

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

held on Monday 20th May 2013

PRESENT

Councillor	M. Fayyaz	Councillor	R.C. McCulloch
"	T. Franks	"	Mrs C.M. Michael
"	D.J. Lacey	"	M.W. Shaw
"	Mrs C. Littley		

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors V.M. Abraham, A.K. Bacon, F.S. Wilson and P.W. Yerrell

Officer: Mr W. Richards, Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss R.K. Bhatti, Mrs C.I. Boxer, Mrs A.M. Pirouet and C.H. Spruytenburg.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR 2013/14**

The Mayor opened the meeting and called for nominations for Chairman of the Recreation and the Arts Committee.

It was

RESOLVED

that Councillor D.J. Lacey be elected Chairman for the remainder of the Council year.

Note: Councillor Lacey took the Chair

Councillor Lacey called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Recreation and the Arts Committee.

It was

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs C. Littley be elected Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the Council year.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor McCulloch declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 as a member of the Friends of Chesham Cemetery.

Councillor Mrs Littley declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 as a member of the Chesham Environmental Group.

Councillor Mrs Littley declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 as a member of the Allotments Group.

Councillor Mrs Littley declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 as a member of Impress the Chess.

Councillor Abraham declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 as a member of the Elgiva Board of Management.

Councillor Mrs Michael declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 as a member of the Friends of Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre. Councillor Bacon declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 as a regular user of the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre.

3. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 4th March 2013, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. **ALLOTMENTS GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meetings of the Allotments Group held on the 18th March and 9th April 2013.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

Councillor Mrs Littley advised that she had attended the meetings as the Council's representative but her late arrival at both had resulted in her being left off the list of those in attendance.

5. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on 28th March 2013.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

Arising out of Minute No. 3, a lengthy discussion took place on the Board's view that the development of an in-depth Business Plan would be impracticable and of little use, due to the Elgiva being largely governed by the vagaries of the national economy and people's disposable income. The majority view expressed by the Committee was that it would be desirable for such a plan to be produced. However it was accepted that the Board consisted of volunteers who were doing an excellent job in monitoring and assisting the theatre generally and it would be unreasonable to expect them to produce a document that would be time-consuming and onerous. Councillor Wilson therefore offered his services in helping to develop such a plan with the Board. As it was noted that the Elgiva Manager and Board were intending to approach the Committee in regard to increasing the marketing budget, it was agreed that such a request should be based around a marketing plan which could then be slightly expanded to become an over-arching business plan. It was agreed that the Clerk should approach the Chair of the Board and Elgiva Manager about this in the first instance rather than trying to make it an agenda item on the next Elgiva Board of Management meeting.

6. **IMPRESS THE CHESS GROUP – POLLUTION PREVENTION CAMPAIGN**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Impress the Chess Group Pollution Prevention Campaign meeting held on 27th March 2013.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

7. **FRIENDS OF CHESHAM CEMETERY**

Members received the Minutes of the Friends of Chesham Cemetery A.G.M. and group meeting held on 16th April 2013. It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

Councillor Fayyaz advised that he had received some complaints from his constituents about noise and bad language at night in the cemetery. Councillor McCulloch, as Chairman of the Friends of Chesham Cemetery, replied he thought it more of a police matter but would raise it at the next Friends' meeting.

8. **CHESHAM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Chesham Environmental Group held on the 25th April 2013.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

Arising out of Minute No. 10, Councillor Bacon highlighted the Group's opposition to a possible gypsy/travellers' site in Springfield Road because of it being a home to a sett of badgers in light of the Council's own objections to a site being located there.

Note: Councillor Wilson left the meeting 8.25pm

9. **CHESHAM MOOR GYM AND SWIM CENTRE UPDATE**

The Committee considered the officers' report on the current financial situation at the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre facility and the request to continue with opening the pool all year around through the 2013/14 administrative year.

It was

RESOLVED

1. That the financial position be noted.
2. That opening the pool all year around through the 2013/14 administrative year be agreed.

10. **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2013**

Councillor Lacey opened the discussion by passing on the sad news of the recent death of Mr Mike Taylor from Lamps and Tubes Illuminations who had worked with the Council for several years. Members offered their condolences accordingly.

The Committee was informed that the three year agreement to replace the bulbs and erect and dismantle the lights ended last Christmas and the local contractor has agreed to extend this for one more year and hold the price. The Committee noted that it was not recommended by officers to seek competitive quotes for a new contract until Members have determined what, if any, new scheme they would wish to see, particularly in respect to the possible replacing of the existing bulbs with LED bulbs.

Members agreed that it would be prudent to resist making any major changes this year with pressures on the budgets and the uncertainty of the effect on the Market Square with possible scheduled culvert repair works over the Christmas period.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

1. The current festoons are continued for 2013/14.
2. That the bulbs be replaced as in previous years with standard bulbs.
3. That the contract with the local contractor for replacing, erecting and dismantling the festoon lights be extended for a further year.
4. That the clock tower be decorated subject to the future of the Market Square tree and budget constraints.

11. **SKATEPARK UPDATE**

An update on the proposed new skatepark development was given by the Town Clerk. It was noted that, through consultation with users, three companies had been shortlisted and would be undertaking a final presentation to members of the Play-Area Working Party, skatepark users and local residents on the 3rd June. Following this presentation, a recommendation would be made to full Council on the 24th June as to the preferred tender. The Clerk also advised that he had submitted three funding bids to the Biffa Environmental Trust, the Veolia Environmental Trust and Sport England respectively while £5,000 had already been secured from the Local Area Forum.

Councillor Mrs Michael congratulated the Clerk on his efforts to date in progressing the project and it was

RESOLVED

that the process for selecting the recommended tender design be approved and that confirmation of this tender be determined at the next Council meeting.

12. **SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS – LOWNDES PARK**

Members received a report on the plans for a sixtieth anniversary celebration in Lowndes Park on the 3rd August based on a 1950s theme.

The Town Clerk advised that, unfortunately, the Council had been unsuccessful in a Lottery Awards for All bid and therefore the organising group was requesting the full amount of £1,000 allocated by the Council for community events.

The Committee was happy to approve this on the understanding there would be no requests for further, retrospective funding.

It was

RESOLVED

that the draft programme for the Lowndes Park Sixtieth Anniversary be noted and all of the £1,000 earmarked for community celebration events for 2013/14 be released to support this event.

Note: Councillor Yerrell left the meeting at 8.45pm

13. **PREVENTION OF DOG FOULING CAMPAIGN**

Following a rise in the number of complaints about dog-fouling in public places within Chesham, the Committee was informed that Chiltern District Council Environmental Health Officers have now considered this and produced an action plan to help to tackle the matter.

The Committee welcomed the initiative and offered its full support. It was also agreed that any areas of concern not currently on the Chiltern District Council Problem Roads List should be forwarded by Members to the Clerk for him to relay to District Council officers.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Committee confirms its support for the Chiltern District Council campaign and puts forward to the Clerk any other possible areas for concern to be passed on to the District Council.

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

It was moved by the Chairman and

RESOLVED

that the public and the Press 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.

15. **FENCING BETWEEN COUNCIL AND PRIVATE LAND**

The Committee was informed that a resident with land abutting the Council's had raised security issues in respect of people accessing his land from the Council owned side and trespassing thereof.

Members were sympathetic to the problems incurred but were of the view that the Council had no responsibility for the trespassing of persons on private property and

therefore any security measures ought to be implemented by, and costs borne, by the private landowner.

It was

RESOLVED

that no further action be taken in this matter.

16. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

CHAIRMAN

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