

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

held on Monday 6 June 2005

PRESENT Councillor Mrs. P.R. Lindsley Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	Mrs. S.M. McEwan
"	E.L. Bamford	"	Mrs. M. Molesworth
"	Mrs. J.C. Fulford	"	Mrs. A.M. Pirouet
"	D.J. Lacey	"	C.H. Spruytenburg

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor	Ms J.E. Bramwell
"	N.L. Brown
"	P. Woodburn

Officer : Mr. W. Richards - Town Clerk

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. Fayyaz

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 11 April 2005, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. ALLOTMENT GROUP

Members received the Minutes of the open meeting of the Allotment Group held on 7 April 2005. Councillor Bamford advised the Committee of the favourable publicity the scarecrows, which had been recently installed at the Cameron Road site, had received.

4. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meetings of the Elgiva Board of Management held on 8 April and 11 May 2005.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

Councillor Ms J.E. Bramwell entered the meeting at 8.10 pm.

5. **AUDIT OF PLAY AREAS IN THE WATERSIDE AREA**

The Committee considered the report compiled by officers that offered a range of proposals for youth leisure provision within the Waterside area. Members also considered the report from the Community Safety division of Thames Valley Police which contained an independent audit of the play areas in the Ward.

The Clerk advised that a communication had been received from representatives from The Friends Off Pheasant Rise Residents' Association (FOPRRA) expressing the Association's wish to see an enhancement of the children's play area in Woodside View. However, it was reiterated by the Clerk that the £6,000 monies earmarked by Chiltern District Council for this area through its Community Safety budget could only be spent on projects aimed for older young people and so, reluctantly, this option could not be considered.

In noting the Police's report that teenage facilities should not be sited near to existing younger children's play areas, Members considered other possible locations. The suitability of the Moor was debated, particularly the possible renovation and use of the hut there. The general consensus of the Committee was that the Moor was too far away from the area of real recreational need in Waterside and that the only area suitable for the provision of older young people's facilities would be the fallow field at the top of Pheasant Rise.

It was noted that some letters of objections had been received when this had been mooted before and that other major issues such as possible purchase or rent of land and gaining change of use planning consent needed to be addressed. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

that all options pertaining to developing youth leisure provision at the fallow field at the top of Pheasant Rise, be considered by officers and a further report be brought to a future Committee.

6. **TOWN SIGN ON LUCIA'S DELICATESSEN**

The Committee was presented with a design for a sign to be erected at Lucia's Delicatessen on the south side of the High Street.

After some debate, Members agreed the basic design and wording but expressed a wish to see the words 'A Fairtrade Town' replacing 'pedestrianised High Street' in recognition of Chesham recently gaining Fairtrade status. It was

RESOLVED

that the design and wording for the sign, as amended, be approved and the sign and rendering work be commissioned.

7. **CEMETERY CHAPEL**

Following a discussion on the future of Chesham Cemetery Chapel at the Recreation and the Arts Committee meeting of 21 February 2005, Members requested that a structural survey of the building be undertaken to ascertain the state of the building's condition.

The report, undertaken by Peter North and Partners, was discussed by the Committee. It was noted that the report stated in its executive summary that '*the building does not appear to be in a state of serious structural defect*' but also that '*the building is in need of some quite urgent maintenance*'.

It was agreed that the Chapel should be kept open and that the essential repair works should be enacted. A discussion followed on how best these could be funded. The Clerk advised that a combination of the excess monies in the Cemetery road repairs budget, and the remaining monies in the Chapel's internal renovation budget approximated to the mid-range estimate given by Peter North and Partners. Accordingly, it was agreed that proper estimates be sought and that these monies be utilised to allow the essential works to be carried out.

Members then discussed the recommended future works and other improvements. It was suggested that the matter of heating be examined in light of the constant dampness in the Chapel. This raised a number of issues in regard to ongoing costs and health and safety concerns. It was agreed that this should be a matter for a further report and it was

RESOLVED

that the essential repair works at the Chapel be carried out, subject to the estimates being within the budget agreed, and that the matter of heating and other non-urgent repairs be considered at a future meeting.

8. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE 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.

9. **STATUTORY EASEMENT LEGISLATION**

The Committee considered the Council's position in light of the residents of Lye Green's decision not to sign up a voluntary collective easement scheme. The Members concurred with the Clerk's recommendation that the Council should not be seeking fixed payments for maintenance since it did not wish to be responsible for ongoing repairs in perpetuity. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

that the Council agree to granting Lye Green residents a legal easement upon request, subject to the applicant paying the legal fees incurred in preparing the easement, paying a £50.00 administration fee and being able to prove the necessary uninterrupted use.

10. **BARRIER AT MARSTON FIELD LANE**

Councillor Lacey reported to the Committee on alleged anti-social behaviour activities taking place after dark in Marston Field lane. In noting that there were no objections from the wayleave holders, the cost to the Council would be minimal, and those alleged to be engaging in anti-social activity were arriving by car and parking in the lane, it was

RESOLVED

that a single lockable pole barrier be sited ten metres in from Mount Nugent in Marston Field lane and the wayleave holders be provided with keys for access and egress, subject to there being no highway objections raised by the Buckinghamshire County Council Highways officers.

11. **UPDATE ON ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The Committee considered the proposed terms and references drawn up by the Members of the Working Party. There was unanimous agreement that the Members wished to see the Board continue but there was also general support for the proposed terms and references devised by the Working Party. It was noted that the Board Members, without the officers and Town Councillor present, would be considering their response on 13 June and this response would be reported to the Council on 27 June. It was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

That the proposed terms and references for the Elgiva Board of Management be supported in principle, and the matter be further considered at the Council meeting on 27 June 2005.

12. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

CHAIRMAN