

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

held on Monday 27th March 2006

PRESENT Councillor Ms. J.E. Bramwell, Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	V.M. Abraham	Councillor	N.L. Brown
"	A.K. Bacon	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	M. Bignell	"	Mrs P.R. Wilkinson MBE

In Attendance

Councillor Mrs M. Molesworth

Officer: W. Richards - Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P.J. Murphy, P. Woodburn and P.W. Yerrell.

65. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Abraham, Bacon, Ms. Bramwell, Brown and Spruytenburg declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 – complimentary use of Council land – in light of them being Members of Chiltern District Council.

66. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 20th February 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

67. **COMPLIMENTARY USE OF COUNCIL LAND**

The Committee considered requests from Pond Park Community Association and Chiltern District Council to use the Council's recreation ground without being charged.

Members noted that the Pond Park Community Association would be running a fun day in June at Marston Field to help raise funds for a potential rebuild of the Marston Pavilion and that Chiltern District Council's sports development officer was proposing to run free sports courses for young people across the town.

Both requests were welcomed by the Committee and it was

RESOLVED

that free use be granted for a fun day at Marston Field organised by Pond Park Community Association and for Chiltern District Council's sports development proposed activities during the next 12 months, subject to there being no profit made on such sessions.

68. **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

The draft calendar of meetings for 2006/07 was considered and it was

RESOLVED

that the calendar be approved and adopted.

69. **ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS**

The Committee noted the internal auditor's recommendation that the Council's standing orders and financial regulations be reviewed each year and his recommendation that the amounts on contracts be uplifted in respect of financial regulations.

It was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

that the amendments of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, as presented, be approved and adopted.

70. **ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Members were advised that the Local Authorities (Capital Finance & Accounting) England Regulations 2003 which came into force on 1 April 2004, required the Council to review and adopt its investment strategy each year.

The Committee considered the strategy which it adopted at its meeting held on 20 June 2005 and it was

RESOLVED

that the annual investment strategy for 2005/06 be adopted for 2006/07.

71. **ALCOHOL RESTRICTION ZONES, PLAY AREAS.**

Following the implementation of alcohol restricted areas in the cemetery and the town centre, Members discussed the idea of applying to make some, or all, of the Council's play areas similarly designated.

The Town Clerk advised that he had discussed the situation, both with the local police and the Chiltern District Council's Community Safety Officer, and it had been recommended that such an order not be applied for in the short-term. It had been pointed out that considerable evidence was needed to have been collated for an order to be successful and, moreover, it appeared under-age drinking was a considerable part of the problem and this was illegal in any case. Members also accepted there would be a resourcing issue in enforcement if applied to all play areas and a large cost implication in commissioning appropriate signage.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

that the Committee do not request further alcohol restriction orders at the present time but that potential sites be appropriately monitored for future consideration.

72. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR ELEVEN MONTHS TO 28th FEBRUARY 2006**

The Financial Report for eleven months to 28th February 2006 was presented.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

73. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The items presented on Information Sheet No. 27 were received and noted.

74. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND 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.

75. **OUTSTANDING DEBTS**

The Committee was advised of the outstanding debts owed to the Council. While it was accepted by Members that the amount of monies was relatively small, it was requested by Members that officers clarify the procedure for chasing outstanding payments. Additionally, officers were asked to consider whether the length of non-payment before legal proceedings are commenced could be shortened and that this be considered at the next Council meeting.

In respect of one particular debtor, it was

RESOLVED

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

76. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.07 pm.

CHAIRMAN