

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

held on Monday 28th February 2005

PRESENT Councillor Ms. J.E. Bramwell, Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	Mrs P.R. Wilkinson MBE
"	M.Z. Bhatti	"	P. Woodburn
"	D.A. Gomm	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	C.H. Spruytenburg		

In Attendance

Councillors: E.L. Bamford, D.J. Lacey, Mrs P.R. Lindsley and Mrs M. Molesworth.

Officer W. Richards - Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs V.M. Abraham and N.L. Brown

67. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest brought to the Chairman's notice.

68. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 10th January 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

69. **PERIODIC REVIEW OF PARISH ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee noted the salient points of Chiltern District Council's Parish Review pertaining to Chesham.

There was unanimous opposition to the suggestion made by a County Councillor that the current boundaries at the eastern extremity of the town are 'anomalous' and that the eastern section of Botley Road, Tylers Hill Road, Broomstick Lane, Linington Avenue, Gooseacre, Wannions Close and Lee Farm Close should become part of Latimer Parish. Members cited the long history of the town's current boundary; the anomalous effect such a change would have on the town's north/south boundaries; the detrimental effect on the electoral numbers in Townsend ward; the area's affinity to Chesham rather than Latimer and the significant effect it would have on the Parish precept.

A debate then took place as to whether the Council should consider increasing its number of Members to 22 by creating one extra representative for the Lowndes, Ridgeway and St Mary's wards respectively as recommended by the National

Association of Local Councils. While some Members considered the current numbers satisfactory, a view was advanced that more councillors would result in fairer representation for the electors.

It was proposed by Councillor A.K. Bacon and seconded by Councillor M.Z. Bhatti that *'the Committee agree to support proposals to increase the Member representation to 22 based on the guidelines of the National Association of Local Councils'*

This proposal was **LOST** by three votes to four.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be instructed to reply to Chiltern District Council:

1. disagreeing that that the boundary between Chesham and Latimer should be reviewed and stating the Council's reasons for not agreeing;
2. indicating that the Council wishes to see no changes to its current number of Members.

70. **DONATIONS SCORING SYSTEM**

The Officers' draft scoring system for donations was discussed by the Committee. Members commended the Finance and Contracts Manager for his thorough report on the matter. While it was accepted that some adherence should be made to the emerging themes arising from the Chesham Community Vision, it was considered that a rigid scoring system would be too restrictive when determining support for donation applications. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

that no scoring system be adopted for assessing the annual donations at the present time.

71. **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND COMPLAINTS POLICY AND PROCEDURE.**

The Committee considered the report of the Policy and Projects Officer. It was noted that procedures were entirely necessary, particularly the Child Protection Policy, since many of the Council's officers were exposed to lone working.

It was

RESOLVED

1. that the Council agree to the adoption of the Child Protection and Vulnerable Persons Policy as presented;
2. that the Council agree to Criminal Records Bureau checks of required staff every three years;
3. that the Council agree to the adoption of the Complaints Policy as presented and that the Standards Committee of the principal authority be notified of the adoption.

72. **DISPOSAL OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Committee was reminded that it had resolved to purchase new white festoon lights as the new Christmas lighting scheme for the town and not to repair the existing rope light (neon) decorations used for the previous four/five years. Moreover it was further advised that (from a report submitted by the festive lights installation contractor in 2004) the estimated cost to repair the rope light decorations by replacing sections not working was £2,561 with additional costs for any completely new rope light replacement required and that the cost of storing the rope light decorations would be £400 per annum. The Members noted that a bid has been received for £375 for the single decorations (eg. snowmen, lanterns, stars) as a lot price.

In light of the above, it was

RESOLVED

1. that the Council agree to the disposal of the rope light decorations to the contractor for the sum offered;
2. that the monies received be ring-fenced in the Renewals and Repairs budget for future festive lighting maintenance costs.

73. **DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

The draft calendar of meetings for 2005/06 was considered and it was

RESOLVED

that the calendar be approved and adopted.

The Financial Report for ten months to 31st January 2005 was presented.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

75. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Members duly noted the information items listed on Sheet No. 26.

76. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm.

CHAIRMAN

Publication date 05.03.05.