

CESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 22nd March 2021

PRESENT Councillor R.C. McCulloch – Town Mayor (presiding)

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

Officers: Mr W. Richards - Town Clerk
Mr D. Cooper – Elgiva Theatre Manager

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Fayyaz and M.W. Shaw

77. **MRS MORA WALKER**

The Mayor paid tribute to the late Mrs Mora Walker who served the Council, both as a Member and Town Mayor, for a number of years and was well-respected in the local community. The Council duly observed a minute's silence in memory of Mrs Walker.

78. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 18th January 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

79. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest that were brought to the Mayor's notice.

80. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

81. **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.

Councillor McCulloch advised that, as Mayor, he was honoured to promote the following day's 'Day for Reflection' to recognise one year since the first Covid 19 lockdown and to remember those who had been affected by it, and urged other Members to acknowledge it in some form if they could.

82. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor N.T. Southworth and seconded by Councillor J.L. Baum and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1st February 2021 be received and approved.

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RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1st March 2021 be received and approved.

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

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and seconded by Councillor N.T. Southworth and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Assets and Environment Committee held on 15th February 2021 be received and approved.

84. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS**

Members briefly considered the current Standing Orders and possible revisions thereof.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate for the new Council to be elected in May to review the Standing Orders in more depth. However, it was agreed to change the name of the Community, Assets and Environment Committee to the Community, Assets, Recreation and Environment Committee.

It was

RESOLVED

that no changes be made to the current Standing Orders save for a change of name of the Community, Assets and Environment Committee to the Community, Assets, Recreation and Environment Committee.

85. **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2021/22**

The previously circulated proposed Calendar of Meetings for Committee and Council meetings was agreed by Council.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Calendar of Meetings for 2021/22 be approved and adopted.

86. **CHESHAM FAIRS AND COVID 19**

With the Government's restrictions on social gatherings not proposed to be fully lifted until June 21st at the earliest, it was agreed that it would not be prudent to allow events that may attract large numbers until that time and therefore it was

RESOLVED

that the Council declines to host the Fairs in town until the implementation of 'Step 4' in the Government's Covid Recovery plan and all social distancing has been lifted.

87. **VOLUNTEERS' DAY 2021**

The Manager of the Elgiva advised the meeting that he was keen to run a Volunteers' Day to try and recruit volunteers for the theatre but also to promote volunteering generally. It was noted that the event was proposed to be held the Elgiva in late June after all Covid restrictions were lifted but if there was a lag in the Government's 'roadmap recovery' and timetable and restrictions only partially lifted, the theatre could run a socially distanced event with an online component. The Manager also mentioned it to both individuals and statutory and non-statutory organisations who have expressed an interest in supporting it.

While Members welcomed the concept, it was noted that the Manager was proposing to approach the Buckinghamshire Council's Community Board for funding, it was suggested that it would be appropriate for the Manager to itemise the aspects requiring financial support before a bid was submitted by the Council to the Community Board. Moreover, questions were raised as to whether those people who were listed as vulnerable during the pandemic would be willing to attend a large gathering so soon after restrictions were lifted, even assuming there were no setbacks in the government's timetables. Accordingly, it was agreed it would be practical to bring a further report to the Community, Assets, Recreation and Environment Committee for the funding and other aspects to be considered and delay such an event until Autumn.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Volunteers' Day be provisionally rescheduled for the Autumn

and a detailed proposal be brought before the Community, Assets, Recreation and Environment Committee, particularly in respect to funding considerations.

88. **SMARTER WATER CATCHMENT SCHEME**

The Council was asked whether it wished to write a letter of support for Thames Water's Smarter Water Catchment Pilot on the Chess catchment and considered a possible draft reply produced by officers.

Members accepted that the initiative in itself had many positive aspects and should be generally supported but the view was also expressed and agreed that the letter needed to be strengthened to emphasise the Council was not in a position to make financial commitments and that the Council's continuing displeasure with on-going sewage discharge into the River Chess and the need for action be stated once again.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Council agrees to send a letter of support for Thames Water's Smarter Water Catchment Plan for the Chess reflecting the views of the Council.

89. **PAYMENTS NO. 5**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 5, it was

RESOLVED

that Payments Sheet No. 5 in the grand total of £435,795.74 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

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

It was moved by the Chairman 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.

91. **TOWN GUIDE**

The report from officers recommending changes to the current Town Guide contract to reflect the Council's environmental commitments was discussed by Members.

On the understanding that such proposals would not materially affect the contractor's

ability to produce the 2021 Guide, it was

RESOLVED

that the recommendations within the Report be agreed.

92. **ELGIVA WEBSITE**

The Council considered a comprehensive report undertaken by the Elgiva Marketing Manager on the reasons behind the need for a new website at the Elgiva and how it is going to enhance the theatre's operation as well as being compatible with disability legislation. Included within the report was a summation of the quotes received and the reasons for recommending one company. It was also noted that the Arts Council Arts Recovery grant was helping to defray some of the costs.

It was

RESOLVED

that the recommended company within the Report be agreed and commissioned at the fee stated.

93. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Publication Date 1.4.21