

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 29th October 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs M. Molesworth, Town Mayor (presiding)
Councillor Mrs A.M. Pirouet, Deputy Mayor

| | | | |
|------------|------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Councillor | V.M. Abraham | Councillor | Mrs J.C. Fulford |
| " | A.K. Bacon | " | F.G. Holly |
| " | E.L. Bamford | " | Mrs C. Littley |
| " | M.Z. Bhatti | " | Mrs C.M. Michael |
| " | Ms J.E. Bramwell | " | C.H. Spruytenburg |
| " | M.E. Brand | " | Mrs P.R. Wilkinson M.B.E |
| " | N.L. Brown | " | P.W. Yerrell |
| " | M. Fayyaz | " | Mrs G. Walker |

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D.J. Lacey

An apology for lateness was received from Councillor N.L. Brown.

53. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Town Mayor invited questions from the public. There were no questions that were brought to the Mayor's notice.

THE TOWN MAYOR OPENED THE COUNCIL MEETING AT 7.32PM

54. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 24th September 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

55. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In respect of Agenda Item No. 9 - Annual Donations – the following prejudicial declarations of interest were recorded and each Member listed left the Chamber and took no part in the discussions of the relevant organisation's grant request:

Amersham and Chesham Lions Club – Councillor Mrs C.M. Michael
Asheridge Vale and Lowndes Community Association – Councillors M.E. Brand and C.H. Spruytenburg
Chesham Environmental Group – Councillors Mrs J.C. Fulford and C.H. Spruytenburg
Chesham Museum – The Stables – Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg
1st Chesham Boys Brigade - Councillor Mrs A.M. Pirouet
Chesham Youth Council – Councillors M.Z. Bhatti, M. Fayyaz, Mrs A.M. Pirouet and Mrs G. Walker
Chiltern Citizens Advice Bureau – Councillors N.L. Brown and Mrs A.M. Pirouet
Chiltern Racial Equality Council - Councillors V.M. Abraham, M.Z. Bhatti and M.E. Brand
Chiltern and South Bucks Dial-a-Ride – Councillors Ms J.E. Bramwell and Mrs P.R. Wilkinson
Christmas Day Party for the Elderly – Councillors M.E. Brand, M. Fayyaz and Mrs M. Molesworth
Rachel Johnson Trusts Education and Eleemosynary – Councillors Mrs A.M. Pirouet and Mrs P.R. Wilkinson

Councillor P.W. Yerrell also declared a personal interest in respect of Chiltern Racial Equality Council’s grant request.

56. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor’s engagements from 25th September – 29th October 2007. The Mayor reported that the Deputy Mayor had attended the following two additional engagements:

- Tuesday 25 September - Chesham Park’s Evening of Excellence celebration at the Elgiva Theatre
- Tuesday 9 October - Poppy Appeal supper - Royal British Legion

The Mayor then invited Mr Bernard Meldrum, Chairman of the Chesham Society, to address the Council.

Mr Meldrum advised that the Chesham Society had recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. To commemorate this landmark, a history of the Chesham Society had been duly written and Mr Meldrum asked whether he could present an official copy of this history to the Council. The Mayor responded by paying tribute to the work the Society had undertaken in protecting and improving the town over the last half century and she gratefully accepted the book on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Abraham arrived at the meeting at 7.40pm and Councillor Bhatti arrived at the meeting at 7.45pm

57. **CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

The minutes of the Youth Council meetings of the 10th July and the 26th September 2007 were presented and noted.

Tom and Rebecca Pirouet from the Youth Council then gave a quick update on the activities of the Youth Council over the last few months. They reported that the poor weather over the summer had prevented the proposed play area surveys from taking place but that it was hoped it would be re-scheduled. They further advised that, as part of Local Democracy Week, representatives of the Youth Council had spoken to students at Chesham Park Community College to attempt to increase membership. It was acknowledged that membership levels remained low and Tom Pirouet requested that the Council reduce its Member representation on the Youth Council as the presence of a proportionally large number of adults was felt to be unintentionally intimidating at the meetings. It was also reported that the Youth Council would be represented at the Remembrance Day service.

A discussion then took place on the matter of recruitment of new Youth Council members. It was agreed that, in principle, it would be preferable to have greater ties with the local schools but it was accepted that this was not always possible with the current pressures on the school curriculum. After some debate it was

RESOLVED

that the matter of Youth Council recruitment and Member representation be referred to a future Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

58. **RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J.C. Fulford and seconded by Councillor A.K. Bacon and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 8th October 2007, be received, approved and adopted.

