

**CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL**

held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2012

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs C. Littley – Town Mayor (presiding)

Councillor	V.M. Abraham	Councillor	Mrs R. Juett
"	A.K. Bacon	"	D.J. Lacey
"	Miss R.K. Bhatti	"	R.C. McCulloch
"	Ms J.E. Bramwell	"	Mrs C.M. Michael
"	N.L. Brown	"	M.W. Shaw
"	M. Fayyaz	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	T. Franks	"	F.S. Wilson
"	P.J. Hudson	"	P.W. Yerrell

**Officer:** W. Richards - Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P.R. Cherrill and Mrs A.M. Pirouet

28. **MINUTES**

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

29. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Hudson, Mrs Juett, McCulloch and Shaw declared an interest in agenda items 4 and 5 as members of the Jubilee Events Committee.

Councillors Miss Bhatti, Bacon, Ms Bramwell, Brown, Franks, Lacey, Mrs Michael, Spruytenburg and Yerrell declared an interest in agenda items 4 and 5 as friends of members of the Jubilee Events Committee.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in agenda items 4 and 5 as a friend and an associate of members of the Jubilee Events Committee.

Councillor Fayyaz declared an interest in agenda items 4 and 5 as his son was employed by the Jubilee Events Committee and left the meeting before agenda item 4.

*Note: Councillor Fayyaz left the meeting at 7.35pm*

30. **DISPENSATIONS**

The Clerk reported that, in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, and in light of the declaration of interests listed in agenda item 3, Members had requested the following dispensations:

- To address the meeting but not to vote on agenda item 5: Councillors Hudson, Mrs Juett, McCulloch and Shaw.
- To address the meeting and be permitted to vote on agenda item 5: Miss Bhatti, Bacon, Ms Bramwell, Brown, Franks, Lacey, Mrs Michael, Spruytenburg, Wilson and Yerrell.

Councillor Ms Bramwell stated that that she believed that no dispensations should be granted by the Council and agenda item 5 should not be considered at all. She stated that she believed there was no need for those Members who had been on the Jubilee Events Committee to be in attendance, since she felt the facts were already before the Council in the form of the report. Moreover she expressed her opinion that the Members present who were not on the Jubilee Events Committee, but who had declared interests in respect of friendship to those who were, could not make a dispassionate decision. She further suggested that, had there been no Members on the Jubilee Events Committee, the Council would not have called a special meeting to consider this request.

Councillor Brown responded by saying that the matter had been put before either a Council or Committee twice previously and it was clear that the matter now needed resolving by this Council and the granting of dispensations was the only way this could take place. Councillor Bacon concurred, saying it was right and proper to proceed following advice from Chiltern District Council's Monitoring Officer.

It was moved by the Mayor that the dispensations, as requested, be granted and this was **CARRIED** by 9 votes to 2.

It was therefore

#### **RESOLVED**

that, in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, the requested dispensations be approved to allow Members to speak and vote where appropriate at this meeting.

*Note: Councillor Ms Bramwell asked that her vote against this resolution be recorded.*

### 31. **POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO CHESHAM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

The Council was asked whether it wished to underwrite the final cost of the Jubilee celebrations in Chesham.

Councillor Abraham began the discussion by saying he was finding it very difficult to support this request since the Council needed to adhere to its budgets and such a large grant to, what was effectively an outside organisation, was hard to justify. He also added that the Council should question if it should support a programme of events where there

appeared to have been inadequate financial control. However both Councillors Brown and Yerrell responded by saying that most people in town had assumed it was a Town Council event and considering that, unlike many other parish and town councils, the Council had committed nothing to the Jubilee celebrations thus far other than the erection of bunting, it would seem reasonable to support this successful four day programme, albeit retrospectively. Councillor Mrs Juett added that she joined the Events Committee before she was elected as a Member and said she felt honoured to have been approached as she was under the impression that it was a Council organised weekend. Councillor Bacon agreed that the Council ought to underwrite the event but stated that no Member would feel comfortable doing this and that, in future, the Council needed to ensure it distanced itself from such situations. Councillor Spruytenburg reminded Members that many small local businesses had still to be paid and this would reflect badly on the town and, no doubt, the Council, if this was not rectified. He also suggested it would be advantageous to have some sort of system in place to assist such similar one-off events in the future.

Councillor Wilson congratulated the Jubilee Events Committee for producing an excellent programme of activities clearly enjoyed by many hundreds of residents. He stated that it was clear that finding external grants and sponsorship had proved harder than expected despite the Committee's best efforts. He stated he believed it was important that those involved were not castigated for acting in good faith and pledged some of his own monies to reduce the deficit.

After some further debate, the Mayor moved the recommendation that '*the Council underwrite the final cost of the Jubilee celebrations in Chesham, to an amount not exceeding £4,368.43 from the General Fund*' and this was **CARRIED** by 9 votes to 2.

It was therefore

### **RESOLVED**

that the Council underwrite the final cost of the Jubilee celebrations in Chesham, to an amount not exceeding £4,368.43 from the General Fund.

*Note: Councillors Abraham and Ms Bramwell asked that their votes against this resolution be recorded.*

## 32. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

TOWN MAYOR

*Publication Date: 8.8.2012.*