

## **CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

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

held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**PRESENT** Councillor Q. Chaudhry – Town Mayor (presiding)

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

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

Ms J. Brammer, Ms E. Cairns, Ms V. Mistry and Ms G. Walker – Chesham Extinction Rebellion Group.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. MacBean, Mrs J. E. MacBean, M. W. Shaw and S.P. Willmoth.

27. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest brought to the Mayor's notice.

28. **DISCUSSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE COUNCIL'S FUTURE ROLE**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to this Special Meeting and, before inviting members of the Chesham Extinction Rebellion Group to address the Council, enquired as to whether any Member wished to begin the discussion.

Accordingly some Members raised their severe reservations about engaging with the representatives of the Extinction Rebellion Group who some Members described as anti-democratic and not the right organisation to work with the Council to tackle the issue of climate change. Other Members highlighted the Council's robust Environmental Policy and its on-going partnership work with other local environmental Town Partners and opined that working with these groups specifically on climate change might be the most appropriate way forward as well as using the environmental legislation currently available to town and parish councils.

Ms Mistry, on behalf of the Chesham Extinction Rebellion Group, stated that she and her colleagues were here as much as concerned residents of Chesham than as formal representatives of Extinction Rebellion and opined that they were all committed to constructive dialogue which was their reason for attendance at the meeting. It was also

noted that her colleagues currently worked with the Council as representatives as other Town Partners.

She then undertook a presentation on the question of climate change and the science thereof as she had been invited to do following Public Question Time at the last Council meeting and what she believed the Council could do to try and mitigate this both locally and nationally.

The Mayor thanked Ms Mistry for her informative presentation and then sought questions and observations from Members following it.

There appeared to be a general, if not universal, consensus that declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’, as Chiltern District Council had recently done, may well be appropriate at a scheduled Council meeting. However the view was again expressed that trying to force change upon residents in respect to significant lifestyle choices and employment opportunities was not the correct way to go about this. Moreover, some Members questioned whether trying to get this country and the town totally ‘carbon neutral’ by 2025 was achievable or, indeed, desirable due to the rapid change required and the effect it may have on those on low incomes.

After further debate, it was proposed by Councillor Yerrell and seconded by Councillor Fayyaz *‘That a Working Party be set up as soon as possible to look at the opportunities for the Council to tackle climate change’*.

Councillor Franks (seconded by Councillor Miss Culverhouse) then moved an amendment to the proposal *‘That the concept of a Working Party to look at the opportunities for the Council to tackle climate change be further discussed at the next Full Council’*

Councillor Varley (seconded by Councillor McCulloch) then moved a further amendment namely: *‘That the concept of a Working Party, to include accredited Town Partners, to look at the opportunities for the Council to tackle climate change be further discussed at the next Full Council’*.

The amendment proposed by Councillor Varley was put to the vote and **CARRIED** by 12 votes to nil.

It was therefore

### **RESOLVED**

that the concept of a Working Party, to include accredited Town Partners, to look at the opportunities for the Council to tackle climate change be further discussed at the next Full Council.

## 29. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

CHAIRMAN

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