

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

held on Monday 18th April 2005

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

Councillor	V.M. Abraham	Councillor	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	A.K. Bacon	"	Mrs P.R. Wilkinson MBE
"	M.Z. Bhatti	"	P. Woodburn
"	N.L. Brown	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	Mrs J.C. Fulford		

In Attendance

Councillors: M. Fayyaz, Mrs P.R. Lindsley, Mrs M. Molesworth and P.J. Murphy.

Officers: W. Richards - Town Clerk
 Ms S. Butt - Policy and Projects Officer

An apology for absence was received from Cllr D.A. Gomm

77. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mrs P.R. Lindsley and Mrs P.R. Wilkinson declared personal interests in agenda item 5 – Anniversary of Town Twinning with Friedrichsdorf – as members of the Twinning Association.

78. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 28th February 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Councillor V.M. Abraham entered the meeting at 7.35pm

79. **REVIEW OF CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS**

The Committee considered how best to reply to a review by The Standards Board for England of the Code of Conduct for Members.

It was accepted that such a response should be Member led rather than prepared by officers and therefore it was agreed that a Members' Working Party should be set up to suggest a response. The adverse effect on Members' ability to comment on some issues because of the new Licensing Act was raised and it was suggested this be alluded to in the response. Cognisant that the deadline for responses has been set for the 17th June, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillors Ms Bramwell, Brown and Woodburn be appointed as members of the Working Party and report back with their recommendations at the next scheduled Council meeting.

80. **25th ANNIVERSARY OF TOWN TWINNING WITH FRIEDRICHSDORF**

Members considered a request from the Chesham Twinning Association that the Council make a donation to a charity in Friedrichsdorf to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the twinning between the two towns. It was noted that that Friedrichsdorf Council and its town twinning committee were making a similar donation to the Chesham Toy Library to recognise this anniversary.

The Committee acknowledged the importance of the anniversary and unanimously re-affirmed its support for the concept of twinning. Many Members, including former Mayors, spoke warmly of their experiences in both receiving visitors from Friedrichsdorf and visiting the town over the last 25 years. It was agreed that the Council should be seen to formally welcome this important twinning milestone. However, in light of the Council's policy of not committing taxpayers' monies directly to twinning events, the Mayor was invited to make a contribution from the Mayoral Allowance. In response, the Mayor stated that, since this event was on the last weekend of his tenure of office, he had no monies left to commit to such a donation. Members considered this dilemma and, after some debate, it was

RESOLVED

1. that the Council officially acknowledge and welcome the anniversary but make no financial contribution to it.
2. that the Mayor be encouraged to seek personal contributions from Members and other outside bodies to be utilised as a donation to a Friedrichsdorf charity.

81. **COUNCIL SURGERIES**

The Committee reviewed the operation and administration of the Saturday morning Council surgeries since their inception. It was agreed that the surgeries played an important part in engaging with the public and their relatively informal style played a large part in their success. Nevertheless it was agreed that it was essential that Members were informed of issues that were directly pertinent to their wards and that a list of all issues raised was kept so any generic problems could be tackled by the Council as a body.

It was accepted that when the surgeries commenced in the market during the summer, the number of Members attending would have to be necessarily limited. The Policy and

Projects Officer was therefore requested to organise a rota for the surgeries and to devise a basic form for the logging of the public's queries.

It was

RESOLVED

that Members present at the Saturday surgeries be requested to record matters arising on a central list to be reported back to Council.

82. **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Policy and Projects Officer gave a brief summary of the risk assessments undertaken to date to complement her report. She advised the Committee that the risk assessment undertaken for parks and premises had highlighted some issues that would be likely to require additional extra financial resources. She informed the Committee this would be the basis for a future report and it was

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

83. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR ELEVEN MONTHS**

The Financial Report for eleven months to 28th February 2005 was presented.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

84. **USE OF LOWNDES PARK FORM FOR V.E. ANNIVERSARY EVENT**

The Committee considered a request to use Lowndes Park on the 10th July 2005 to hold an event celebrating the 60th Anniversary of V.E. Day. It was noted that the event would coincide with one of the concerts in the park and was welcomed by Members. It was therefore

RESOLVED

that the British Legion be granted complimentary use of Lowndes Park on the 10th July 2005 to organise a V.E. Anniversary event.

85. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

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Members duly noted the information items listed on Sheet No. 31.

86. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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