

CESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

held on Monday 9th January 2006

PRESENT Councillor V.M. Abraham, Vice-Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	Mrs P.R. Wilkinson M.B.E.
"	N.L. Brown	"	P. Woodburn
"	M. Fayyaz	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	C.H. Spruytenburg		

In Attendance

Councillors: M.Z. Bhatti, Mrs J.C. Fulford, D.J. Lacey and Mrs M. Molesworth

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms J.E. Bramwell and P.J. Murphy.

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

44. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

45. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 28th November 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

46. **REVIEW OF SECURITY IN CESHAM CEMETERY**

The Committee considered the matter of security within Chesham Cemetery following an alleged assault in the facility during daylight hours.

The Town Clerk presented to the Committee figures from the police that affirmed ten reported crimes had taken place in the cemetery over the last three years and that only three of these took place in 2004 and 2005. The Town Clerk also produced indicative costs for the installation of a Closed Circuit Television Camera (CCTV) and the contracting of a private security firm to patrol the area.

Some Members stated that they believed more crime had taken place within the cemetery than was recorded but that certain members of the public had been too intimidated to officially report incidents. There was general agreement that action was required and it was noted that the many members of the public in attendance at the meeting was a reflection of the broad concern amongst residents. However, it was accepted that use of CCTV and/or private security firms would be prohibitively expensive and of questionable effectiveness in crime prevention. The Committee discussed other options for security and it was deemed that the police's proposals to increase patrols in and around the cemetery by the Police Community Support Officers would be an obvious practicable way of attempting to reduce anti-social behaviour. Nevertheless, it was agreed that the situation needed to be carefully monitored and the matter should be reconsidered and evaluated at a future Council meeting.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Committee formally express its concern on security in Chesham Cemetery to the police and request that greater surveillance of the facility be implemented.

47. **POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSOs)**

The Town Clerk reported he had a meeting with the local police sergeant and the Community Safety Officer at Chiltern District Council and that both were amenable to setting a forum with Members to discuss the work of the PCSOs. It was proposed that the forum meet approximately four to six times a year.

There was unanimity amongst Members that the Council should be in some way involved with the tasking of the PCSOs and greater feedback was required on the work currently being undertaken by the officers. Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

that the Committee agree to nominate one Member per ward to represent the Council to liaise with the police and Chiltern District Council's Community Safety Officer on the activities of the Police Community Safety Officers.

Councillor Mrs J.C. Fulford left the meeting at 8.50 pm.

48. **CONSULTATION ON NEW PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS AND STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITY**

Proposals from Thames Valley NHS Strategic Health Authority in regard to re-organising the healthcare providers' structure in the region were considered by the Committee.

While some concern was expressed on the detrimental effect the reorganisation might have on healthcare provision generally and particularly on the proposed Healthzone earmarked for Berkhamstead Road, it was accepted that it would be appropriate to state an opinion on the Council's preference to the two options offered on both Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authority (SHA) reorganisation. It was agreed on the former that it would be preferable to have a PCT that was coterminous with the existing County Council borders and, in regard to the latter, further agreed it would be preferable to have two rather than one SHA for the south-east region.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Council respond to the local consultation paper expressing its support for option 1 on the proposed Primary Care Trust configuration and option 2 for the proposed Strategic Health Authority configuration and that its continued support for the Healthzone be strongly expressed.

Councillor P.W. Yerrell requested that his objection to this resolution be recorded.

49. **REVITALISATION PROJECTS**

After seeking assurances that payments were made upon production of receipts, it was

RESOLVED

that an amount of up to £200 be committed from the revitalisation budget to pay for the paint and associated equipment utilised by the owner of the Drawing Room to paint over the walls in The Backs.

50. **REVISED ESTIMATES 2005/06 AND ESTIMATES 2006/07**

The Committee considered the report from the Finance and Contracts Manager on the revised estimates for 2005/06 and the estimates for 2006/07.

Following clarification on proposed asbestos work and the probability that costs for this would not be as high as originally estimated, it was accepted by the Committee that little other savings could be offered up.

In noting that the proposed precept would represent a 4.5% increase on a Band D property on the 2005/06 budget, it was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

that the Council levies a precept of £697,000 on Chiltern District Council for the financial year 2006/07 and that the Revised Capital and Renewal and

Repairs programmes, together with a statement of fund balances, be approved.

Councillor N.L. Brown arrived at the meeting at 9.12 pm.

51. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR EIGHT MONTHS**

The Financial Report for eight months to 30th November 2005 was presented.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

52. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The items presented on Information Sheet No. 20 were received and noted.

In respect of the item No. 58, Councillor Bacon gave a brief verbal update on the discussions he and the Town Clerk had been undertaking with officers and Members of the principal authorities in respect to the 'Getting Closer to Communities' initiative.

53. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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