

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 9th December 2019

PRESENT Councillor Q. Chaudhry – Town Mayor (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	A.W. Franks
"	J.L. Baum	"	P.J. Hudson
"	N.L. Brown		R.C. McCulloch
"	Miss E.A. Culverhouse	"	N.T. Southworth
"	M. Fayyaz	"	F.S. Wilson

Officer: Mr W. Richards - Town Clerk

In attendance:

Messrs A. Garnett, A. Ketteringham, T. Molesworth and R. Smith – Chesham Renaissance Community Interest Company (agenda item 7)

Mr M. Writtle (agenda item 13)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.Z. Bhatti MBE, D. MacBean, Mrs J. E. MacBean, M. W. Shaw, Mrs D.M. Varley, N. Varley, S.P. Willmoth and P.W. Yerrell

62. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 28th October 2019 and be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

63. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 as a Cabinet Member of Chiltern District Council.

Councillor Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 as his wife assisted at Chesham Food Bank.

64. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

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

It was moved by the Chairman and

RESOLVED

that the public and the press, save for the representatives of the Chesham Renaissance Community Interest Company, 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.

66. **PRESENTATION FROM CHESHAM RENAISSANCE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY (CRIC)**

The Mayor welcomed representatives from the CRIC to present to the Council in respect to its Masterplan and further developments thereof.

Mr Molesworth began the presentation and, firstly apologised that the CRCIC had not returned to the Council earlier but stated that many of the discussions had been of a highly confidential nature with potential partners. However, he reported that he was pleased to announce that the CRCIC was now in a position to submit a planning application for a town centre location which very much accorded with the Masterplan's vision of getting high density housing in the town centre while moving employment centres toward the edges of Chesham. Mr Smith then went through details of the site proposals based on three different options and asked that the Council offer its support to the proposed planning application when it came before it. While Members accepted that such a proposal accorded with the overall vision of the Masterplan which the Council had supported in principle, some concerns were raised over the parking allocation for an area already under pressure in terms of on-street parking.

Mr Molesworth then suggested to the Council that, ultimately, the CRCIC was seeking, not just support for the previously mentioned planning application, but also support in regards to a robust Council position when the Local Plan came to Public Examination in front of the Planning Inspector, particularly in terms of offering an alternative view to the one put forward by Chiltern District Council. Mr Smith added that it would be advantageous to try to encourage the Planning Inspector to examine Chesham as a whole rather than piecemeal considerations of policies across the District such as those applying to Green Belt.

The Clerk advised that the Council had submitted an application for the town to be designated as a Neighbourhood Plan area and he was intending to convene the Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan Working Group early in the New Year. As reflected in its Local Plan consultation response, Members were keen to highlight that the Council had many concerns with the draft Local Plan, particularly in respect to infrastructure, and this Council's support for the general principles in the CRCIC's proposals remained. However, it was noted that the significant matter of off-street car-parking (and its potential reduction in the Masterplan) remained a matter of contention for several Members.

The Mayor thanked the CRCIC representatives for their attendance and stated that the Council would keep them updated as the Local Plan process evolved.

Note: The Mayor then re-opened the Meeting to the public and the press.

67. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's engagements from 29th October – 9th December 2019.

68. **CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

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

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

69. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor N.L. Brown and seconded by Councillor J.L. Baum and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 4th November 2019, as amended, be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor N.L. Brown and seconded by Councillor J.L. Baum and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2nd December 2019 be received and approved.

70. **STAFFING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Q. Chaudhry and seconded by Councillor Miss E. A. Culverhouse and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Staffing Committee held on 25th November 2019, be received and approved.

71. **RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE**

Arising from Minute No. 38 of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee of the 2nd December 2019, Councillor Fayyaz advised that he has proposed that an

audit of outdoor furniture and clocktower railings be undertaken by the Parks and Premises Manager with a view to replacements being budgeted for in the next financial year.

Arising from Minute No. 41, both Councillor Bacon and Councillor Brown expressed the importance of possible significant investment funding for the Elgiva and Gym and Swim Centre being assessed at the same time.

It was moved by Councillor R.C. McCulloch and seconded by Councillor N. T. Southworth and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Recreation and Arts Committee held on 2nd November 2019, be received and approved and adopted.

72. **CONFIRMATION OF DONATIONS AWARDS**

Members were reminded that there were two Donations requests outstanding from the last Council meeting.

It was

RESOLVED

1. That the grant to Chesham Connect pertaining to ‘Christmas in Chesham’ of £500 be confirmed.
2. That a grant of £500 be made to Chilterns Dial-a-Ride.

73. **FOODBANK TOWN PARTNER REQUEST**

Members considered a request by the Chiltern Foodbank to become an official Town Partner.

The Council acknowledged the excellent work undertaken by the organisation and it was

RESOLVED

that the Chiltern FoodBank be confirmed as an official Town Partner.

74. **RIVER CHESS PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT**

Mr Matt Writtle gave a brief explanation to the Council in respect to his proposed photographic project documenting the River Chess in Chesham and looking at the impact that Chesham and its community has had on the river.

Members welcomed this excellent environmental project and it was

RESOLVED

1. That temporary photographic exhibits on Council land, subject to specific location approval by officers, be agreed.
2. That a letter of support to Mr Writtle from the Council for the photographic project be sent.

75. **PAYMENTS NO. 4**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 4, it was

RESOLVED

that Payments Sheet No. 4 in the grand total of £151,068.89 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

76. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.

CHAIRMAN

13th December 2019