

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 30th April 2007

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

Councillor	V.M. Abraham	Councillor	D.J. Lacey
"	A.K. Bacon	"	Mrs S.M. McEwan
"	E.L. Bamford	"	Mrs A.M. Pirouet
"	M.Z Bhatti	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	M. Bignell	"	Mrs P.R. Wilkinson M.B.E.
"	N.L. Brown	"	P. Woodburn
"	Mrs J.E. Franks	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	Mrs J.C. Fulford		

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs P.R. Lindsley.
An apology for lateness was received from Councillor D.J. Lacey.

122. **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 7.33PM

123. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 26th February 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

124. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In respect of Agenda Item No. 5 - Youth Council minutes- Councillors M. Bignell and Mrs A.M. Pirouet declared personal interests in the item as Council representatives of the Youth Council and Councillor M.Z. Bhatti declared a personal interest in respect of his son being on the Youth Council.

In respect of Agenda Item No.7 – response to draft orders, Byways Open to all Traffic – Councillor J. C. Fulford declared a personal interest as a member of the Action for Bridleways in Chesham Group.

In respect of Agenda Item No 13. – Confirmation of architect for Marston Pavilion - Councillor P.W. Yerrell declared a personal interest as a member of the Marston Pavilion Redevelopment Working Party. Moreover, Councillor Mrs A.M Pirouet declared a personal interest in respect of her father being a member of the Marston Pavilion Redevelopment Working Party and Councillor Mrs S.M. McEwan declared a personal interest in respect of her son being a member of the Marston Pavilion Redevelopment Working Party

The Town Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 15 and stated his intention to leave the Chamber during the item should any discussion arise thereof.

Councillor D.J. Lacey arrived at the meeting at 7.45pm

125. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from 27th February- 30th April 2007. The Mayor apologised to the Council for the late submission of his engagements which totalled 22 for the period. The Deputy Mayor reported that she had attended the following additional engagements:

- Friday 20 April - Mayor of Berkhamsted's buffet supper
- Sunday 22 April - Chiltern North Scout District, St. George's Day Parade in Lowndes Park and service at St Mary's Church

Through the Mayor, Councillor Spruytenburg paid tribute to three of the Members who had decided not to seek re-election to the Council, namely Councillors Mrs Lindsley, Mrs McEwan and Woodburn. He opined that all three of the Members had worked very hard on behalf of their constituents and would be missed by both the public of Chesham and their fellow Members and these sentiments were endorsed by the Mayor.

The Mayor then thanked both the Members of all parties and the officers of the Council for their help and support during his tenure as Mayor and wished all candidates well in the forthcoming election.

126. **CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk advised that the minutes of the previous meeting had not been received at the Town Hall so had not been circulated. He reported that it was a busy time for most Youth Council members with exams taking precedence which had consequently affected the Youth Council's administration and attendance at meetings.

127 **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

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

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 12th March 2007, be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs M. Molesworth and seconded by Councillor P. Woodburn and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 2nd April 2007, be received and approved.

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

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 23rd April 2007, be received and approved.

128. **RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs A.M. Pirouet and seconded by Councillor P.W. Yerrell and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 12th March 2007, be received and approved.

129. **MARSTON PAVILION**

Arising from *Minute No. 78* of the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 12th March 2007, Councillor Yerrell advised that the Chiltern District Council's Director of Planning and the Environment had not attended a site visit with him as recorded in the minutes. Moreover Councillor Yerrell emphasised that the Director of Planning and the Environment had been positive on the matter of obtaining planning permission for a new pavilion but had stated that this was by no means a formality.

130. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor V.M. Abraham and seconded by Councillor P. Woodburn and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 2nd April 2007, be received and approved.

131. **PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg and seconded by Councillor D.J. Lacey and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Performance Review Committee held on 23rd April 2007, be received, approved and adopted.

132. **RESPONSE TO DRAFT ORDERS – BYWAYS OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC**

Mr Tony Biddle from the Chiltern Society and Action for Bridleways in Chesham undertook a brief presentation on the proposals to upgrade the bridleways in Bottom Lane, Bunns Lane and Trapps Lane into Byways Open to all Traffic (BOATs). Mr Biddle was keen to highlight the fact that, while Buckinghamshire County Council had issued draft orders to this effect, the decision had been foisted upon it by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) following a report from the appointed inspector.

