

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 15th April 2019

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

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	R.C. McCulloch
"	M.Z. Bhatti MBE	"	M.W. Shaw
"	N.L. Brown	"	N.T. Southworth
"	Miss E.A. Culverhouse	"	Mrs D.M. Varley
"	M. Fayyaz	"	N. Varley
"	A.W. Franks	"	S.P. Willmoth
"	P.J. Hudson	"	F.S. Wilson

Officers: Mr W. Richards - Town Clerk
Mr D. Cooper – Elgiva Manager

In Attendance: Mr C. Moore – ACL Consultants
Representatives of Chesham Youth Council

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Q. Chaudhry, D. MacBean and P.W. Yerrell.

108. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 25th February 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

109. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest that were brought to the Mayor’s notice.

110. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Town Mayor invited questions from the public.

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

111. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor’s engagements from 26th February – 15th April 2019.

112. **PRESENTATION FROM CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

Members received a presentation from representatives of Chesham Youth Council. They reported that the Youth Council had been operational since September 2018 and had during this time had instigated a number of projects including: meeting with local Police Officers to discuss crime and anti-social behaviour; taken part in a litter pick and cleaned Chesham High Street; organised donations and delivered food packages at Christmas; have toured the Elgiva Theatre and met the Manager in regards to increased youth involvement; promoted the Youth Council on local community radio and will be shortly be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt in Lowndes Park to raise money for charity.

The Council congratulated the Youth Council representatives on both their presentation and the works they had already undertaken. Councillor Miss Culverhouse also offered congratulations on the Youth Council's recognition at the recent Chiltern District Council Community Awards event. It was agreed that the Youth Council was an important organisation for the town and the Council and it should receive continued support.

The Mayor thanked the representatives for their attendance and they left the meeting.

113. **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.

114. **PRESENTATION ON ELGIVA EXTENSION BUSINESS PLAN**

The Council received a presentation from Mr Chris Moore of ACL Consultants in respect to the Business plan his company had prepared pertaining to the possible expansion of the Elgiva Theatre. He briefly gave a background to his company and reported that it was undertaking similar feasibility assessments for other local authority operated theatres/arts centres and opined that there appeared to be general consensus that the public sector needed to think about culture and quality of life within its communities.

He then went through the business plan previously circulated to Members. He emphasised that, in his view, 'doing nothing' was not a long term option for the building if it was to survive and prosper and he believed the drawings and proposals from the commissioned architects offered good value for money and an opportunity for growth. He highlighted that his estimates for increased income generation had been deliberately conservative and he was confident that the theatre could create a profit annually even with the increased expenditure (including a loan payback) and staffing as put forward within the plan.

Mr Moore then answered questions and queries from Members pertaining to seating capacity, car-parking, financing of the capital works and the potential to utilise the buildings in and around the site. Once these had been considered, there was no objections from Members to agreeing to the progression of the project in principle. It was agreed therefore that the business plan be put before the meeting of the next Finance Committee for financial scrutiny before being referred back to the Elgiva Extension Working Party for detailed consideration of the next steps.

The Mayor thanked Mr Moore, and his colleague Mr Harris, for their diligence in bringing the report together and it was agreed that the Council would remain in communication with ACL as the scheme developed. Mr Moore then left the meeting.

The Mayor then re-opened the meeting to the public and the press.

Note: Councillor Shaw left the meeting at 9.00pm and Councillor Fayyaz left the meeting at 9.05pm

115. **CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Chesham Youth Council held on the 4th March 2019.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

116. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor F.S. Wilson and seconded by Councillor N.L. Brown and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 4th March 2019, be received, approved and adopted.

117. **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 18th March 2019, be received and approved.

118. **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 18th March 2019, be received and approved.

119. **PAST MAYORS' BADGES**

Three years on from the last purchase of Past Mayors' Badges, the Council, following enquiries from recent past Mayors, was asked to consider the purchase of additional badges. It was noted that the most cost-effective way to purchase the badges was with an order of 10 or more. Members were also advised that, should the Council decide to purchase 10 badges, three of these would be purchased by Members who have served as Mayor since 2016 and then by any future Mayor who wished to do so.

Having noted that, ultimately, any initial outlay by the Council would be redeemed through future purchases, it was

RESOLVED

that the Council agrees to purchase ten Past Mayors' Badges at the cost outlined within the report.

120. **AFFINITY WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION**

The Council was requested to consider officers' draft response to Affinity Water's Revised Draft Water Resources Management Plan (rdWRMP) for 2020-80 as part of its consultation.

Members commended the Policy and Projects Officer on her draft and it was

RESOLVED

that the Council approves the consultation response as presented.

121. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AND FINANCIAL POLICIES**

Following recommendations from the Finance Committee, the Council is asked to adopt its recommendations in respect to the Investment Policy and Financial Regulations. The Council was also asked to approve the alterations of Standing Orders to uplift the Council's quorum to seven. This was agreed.

It was

RESOLVED

1. That the recommendations from the Finance Committee in respect to the Investment Strategy and Financial Regulations be adopted.
2. That the recommended change to the Standing Orders pertaining to the quorum for Council be agreed.

122. **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019/20**

The previously circulated proposed Calendar of Meetings for Committee and Council meetings was agreed by Council.

The Mayor, in noting that the dates for the Planning Committee, opined that it would be desirable to have the terms of reference and operation of this Committee reconsidered in due course. This was agreed.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Calendar of Meetings for 2019/20 be approved and adopted.

123. **PAYMENTS NO. 7**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 7, it was

RESOLVED

that Payments Sheet No. 7 in the grand total of £204,020.73 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

124. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

CHAIRMAN