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

that PCP Surveyors be commissioned at a cost outlined within the report to undertake a full elemental Cost Plan based on Mr Hardy’s extension proposals for the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre

119. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.24pm.

CHAIRMAN