

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 27th April 2020

PRESENT Councillor Q. Chaudhry – Town Mayor (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	Mrs J. E. MacBean
"	J.L. Baum	"	R.C. McCulloch
"	N.L. Brown	"	M.W. Shaw
"	Miss E.A. Culverhouse	"	N.T. Southworth
"	M. Fayyaz	"	S.P. Willmoth
"	A.W. Franks	"	F.S. Wilson
"	D. MacBean	"	P.W. Yerrell

Officers: Mr W. Richards - Town Clerk
Ms K. Graves – Policy and Projects Officer

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M.Z. Bhatti MBE

108. **MAYOR’S WELCOME**

Councillor Chaudhry welcomed all Members to the first remotely organised Council Meeting in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

109. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 23rd March 2020 and be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

110. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests that were brought to the Mayor’s notice.

111. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mrs Maureen Winders advised that, as a resident, she was very concerned about a significant planning application that would adversely affect both her and her neighbours and, with the restrictions placed by Covid 19 on getting groups together, asked how best she and others could coordinate objections to the planning authority.

Ms Alison Cheetham informed the Council that she had been informed that the deadline for the aforementioned application’s comments had been extended and

therefore enquired what would be the most appropriate mechanism for spreading this information.

The Clerk firstly advised that the Town Council was a statutory consultee and local ward Members had already recommended that the Council propose that the planning authority refuse this application.

Members then offered further responses to the questions. Councillor Mrs MacBean advised that, as a member of Buckinghamshire Council's Planning Committee, she was minded to 'call-in' the application so it can be determined by the Committee rather than delegated to an officer. In terms of publicity, she recommended liaising with the Chesham Society and possibly using social media to circulate information and elicit further comments. Councillor Brown opined that residents would be best to send in as many individual objections as possible rather than one letter reflecting all their collective views. Both Mrs Winders and Ms Cheetham were encouraged to submit further correspondence on the application to both Town Council Members and officers so further weight could be brought to bear on the planning authority if necessary.

112. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's engagements from 24th March – 27th April 2020. The Mayor advised that all public engagements had been cancelled since the government's restrictions on social gatherings had been imposed due to Covid-19 at the end of March.

Councillor Chaudhry then reported on the sad news that one of the Freemen of Chesham, Mr Rodney Culverhouse, had recently passed away. Various tributes to Mr Culverhouse were paid by Members for his unceasing efforts in promoting the town centre and his work within the community, including many years in the teaching profession.

Condolences were also offered to the Parks and Premises Manager who had recently lost his brother to Covid-19.

113. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

In moving the Minutes, Councillor MacBean opined that the situation in respect to Covid 19 and the Council's finances was constantly changing so he had recommended a further, wider, meeting to be held on the 11th May so a further update could be received. Councillor Mrs MacBean paid tribute to all the Council staff, and particularly the Finance team, for continuing to successfully operate in this difficult time.

It was moved by Councillor D. MacBean and seconded by Councillor F.S. Wilson and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 20th April 2020 be received and approved.

114. **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – CURRENT OPERATION**

The Council considered the report from officers on the current situation in respect to Covid 19. It was noted that the closure of the Elgiva Theatre, Town Hall and Gym and Swim Centre remained in place but the Council's allotments and cemetery remained operational and the Parks and Premises team was continuing to maintain the Council's parks and open spaces as well as cutting highway verges on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council. The Democratic Services and Administration officers were successfully operating from home to continue to offer a support service. The report also gave details of the work undertaken by Chesham Help for Coronavirus Group within the community of Chesham.

Members thanked officers for their continued efforts and also the Chesham Help for Coronavirus Group for supporting the vulnerable members of the town's community. The Council agreed with Councillor Shaw's observation that, yet again, the many volunteer groups and organisations were successfully pulling together for the benefit of the residents which reflected so well on Chesham.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

115. **TOWN PARTNER UPDATE: CHESHAM CONNECT**

The Council received an update from Chesham Connect on its recent works and proposals.

Councillor Bacon offered congratulations to the organisation for submitting an update and enquired as to the current status of its High Street strategy. He suggested that the second draft, when completed, could play a part in formulating the ongoing Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Mrs MacBean replied that she believed that the strategy was still to be properly formulated and the next step might be to refer it to the Town Team who could act as a delivery arm though she agreed it should be presented to the Council in due course.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

116. **WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW**

A revised Waterfowl Management policy document was considered by Members.

No revisions were proposed and it was

RESOLVED

that the revised Waterfowl Management Policy be adopted for a further four years.

117. **PAYMENTS NO. 7**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 7, it was

RESOLVED

that Payments Sheet No. 7 in the grand total of £198,901.98 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

118. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 5.40pm.

CHAIRMAN

1st May 2020