Members were fully supportive of Mr Biddle's conclusions that the inspector's conclusions in regard to historical evidence of previous vehicular access were questionable, at best. It was therefore agreed that the Clerk should write to Buckinghamshire County Council expressing this view in response to the consultation on the draft orders and request that a public inquiry be convened.

The discussion then centred on whether the Council should be proactive in requesting that a pre-emptive Traffic Regulation Order be made for each of the bridleways under consideration and, if desirable, whether the Council should raise the possibility of a financial contribution being forthcoming from it to defray some of the costs.

After some debate, it was proposed by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Bamford that *'the Council write to Buckinghamshire County Council expressing a wish to begin discussions in regard to imposing pre-emptive Traffic Regulation Orders on the*

bridleways under consideration and open negotiations with the County Council on the possibility of the Council making a financial contribution thereof.'

An amendment was then moved by Councillor Yerrell and seconded by Councillor Bacon that *'the Council write to Buckinghamshire County Council expressing a wish to begin discussions in regard to imposing pre-emptive Traffic Regulation Orders on the bridleways under consideration.'*

This amendment was **CARRIED** by 11 votes to 5.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

1. that the Council write to Buckinghamshire County Council to express the view that it disputed the inspector's findings in regard to the historical evidence on vehicular access on the named bridleways and that a public inquiry should be held to determine their upgrading to Byways Open to all Traffic.
2. that the Council write to Buckinghamshire County Council expressing a wish to begin discussions in regard to imposing pre-emptive Traffic Regulation Orders on the bridleways under consideration.

133. **WATER COOLER PROVISION AT THE TOWN HALL**

The Council considered the report from the Finance and Contracts Officer on the environment impact of having hot water mains provision for its water coolers.

It was

RESOLVED

that two cold only mains fed water coolers be installed.

134. **PAY SCHEDULE NO. 7**

Following consideration of Pay Schedule No. 7, it was

RESOLVED

that Pay Schedule No. 7 in the grand total of £215,575.36 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

135. **INFORMATION ITEM**

The item presented on Information Sheet No. 28 was received and noted.

136. **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.

137. **UPDATE ON CHESHAM OPEN AIR POOL SWIMMING POOL AND FACILITIES**

The Town Clerk was pleased to report that, following the formal winding up of Chess Valley Sports and Leisure Association (CVSLA) on the 18th April 2007, the Council had taken over the management of the swimming pool and associated facilities. He paid tribute to the exceptionally hard work undertaken by his Town Hall staff and the Swimming Centre Manager in a short space of time to ensure the pool was ready to open on the 1st May as usual. He also thanked Wycombe Leisure Ltd for its invaluable help and advice, particularly in regard to risk assessments and training.

The Council then considered the role of Strides gymnasium within the new management structure and the financial implications thereof.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be authorised to proceed in connection with this matter in the terms expressed at the meeting.

138. **CONFIRMATION OF ARCHITECT FOR MARSTON PAVILION**

The Council noted that the Marston Pavilion Working Party's recommended contractor to lead on the drawing up of specifications and designs for the new facility had

successfully overseen the work for the Chessvale Bowls Club. The Council were advised that the contractor's fees would be £6,000 though Councillors Lacey and Yerrell intimated that the Pond Park Community Association might be contributing to these costs.

Having sought assurances that the appointment would adhere to the Council's financial regulations, it was

RESOLVED

that an amount of up to £6,000 be committed for the drawing up of plans and devising of tenders by the recommended contractor for the redevelopment of Marston Pavilion.

139. **OUTSTANDING DEBTS**

It was

RESOLVED

that a doubtful debt provision be made in the 2006/7 accounts to cover the outstanding debt of £82 as previously reported at the Policy and Resources Committee of the 2nd April 2007.

140. **TOWN CLERK'S SALARY.**

It was

RESOLVED

that the payment of the Outer Fringe Area Allowance (Outer London Weighting) be confirmed and continued to be paid to the Town Clerk.

141. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

TOWN MAYOR

Publication Date: 08.05.07