

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

held on Monday 11 July 2005

PRESENT Councillor Mrs. P.R. Lindsley Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	D.J. Lacey
"	E.L. Bamford	"	Mrs. S.M. McEwan
"	M. Fayyaz	"	Mrs. M. Molesworth
"	Mrs. J.C. Fulford		

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor	Mrs P.R. Wilkinson M.B.E.
"	P. Woodburn

Officer : Mr. W. Richards - Town Clerk

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. A.M. Pirouet

13. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest that were brought to the Chairman's notice.

14. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 6th June 2005, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

15. **ALLOTMENT GROUP**

Members received and noted the Minutes of the meeting of the Allotment Group held on 31st May 2005

16. **ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received and noted the Minutes of the meeting of the Chesham Environmental Group held on 9th June 2005.

Arising out of Minute No. 3b, a query was raised as to why a wildflower project in the Cemetery was being considered after it had been previously rejected by the Council. Members were

informed that the area proposed was smaller than formerly suggested and it was agreed that the project would need to be debated by the Committee as and when the Environmental Group submitted a proper proposal.

In respect of Minute No. 8a, Councillor Mrs Fulford advised that silt amelioration was required at Lord's Mill rather than Cannon's Mill as minuted.

17. **RESOURCING OF 'PROJECT COWSLIP'**

The Committee considered the proposal, instigated by the Mayor, that a number of Council sites be planted with Primula Veris (Cowslip) as part of a Mayoral scheme for 2005/06. It was noted that the cost of the scheme was to be funded jointly from the Mayoral allowance and Council budgets and therefore it required formal approval.

Members were supportive of the principle but were concerned on the ramifications of on-going maintenance and potential vandalism problems at certain sites. As the Mayor was not in attendance at the meeting, it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

that 50% of the costs (up to a maximum of £300) be committed from the Parks and Premises budget to assist with 'Project Cowslip', subject to clarification of maintenance and locations issues.

18. **SITING OF TWINNING BENCH**

The Committee agreed with the recommendations of the officers' report and it was

RESOLVED

that a bench be purchased through the donation from the town of Friedrichsdorf and located at Friedrichsdorf Corner.

19. **ACCOUSTIC GREEN BARRIER - SKATEPARK**

The Town Clerk reported that a funding application made jointly by the Chairman of the Youth Council and himself to Onyx Environmental Trust had been unsuccessful and other funding options currently were limited. He advised that the on-going noise issues had been raised with the consultants charged with undertaking the Lowndes Park Project Plan and this may result in lottery funding being available for a barrier once the plan was completed.

It was accepted that no external funding bids were likely to be successful in the short-term and therefore it was

RESOLVED

that the matter of the skate park noise amelioration be included in the Project Plan for Lowndes Park and be considered as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund bid, subject

to the Project Plan's recommendations and these being endorsed by Council.

20. **DISABLED STAGE LIFT - ELGIVA**

The Committee discussed the report from the Technical Manager at the Elgiva on the feasibility of installing a disabled stage lift. While there was general consensus that such a lift would be desirable, it was accepted that the design of the theatre made it highly impracticable. The implications of the Disability Discrimination Act were considered and it was accepted that it appeared that the Council was not obliged to install a lift as it would not be deemed 'reasonable' to do so in light of the logistical difficulties.

The Chairman moved that a vote be taken on the recommendation within the report. This was **carried** by six votes to one and accordingly it was

RESOLVED

that no further action in regard to a disabled stage lift at the Elgiva be taken at the present time.

21. **SECURITY AT THE TOWN HALL**

Members expressed their desire to improve security at the Town Hall and, after seeking reassurances that the changes to the front door would not be restrictive for the disabled and that the fire officer would be consulted, it was

RESOLVED

that Officers be authorised to implement changes to the Town Hall doors allowing for automatic exit only on the occasions the building was required for private functions.

22. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The items presented on Information Sheet No. 3 were received and noted.

23. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AT OUTDOOR POOL**

In consideration of information item No. 14, it was noted that Chess Valley Sports and Leisure Association was discussing the matter of anti-social behaviour later in the week. In light of the number of incidents of vandalism that had occurred at the pool in recent weeks, and the possible need for swift remedial action, it was

RESOLVED

that the Chairman of the Recreation and the Arts Committee, together with the Mayor and the Town Clerk be authorised to approve any low-cost security improvements at the outdoor pool, if appropriate.

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

It was

RESOLVED

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

25. **ELGIVA REPAIRS AND RENEWALS**

The Committee agreed with the recommendations of the Elgiva Manager to delay both the foyer and auditorium redecoration and the re-upholstering of the auditorium seats until August 2006. The Committee requested that the Elgiva Board of Management be asked to assist in the obtaining of estimates for the works once appropriate specifications had been drawn up by the Council's Finance and Contracts Manager.

It was

RESOLVED

that the redecoration of the foyer and auditorium and re-upholstering of the auditorium seats be rescheduled for August 2006 and that the tenders be considered by the Committee at a future date.

26. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.07 pm.

CHAIRMAN