

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the Community, Assets, Recreation and Environment (CARE) Committee

held on Monday 13 February 2023

Councillors:

Councillor Parveiz Aslam	Councillor Emily Culverhouse
Councillor Wilford Augustus	Councillor Majid Ditta
Councillor Alan Bacon	Councillor Justine Fulford
Councillor Simon Booth	Councillor Jane MacBean (Chair)

In attendance:

Councillor Francis Holly	
Mr Tony Marmo	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Danny Essex	Head Of Operations
Ms Kathryn Graves	Community, Economy and Environment Manager

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Rachael Matthews who had another commitment. Councillor Nick Southworth was absent.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

40. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Assets, Recreation and Environment Committee held on 21 November 2022 were received by members.

41. TO RECEIVE THE ACTION TRACKER OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF CARE

The Committee received the action tracker noting progress made against each action.

42. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Update

The Chair confirmed that all councillors had been circulated a draft copy of the Chesham LCWIP. The document has also been shared with officers at Buckinghamshire Council.

Councillor Fulford thanked the Chair for her time on developing this draft and agreed with its contents. She stated that she would have liked to have been engaged in discussions on this project. She felt the foreword would have been more appropriate coming from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Council rather than the chair of the CARE Committee.

The Chair confirmed that it was ARUP's suggestion for her to write the foreword. The CEO confirmed that a foreword to a Council document should be from the chair of a committee or the chair of council.

Councillor Bacon asked if the committee were being asked to commend the document and commented that it will be interesting to see what comes out of the public consultation. The Chair confirmed that at this stage the document circulated did not have the comments from councillors

and officers included, once these have been included it will be taken to consultation with the public. The final draft will then be brought back to the CARE committee for consideration of the outcome of the consultation. The CEO confirmed that once the consultation has been concluded comments need to be collated and taken back to ARUP for them to consider for a final draft document for the Council to consider whether to formally adopt.

Councillor Fulford noted that there were good ambitious ideas in the draft. She noted the proposal to restrict cycling in the high street and felt this was not the correct decision. The Chair confirmed that the reason for this is that it is currently illegal to ride a bike on Chesham High Street. Councillor Booth stated that consultants have come up with a good plan and we should follow their expert lead.

Councillor Booth asked if there was a cost implication for the public consultation. The CEO confirmed that there would be and that this needed to be worked through.

RESOLVED:

- i) The draft of the Chesham Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan was noted**
- ii) The LCWIP document is recirculated to town councillors with the comments received from officers and councillors of the Town and Buckinghamshire Council**

43. CHESHAM MOOR GYM & SWIM POOL LINER

Members received a report on the pool liner repair at the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim. The Head of Operational Services confirmed that the pool works are complete. However, since the report was written the pool boilers have broken down, which is a risk when boilers are turned off for a period of time. The boilers will require replacing and quotes are being sought.

Councillor Booth thanked the team for their work and asked how long the pool liner is insured for. The Head of Operational Services confirmed that the life span of the liner is suggested as 20 years, but the warranty is 5 years.

Councillor Aslam asked how old the boilers are. The Head of Operational Services confirmed the boilers are about 8 years old and that annual inspections of the boiler are carried out by an external contractor.

Councillor Booth commented that the sooner we move away from boilers to ground source heating the better. The Chair confirmed the ambition is not to be reliant on fossil fuels and that the architect involved in the redevelopment project shall be looking at this.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the boilers shall be replaced using further funds from reserves, subject to approval by the Finance committee.**

44. CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

A report was produced by the Community, Economy & Environment Manager for the committee to consider local celebrations for the coronation of King Charles III over the weekend of 6 to 8 May 2023.

The Chair commented that May might not be the best month weather wise for a street party and that they are awaiting to hear from highways if they are supporting street closures. She suggested the Council could zone the town hall carpark and make the beer festival a bigger event.

Councillor Aslam stated that it would be a big event to put together but equally very rewarding and did we want to consider doing in tandem with other activities or perhaps have a smaller event. We should have the clock tower as the centre stage as a bare minimum. We should think about the community as this is a one-off event we shouldn't miss.

The CEO confirmed that there was no budget for these events and so funding would need to come from reserves.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the live-screening of the Coronation at The Elgiva is approved.**
- ii) That the Community, Economy and Environment Manager explore the hosting of the Legion's Beer Festival at the Town Hall over the Coronation weekend, subject to full cost recovery.**
- iii) That the Community, Economy and Environment Manager explore whether to host a street party in the High Street.**
- iv) The cost of £2,318 for the Union Jack bunting in the town centre was approved to be funded from reserves, subject to approval by the Finance Committee.**
- v) The Community, Economy & Environment Manager to develop ideas for volunteering opportunities in town as part of The Big Help Out and to liaise with the Buckinghamshire waste team with regard to bins in the car park**

45. CHESHAM AUTO MOTO FESTIVAL

The Community, Economy & Environment Manager provided members of the committee with a report about the Chesham Italian Auto Moto Festival, which Councillor Augustus is proposing as an event on the High Street on Sunday 28 May 2023. The festival will involve a display of Italian cars and motorbikes along the length of the High Street.

Councillor Augustus stated that in line with the council's strategic aims of increasing the number of events and footfall on the high street he would very much like to hold this Auto Moto Festival as a council event and that he has the right relationships in place to make it happen. He said that the organisers of this event do so voluntarily across towns nationally and that bringing the event to Chesham will increase footfall by an estimated 10,000 people. The day of 28 May is fixed on the calendar for this event.

The Community, Economy & Environment Manager confirmed that she had held a meeting with the 3 organisers of the festival and that the key item to approve was the temporary road closure as the deadline for applying for this is the 28 Feb 2023. The cost of the road closure is £1,800.

Councillor Augustus confirmed that the overall cost for the event was estimated to be about £5,000, with £1,800 of this the cost for the road closure. Councillor Augustus confirmed he will be fundraising to cover the cost of the event but requested the Council initially fund the £1,800 road closure, with this being paid back to the Council out of the funds he raises for the event. Councillor Augustus also stated that the organisers had reviewed the town and are confident the layout works and they can deliver this event in Chesham. He felt the event would benefit businesses in the high street.

Councillor Booth thought it sounded like an excellent idea but that it would be better if the funding was in a firmer position and requested that a more detailed plan be brought to the Finance Committee in March.

Councillor Fulford stated that the biggest issue she has with this event is the carbon footprint which does not sit comfortably with the councils aims on reducing emissions. Also, if the event is on a Sunday when retailers are closed, who is benefiting. Councillor Bacon agreed and stated that it is not an event he would have chosen for Chesham in the high street as it is pedestrianised. It is bound to cause pollution and it does not sit with our environmental plan, sending the wrong message.

Councillor Aslam said he had looked carefully at the proposal and that he had also visited the Ley Hill Car Show which was a huge success with great community spirit. He also said that the local shops during the Jubilee loved being open and they would flourish during this event too. He said that is a once in a lifetime event which we should support and embrace.

The Chair agreed that it would be great for the profile of the town but there is no written business case here to look at, which made it hard to support the funding request. She confirmed that previous mayors have always funded their own events in the past, covering their own costs and liability.

The CEO confirmed that the report came to committee as a Town Council event rather than a mayoral event due to the timing of the deadline for the required road closure application, and the event itself is being proposed by a Councillor rather than the current Mayor.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Auto Moto Festival event should not go ahead as a council event**

46. PLAY AREA WORKING GROUP MINUTES UPDATE

The play area working group minutes were noted

47. CARE COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan for the Committee meeting of the 13 February 2023 was received.

The meeting closed at 9.04pm.