

**CESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL**

held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs C. Littley – (Town Mayor - presiding)

Councillor	V.M. Abraham	Councillor	D.J. Lacey
"	Miss R.K. Bhatti	"	R.C. McCulloch
"	Ms J.E. Bramwell	"	Mrs A.M. Pirouet
"	Mrs P.R. Cherrill	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	M. Fayyaz	"	F.S. Wilson
"	T. Franks	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	Mrs R. Juett		

**Officers:** W. Richards - Town Clerk  
S. Pearson - Finance and Contracts Manager

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.K. Bacon, N.L. Brown P.J. Hudson, Mrs C.M. Michael and M.W. Shaw.

15. **COUNCILLOR NOEL BROWN**

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Littley, opened the meeting by informing the Council of the sad loss of Councillor Brown's mother overnight.

Members asked that their sincere condolences and best wishes be passed on to Councillor Brown at this difficult time for him.

16. **MINUTES**

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

17. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Pirouet declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 in light of her representation on the Youth Council.

Councillors Mrs Juett, McCulloch and Mrs Pirouet declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 as members of the Jubilee Events Committee.

Councillors Lacey, Spruytenburg and Wilson declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 as members of Chiltern District Council.

Councillor Fayyaz declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 10 as his son was employed by the Jubilee Events Committee and left the Chamber during its discussion thereof.

18. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Town Mayor invited questions from the public. No questions were forthcoming.

19. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from 14<sup>th</sup> May – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

The Mayor briefly advised of a project being led by Transition Town Chesham to develop a number of mini community orchards across town. She reported that the group had requested if Members could inform it of any suitable land they may be aware of in their wards so the project could be progressed.

20. **CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the Youth Council meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012 were presented and noted.

21. **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor V.M. Abraham and seconded by Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012, be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs P.R. Cherrill and seconded by Councillor M. Fayyaz and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012, be received and approved.

22. **RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs A.M. Pirouet and seconded by Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012, be received and approved.

23. **REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Council considered the new laws governing the conduct of elected Members in local government which come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July: with local (parish and town) councils required to have their own local codes of conduct for their councillors.

Members agreed it would be prudent to temporarily adopt the National Association of Local Council's (NALC) model code of conduct since Chiltern District Council had not finalised its own code. Some Members did express concern over the implications of the new disclosure of pecuniary interests' legislation and agreed that further training be sought on this matter.

It was

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Council adopt the NALC model code of conduct to take effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 and review it thereafter following publication of the Chiltern District Council's own code.
2. That the requirements pertaining to disclosable pecuniary interests be noted and further training be sought on this issue.

24. **CONSIDERATION OF ANNUAL RETURN 2011/12**

Members were requested to approve the Statutory Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 as required by law.

Councillor Wilson reported that concerns raised by him last year over proper assessment of risks were being addressed by the financial working party. He also congratulated fellow Members and officers on a very positive final financial out-turn.

It was

**RESOLVED**

1. That the accounting statement as shown on page 2 of the Annual Return be approved and signed by the Chairman presiding at this Council meeting.
2. That the Council respond in the affirmative to each of the Annual Governance Questions numbered 1 to 9 and that it is then signed by the Chairman presiding at this Council meeting and the Town Clerk.

3. That Mazars LLP continues as this authority's external auditors.

*Note: Councillor Miss Bhatti arrived at 7.45pm*

*Note: Councillor Fayyaz left the Chamber before the next agenda item.*

25. **CHESHAM JUBILEE EVENTS 2012**

It was reported that the Jubilee Events Committee, a group totally independent of the Council, had unfortunately generated a shortfall estimated to be in the region of £3,500 over the four days of festivities it organised celebrating the Queen's 60 years as monarch. Members were advised that the Committee had hoped to break-even but it appeared that its expected grant from Chiltern District Council would not be forthcoming, either for the Events Committee's application or for the Chesham Asian Welfare Association's event on the Tuesday.

Some Members questioned the wisdom of hiring equipment and artists before all income had been confirmed. However it was noted that there were creditors to pay and, while it was emphasised that it was not a Council-organised schedule of events, there was a perception that the Council was heavily involved and unpaid creditors may reflect badly on both the Council and the town. It was generally agreed therefore that the Council needed to be proactive in some way.

A brief discussion took place on the expected non-contribution from Chiltern District Council. Members who sat on the Events Committee stated that this was particularly disappointing since there had been very strong indications given that a community event like this would be supported financially.

It was agreed that some sort of definitive position be sought from Chiltern District Council on a financial contribution and to see whether any pressure could be brought to bear from Members to reverse recommendations from its officers that no grant be awarded. It was therefore recommended that the matter be considered anew at the Policy and Resources Committee scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the matter be referred to the next Policy and Resources Committee following clarification on the likelihood of a grant from Chiltern District Council while noting that these events were not organised by this Council.

26. **PAY SCHEDULE NO. 1**

Following consideration of Pay Schedule No. 1, it was

**RESOLVED**

that Pay Schedule No. 1 in the grand total of £344,007.42 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

27. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

TOWN MAYOR

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