

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

held on Monday 16th October 2006

PRESENT Councillor V.M. Abraham, Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	N.L. Brown	Councillor	Mrs P.R. Wilkinson MBE
"	M. Fayyaz	"	P. Woodburn
"	C.H. Spruytenburg	"	P.W. Yerrell

In Attendance

Councillors A.K. Bacon, D. J. Lacey, Mrs J.C. Fulford and Mrs A.M. Pirouet.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Bignell, Mrs J.E. Franks, Mrs P.R. Lindsley and Mrs M. Molesworth

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In respect of Agenda Item No. 4 – Annual Donations, the following personal declarations of interest were recorded:

Chesham Environment Group – Councillors Mrs J.F Fulford and C.H. Spruytenburg
Chesham Museum – The Stables – Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg
Chesham Student And Apprentices Fund - Councillor Mrs P.R. Wilkinson
Chesham Youth Council - Mrs A.M. Pirouet
Chiltern Racial Equality Council - Councillor V.M. Abraham.
Chiltern and South Bucks Dial-a-Ride - Councillor Mrs P.R. Wilkinson
Christmas Day Party for the Elderly – Councillors A.K. Bacon, Mrs A.M. Pirouet and C.H. Spruytenburg
Priors Charity – Councillor Mrs P.R. Wilkinson
Rachel Johnson Trust Education & Eleemosynary – Councillor Mrs P.R. Wilkinson
Unit 78 Sea Cadets Corps (Chiltern Unit) - Mrs A.M. Pirouet
W J Standring Bequest – Councillor Mrs P.R. Wilkinson

30. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 18th September 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

31. **ANNUAL DONATIONS**

The Committee gave detailed consideration to the 23 applications from community organisations requesting financial assistance. The report summarised each organisation, purpose of application, grant awarded last year, where applicable, and extent of financial assistance requested for 2006. It was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

(i) that grants be made to the following organisations:

<u>Organisation</u>	<i>Amount £</i>
Age Concern	£120
Amersham and Chesham Hard of Hearing Club	£200
Amersham and Chesham Lions Club	£100
Chesham and District Community Association	£200
Chesham Environmental Group	£400
Chesham Evening Townswomen's Guild	£25
Chesham Museum – The Stables	£200
Chesham Old Peoples Christmas Day Party	£300
Chesham Students and Apprentices Fund	£60
Chesham Women's Institute	£50
Chesham Youth Council	£500
Chiltern and Beaconsfield Branch of Cruse Bereavement Centre	£200
Chiltern Racial Equality Council	£400
Chiltern and South Bucks Dial-a-Ride	£775
Chesham Older Persons Action Group (COPAG)	£500

<u>Organisation</u>	<i>Amount £</i>
Priors Charity	£40
Rachel Johnson Trusts Education & Eleemosynary	£130
RELATE Mid Thames and Buckinghamshire	£300 *
	*subject to latest audited accounts being received before the next Council meeting
Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance	£300
Unit 78 Sea Cadet Corps (Chiltern Unit)	£500
Way-In (Chiltern Youth Matters)	£500
W J Standring Bequest	£40

(ii) Following a discussion on late applications, it was agreed that no grant should be made to late applicants but those applications received before the deadline but without up-to date accounts could be offered a grant, subject to the accounts being received before the next Council meeting. It was therefore agreed that no grant be made to the following organisation where its application was submitted late:

Chesham Sick Poor Fund

(iii) That the balance of monies remaining following the allocation of grants (£1,500, assuming all the above grants are approved) be carried forward to next year's donations budget.

(iv) That all successful grant applicants be written to suggesting they review their subscription fees before submitting an application for 2007/08.

The Committee then discussed the matter of complimentary use of the Town Hall and The Elgiva. Details of complimentary use for the 12 months ending 30th September 2006 were given in the report and noted by Members. Those present endorsed the continuation of complimentary use of the premises to those listed organisations and it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

that the extent of the Council's support to those local organisations in receipt of complimentary use of the Council's premises be continued and that a letter be sent to those organisation in question confirming the extent of the Council's support

32. **'GETTING CLOSER TO COMMUNITIES' – RE-ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY AREAS**

The Committee considered Buckinghamshire County Council's review of the local community areas as part of its 'Getting Closer to Communities' (GC2C) initiative.

It was noted that one of the proposals that had not been recommended was to split Chesham Local Community into two based on urban/rural areas. A brief discussion ensued on this and there was unanimity that the Committee had no major objection to either this proposal or the current local community area but that it was important that the community area corresponded with the police's Neighbourhood Action Group areas.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Clerk respond to Buckinghamshire County Council's proposals reflecting the views of the Committee.

33. **WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

The Committee considered the Policy and Projects Officer's recommended whistleblowing policy to be adopted by the Council.

It was

RESOLVED

that the whistleblowing policy be approved and adopted.

34. **BULLYING AND HARASSMENT POLICY**

The Committee considered the Policy and Projects Officer's recommended bullying and harassment policy to be adopted by the Council.

Members agreed with the basic principles of the policy but a query was raised in respect of the Council's power to sanction Councillors who had been proved to have bullied or harassed an employee. In order to clarify this matter, it was

RESOLVED

that the matter of the Council's power to sanction Members in respect of bullying and harassment be determined at the Council meeting of the 30th October 2006.

35. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SIX MONTHS TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2006**

The Financial Report for six months to 30th September 2006 was presented.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

36. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The item presented on Information Sheet No. 13 was received and noted.

37. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

CHAIRMAN