

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 29th June 2020

PRESENT Councillor Miss E.A. L. Culverhouse – Deputy Town Mayor
(presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	D. MacBean
"	J.L. Baum	"	Mrs J.E. MacBean
"	M.Z. Bhatti MBE	"	N. Varley
"	N.L. Brown	"	Mrs D.M. Varley
"	Q. Chaudhry	"	N.T. Southworth
"	M. Fayyaz	"	F.S. Wilson
"	A.W. Franks		

Officers: Mr W. Richards - Town Clerk
K.A. Graves – Policy and Projects Officer

In attendance: George Shaw and Anokh Tiwana – Chesham Youth Council

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.W. Shaw and S.P. Willmoth.

13. **DEPUTY MAYOR'S WELCOME**

Councillor Miss Culverhouse welcomed all Members to the remotely organised Council Meeting in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

14. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 18th May 2020 and be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

15. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests that were brought to the Deputy Mayor's notice.

16. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There no questions that were brought to the Deputy Mayor's notice.

17. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was noted that the current restrictions on public gatherings and meetings during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic meant there had been no Mayoral Engagements since the last meeting.

18. **PRESENTATION OF MEMBERS OF CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

Members considered various recent minutes of the Chesham Youth Council and the Deputy Mayor then welcomed George Shaw and Anokh Tiwana-Parmar to the meeting to present their findings on a recent survey undertaken by the Youth Council across schools and public events. They explained that the Youth Council had engaged some of the young people in town to try and understand their wishes and aspirations. They advised that the top three areas of importance were listed as the environment; public safety and better public toilets. In respect to the environment, the survey suggested there was a belief that more trees were required to be planted; there should be less litter and more waste bins provided as well as a general belief that climate change was an ever-growing worry. Public safety was also a concern and, while there was not a widespread belief that Chesham was particularly an unsafe town, it was felt more CCTV coverage across town would be desirable. Young people were also of the view that the town's public toilets should be upgraded and refurbished.

Finally, the Youth Council representatives advised, its members were supportive of different social movements such as Black Lives Matter and were taking innovative steps to promote both the Youth Council and its different events and promotions.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Messrs Shaw and Tiwana-Parmar for their presentation and sought questions and observations from Members. Councillor Mrs MacBean firstly paid tribute to the work the Youth Council was doing and suggested this Council would support its activities as much as it could. In regards to the priorities raised, she highlighted the current 'Communi-tree' project to plant trees across town and said she would welcome volunteers from the Youth Council. She advised that the town's recycling centres were unlikely to return, with Buckinghamshire Council promoting recycling at home, but recommended the Youth Council contact the Waste team there on specific waste and litter issues for support. She also advised that she and other local Members had been pressing for enhanced CCTV provision in Chesham at Buckinghamshire Council and she was hopeful this would happen.

Councillor Bhatti stated he was pleased to hear about the Youth Council's interest in social affairs and enquired as to its BAME representation. Anokh Tiwana-Parmar advised he was from the BAME community himself and the Youth Council was well represented in that area.

Councillor Wilson congratulated the representatives on their presentations and the work of the Youth Council generally and encouraged them to bring their ideas and suggestions to this Council as it was always looking at different ways of working.

There being no more questions or observations, the Deputy Mayor thanked Messrs Shaw and Tiwana and they left the meeting.

19. **RESOLUTIONS MOVED ON NOTICE**

Pursuant to 'Resolution Moved on Notice' in accordance with Council's Standing Orders no. 10, the Council considered the following motion moved by Councillor Bacon:

'That the appointment of a CEO, as agreed by Council on the 23rd March, be considered by the Staffing Committee and Finance Committee'.

In moving the motion, Councillor Bacon stated that he believed both the Finance and Staffing Committees needed to look at the implications (particularly for the next tier down from the Chief Executive Officer) on staffing structure changes - both financially and in terms of whether these would be internal or external appointments. He opined that this would be best done by standing committees rather than the Staffing and Strategy Working Party.

Both the Deputy Mayor and Councillor Varley responded by expressing surprise that Councillor Bacon had formally raised this, since this had been implicitly agreed at the Council meeting in March and there had been almost unanimous agreement that such scrutiny should take place through the Committees.

Accordingly, the motion was put to the vote and unanimously

RESOLVED

that the appointment of a CEO, as agreed by Council on the 23rd March, be considered by the Staffing Committee and Finance Committee.

20. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor N.T. Southworth and seconded by Councillor A.W. Franks and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26th May 2020 be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor N.T. Southworth and seconded by Councillor A.W. Franks and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 22nd June 2020 be received and approved.

21. **COMMUNITY, ASSETS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and seconded by Councillor Q. Chaudhry and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Assets and Environment Committee held on 1st June 2020, be received and approved.

22. **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 15th June 2020, be received and approved.

23. **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The proposed Annual Subscriptions were put before the Council.

It was

RESOLVED

that the payment of the annual membership subscriptions as listed and reported be confirmed for 2020/21 and financed through the General Power of Competence.

24. **ANNUAL INTERIM PERFORMANCE PLAN**

The Council was informed that the Staffing and Strategy Working Party had recommended that, due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, a short interim Annual Plan should be produced, which explains what the Council staff had achieved during the lockdown and how the Council is positively planning to get its facilities re-opened. It was also felt by the Working Party that it would be misleading and superfluous to print Performance Indicators in light of the virus and its effect on attendances etc.

Members considered the plan, as drafted by officers and the Staffing and Strategy Working Party, and it was

RESOLVED

that the Interim Annual Plan, as presented, be adopted.

25. **PAYMENTS NO. 1**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 1, it was

RESOLVED

that Payments Sheet No. 1 in the grand total of £497,162.75 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

26. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.07pm.

CHAIRMAN

10th July 2020