59. **INTERMENTS IN MUSLIM SECTION OF CEMETERY**

Arising from *Minute No.45* of the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 8th October 2007, Councillor Fayyaz advised that the Mosque Committee would be considering its position on this matter on the 11th November 2007 and would report back in due course.

60. **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

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

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 24th September 2007, be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor M. Fayyaz and seconded by Councillor Mrs J.C. Fulford and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 15th October 2007, be received and approved.

61. **PLANNING COMMENTS**

Arising from *Minute No.46* of the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 15th October 2007, Councillor Bacon opined that the comments objecting to planning application CH/07/1608/OA did not accurately reflect the Committee's position on highway concerns and it was agreed that the Clerk send off supplementary comments to Chiltern District Council clarifying the Council's objections in this respect.

62. **POLICY AND RESOURCES 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 Policy and Resources Committee held on 15th October 2007 be received and approved.

63. **PAY SCHEDULE NO. 4**

Following consideration of Pay Schedule No. 4, it was

RESOLVED

that Pay Schedule No. 4 in the grand total of £144,370.60 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

64. **FRIENDS OF MOOR ROAD LEISURE FACILITY**

The Council considered the draft terms and references for the proposed Friends of Moor Road Leisure Facility. Members welcomed the concept and it was

RESOLVED

that the proposed terms and references for the Friends of Moor Road Leisure Facility be agreed.

Councillor N.L. Brown arrived at the meeting at 8.15pm

65. **ANNUAL DONATIONS**

The Committee gave detailed consideration to the 25 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 2008.

A brief discussion took place on the appropriateness of agreeing grants for amounts under £100 and on the information printed on the application form. It was agreed that the matter be referred to a future Policy and Resources Committee where a working party could be formed to make recommendations thereof:

It was

RESOLVED

- i. that grants be made to the following organisations:

| ORGANISATION | RECOMMENDED GRANT |
|---|--------------------------|
| | £ |
| Amersham & Chesham Hard of Hearing Club | 150* |
| Amersham & Chesham Lions Club | 100 |
| Asheridge Vale & Lowndes Community Association | 315* |
| Bucks Gardens Trust | 100* |
| Chesham Environmental Group | 400 |
| Chesham Museum – The Stables | 250 |
| Chesham Old Peoples Christmas Day Party | 425* |
| Chesham Students & Apprentices Fund | 60* |
| Chesham Pioneers Blind and Visually Impaired Bowling Club | 200* |
| Chesham Sick Poor Fund | 150* |
| Chesham Youth Council | 659* |
| 1st Chesham Boys Brigade | 400* |
| Chiltern Citizens Advice Bureau | 1,500 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Chiltern Racial Equality Council | 200* |
| Chiltern & South Bucks Dial-A-Ride Ltd. | 1,390* |
| COPAG Chesham Older Persons Action Group | 100* |
| Priors Charity | 40* |
| Rachel Johnson Trusts Education & Eleemosynary | 130* |
| RELATE Mid Thames and Buckinghamshire | 300* |
| Schools of Chesham Carnival | 700** |
| Ultimate Solution | 100 |
| Vitalise | 575* |
| Way-In (Chiltern youth Matters) | 500* |
| Victim Support Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire | 400* |
| W J Standring Bequest | 40* |
| | |
| TOTAL DONATIONS AWARDED | 9,184 |

* = monies allocated through section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

** = £600 of approved donation payable only on incurring of road closure costs in June 2008.

- ii. that the matter of amount, and assessing, of future donations be referred to a future Policy and Resources Committee with a view to appointing a working party to make further recommendations.

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 2007 were given in the report and noted by Members. The Council endorsed the continuation of complimentary use of the premises to those listed organisations, save for the rehearsal space used by the company performing the annual pantomime at the Town Hall (though it was agreed this should be allowable for 2007/08 due to time constraints), and it was

RESOLVED

- i. 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
- ii. that the matter of complimentary use of the Town Hall by the company rehearsing for the Elgiva pantomime be referred to a future Policy and Resources Committee when the matter of assessing donations is to be discussed.

66. **INFORMATION ITEM**

The item presented on Information Sheet No. 14 was received and noted.

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

It was moved by the Mayor and

RESOLVED

that the public and the Press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Access to Meetings) Act 1960, as matters which are considered to be confidential are about to be discussed.

68. **COUNCIL WEBSITE**

The Council considered the report from the Policy and Projects Officer recommending that a new host provider be commissioned to design and maintain the Council's website. It was agreed that the current website was poor in design and functionality and it was

RESOLVED

E-Mango Ltd be appointed to develop a new website and that the additional costs to facilitate this be met from general reserves.

69. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

TOWN MAYOR

Publication Date: 9.11.07