

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 28th January 2019

PRESENT Councillor Mrs J. E. MacBean – Town Mayor (presiding)

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|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Councillor | A.K. Bacon | Councillor | D. MacBean |
| " | M.Z. Bhatti MBE | " | R.C. McCulloch |
| " | N.L. Brown | " | N.T. Southworth |
| " | Q. Chaudhry | " | Mrs D.M. Varley |
| " | Miss E.A. Culverhouse | " | N. Varley |
| " | A.W. Franks | " | F.S. Wilson |
| " | P.J. Hudson | " | P.W. Yerrell |

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

In Attendance: Mr A. Begon and Mr M. Aslam MBE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Fayyaz, M. W. Shaw, B.R. Whitfield and S.P. Willmoth.

81. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 3rd December 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

82. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Bacon, Miss Culverhouse, Hudson, Mrs MacBean, Mrs Varley, Varley and Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 13 as Members of Chiltern District Council.

83. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Ms Kate Dawson enquired as to whether the Council could undertake any measure to reduce speeding in Lowndes Avenue which, she opined, was getting worse.

The Mayor advised that her enquiries with the police had suggested the recently purchased sentinel camera used to monitor speeding could not be used due to the number of parked cars in the road. However she advised that the implementation of double yellow lines on the junction Chartridge Lane and Lowndes Avenue as planned for phase II of the parking review should improve safety at the top of the highway.

Ms Dawson reported that residents were having a meeting at the Town Hall shortly and would consider options further then after speaking to Buckinghamshire County Council officers. It was noted that it was possible a feasibility study on speeding amelioration measures for Lowndes Avenue could be undertaken and resolved that, if deemed the preferred option, the Clerk be authorised to commit up to £1,000 as match funding to facilitate this.

Ms Dawson thanked the Council, agreed to liaise with the Clerk following the residents' meeting and duly left the meeting.

84. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from 4th December 2018 – 28th January 2019.

Councillor Brown paid tribute to PC Kevin Flint, the well-respected local police officer, who had tragically lost his life recently and the Mayor then led Members and officers in a minute's silence to honour the late PC Flint.

85. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor D. MacBean and seconded by Councillor N.L. Brown and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 10th December 2018, be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor D. MacBean and seconded by Councillor N.L. Brown and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 7th January 2019, be received and approved.

86. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor N.L. Brown and seconded by Councillor R.C. McCulloch and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 17th December 2018, be received and approved.

87. **RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and seconded by Councillor Miss E.A. Culverhouse and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Arts Committee held on 17th December 2018, be received and approved.

88. **WORLD PEACE DAY EVENT**

The Mayor welcomed Mr Adrian Begon and Mr Parveiz Aslam to the meeting to explain to Members plans for a World Peace Day in Chesham at the Bury in September.

Mr Begon explained that the event at the Bury was intended to be a large, entertaining and diverse event involving as much of the community of Chesham as possible to promote the concept of peaceful co-existence and global diversity. Central to this would be an attempt to break a record as verified by Guinness Book of World Records, namely ‘most individuals contributing to a handprint in one hour’. However to enter for this record attempt, the organisers require a ‘sole organisation’ to apply so Mr Begon enquired as to whether the Council would agree to be the applicant on their behalf.

Members agreed that this appeared to be a very worthy event and it was

RESOLVED

that the Council agrees to be the applicant for the submission to the Guinness Book of World Records (subject to eligibility) as requested and offers its general support to the proposed Chesham World Peace Day on the 21st September 2019.

89. **DELEGATED TRANSPORTATION BUDGET**

The Council was informed that the costings for grasscreting Darvell Drive and Hivings Hill as put forward as a possible delegated budget Local Area Forum transportation bid to Buckinghamshire County Council in August had just been received from Transport for Bucks. The Clerk also informed the meeting that the costs to resurface parts of the footpath in White Hill and Latimer Road had yet to be received.

Having noted that the schemes required a minimum of 50% match funding and such a contribution had not been included in the draft budget to be confirmed later in the meeting, it was agreed it would be preferable to reconsider these for 2020/21 now that costs have been received and could be budgeted for accordingly.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that the Council does not proceed with the Local Area Forum bids unless match-funding can be sourced from other external funders.

87. **ANNUAL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2019/20**

A discussion took place on the budget and precept for the next financial year as proposed by the Finance Committee.

A brief discussion took place on the matter of the General Reserves and how they were forecasted and it was noted that this would be further considered at the next Finance Committee.

The Mayor then moved the recommendations from the report and it was

RESOLVED

1. That the 2019/20 budget as set out in the updated budget summary be confirmed.
2. That the total funding requirement for 2019/20 to be levied on the Chiltern District Council be set at £958,000.

88. **PAYMENTS NO. 5**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 5, it was

RESOLVED

that Payments Sheet No. 5 in the grand total of £466,269.94 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

Councillor Franks mentioned the payment to the Environment Agency to undertake repairs to the river bank and install dog steps by Canon's Wood and opined it was disappointing the agency charged for a permit to do this work. The Mayor explained this was unfortunately necessary as deemed 'main repair' but commended the Policy and Projects Officer in negotiating the waiving of other potential costs in this excellent community project.

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

It was moved by the Mayor and

RESOLVED

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

90. **ELGIVA PANTOMIME**

The report from the Elgiva Manager explained that the Council had sent out to twelve targeted existing pantomime companies, a detailed specification for the delivery of the Elgiva Pantomime for three years from 2019 onwards. Of these four were received. As

well as considering what the proposals could offer financially and in terms of market support, the Manager believed it important to actually view the pantomimes being performed by the potential companies. Accordingly he arranged trips (along with the Mayor and the Chairman of the Elgiva Board of Management) to visit performances of two of the companies; a third provided a live video link to their performance and the fourth was the current Elgiva pantomime provider.

Having agreed all four seemed capable of putting on a high-quality artistic performance, the financial returns were considered and, on this basis, the Manager had recommended that a three year contract be offered to New Pantomime from 2019. It was noted that this recommendation had been supported by the Elgiva Board of Management.

The Council was happy to support this proposal and it was

RESOLVED

that the Council offers a three year contract to New Pantomime as set out in its tender specification.

91. **FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

Members were reminded that at the last Council meeting, the Clerk was requested to write a letter to senior officers and Members of the Environment Agency and the District Council to raise the Council's very real concerns on the lack of progress on alleviation matters pertaining to the Chesham Culvert.

Replies were duly received from both parties with Chiltern District Council expressing a preference for a meeting with representatives from this Council to further understand its position while the Environment Agency stated it would prefer to present to Members on its plans as a first course of action. Accordingly it was agreed that Councillors Brown, Franks, Mrs MacBean, Mrs Varley and Varley be nominated to meet with the District Council and the Environment Agency be invited to present at the next Council meeting.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that Councillors Brown, Franks, Mrs MacBean, Mrs Varley and Varley be nominated to meet with Chiltern District Council to discuss the state of the Chesham Culvert and alleviation measures and the Environment Agency be invited to present at the next Council meeting on its proposed possible solutions.

92. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

CHAIRMAN