

## **CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES of the meeting of the RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE**

held on 12 March 2007

**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs P.L. Lindsley, Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	Mrs M. Molesworth
"	E.L. Bamford	"	Mrs A.M. Pirouet
"	M.Z. Bhatti	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	Mrs J.C. Fulford	"	P.W. Yerrell

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillors V.M. Abraham, Mrs S.M. McEwan and P. Woodburn

Mr M. Fletcher – Marston Pavilion steering group.

Officer: Mr. W. Richards, Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Fayyaz and D.J. Lacey.

### 71. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members declared personal interests in light of their representation on outside bodies.

Councillor E.L. Bamford - The Allotments Group

Councillor Mrs J.C. Fulford – Chesham Environmental Group

Councillor Mrs P.R. Lindsley – Elgiva Board of Management

Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg – The Allotments Group, Chesham Environmental Group.

Councillors Bamford and Spruytenburg also advised that they were current allotment holders.

Councillor P.W. Yerrell declared a personal interest in the agenda item 7 – Marston Pavilion – as a member of Pond Park Community Association. Councillor Mrs S.M. McEwan declared a personal interest as her son was on the Marston Pavilion steering group and Councillor Mrs Pirouet declared a personal interest as her father was on the Marston Pavilion steering group.

72. **MINUTES**

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 29 January 2007, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

73. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on 5 February 2007. It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

74. **ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Group held on 15 February 2007. It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

75. **THE ALLOTMENTS GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Group held on 25 January 2007. It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

76. **LOWNDES PARK LOTTERY BID**

The Committee considered the current position on a possible bid to a Heritage Lottery Fund to upgrade the park and noted the submitted Audience Development Plan.

Some concern was expressed over the possibility of a building being built but it was agreed that it was too early for any considered position to be taken on this.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the report be noted.

77. **REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND IN LOWNDES PARK**

A request from the owner of the bungalow within the park to purchase a piece of land some 16m x 10m square at the back of the depot was considered by the Committee.

In view of the possible lottery bid being prepared by officers to renovate Lowndes Park, Members agreed that it would not be appropriate to consider selling this land at the present time.

Accordingly it was

**RESOLVED**

that the Council do not consider the selling off of any land at Lowndes Park at this time.

78. **PROPOSED RE-BUILDING OF MARSTON PAVILION**

Councillor Yerrell and Mr Michael Fletcher, a member of the Marston Pavilion steering committee, updated the Committee on developments in regard to the re-building of Marston Pavilion.

Members were advised that the Director of Planning and the Environment from Chiltern District Council had accompanied Councillor Yerrell and Mr Fletcher on a site visit to Marston Pavilion and had intimated that an increased footprint for the building was likely to be allowable in planning terms. Councillor Yerrell then stated that it would be helpful if the Committee could give an indication, being cognisant of the likely respective costs, of its preference for a brick or modular type building.

There was unanimity that the building should be on a larger footprint to allow for some community usage as well as for changing facilities, subject to there being suitable demand. Concerns about vandalism were expressed and a brief discussion ensued as to the robustness of both brick and modular buildings particularly in respect of the doors. In light of this, it was agreed further information was required and

**RESOLVED**

that the Marston Pavilion steering group be requested to seek more formal drawings and estimates for both anti-vandal brick built and modular buildings on an increased footprint to allow for a community area.

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

It was moved by the Chairman and

**RESOLVED**

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

80. **GRAVE DIGGING CONTRACT – CHESHAM CEMETERY**

The Town Clerk reported that, subsequent to the previous Recreation and the Arts Committee held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007, the company awarded the grave-digging contract, (namely John O’Conner Grounds Maintenance Limited), had stated that it did not now wish to sign the contract unless the grass-cutting contract was offered to the company as well. The company had submitted a tender for this but it greatly exceeded the amount provided by the current grass-cutting company.

The Committee considered the officers’ recommendations that the current grass-cutting company be retained for another year and that the Council follow the procedure of other parish councils and no longer provide the grave-digger. A debate took place on the recommended revised charges that covered the administration and grave preparation costs, particularly as to whether there should a differential in charges between ages. After some discussion it was agreed that, so long as the administration costs were covered, the proposed charges be accepted.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

1. that Wyevale Ltd be instructed to continue with its current grass-cutting contract and that the Council agree to no longer provide grave-diggers for future interments.
2. that the recommended new fees and charges for interments as presented at the meeting be accepted and implemented for the financial year 2007/08.

81. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

CHAIRMAN