

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

held on Monday 20th February 2006

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

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

In Attendance

Councillors: E.L. Bamford, Mrs J.C. Fulford, D.J. Lacey, Mrs P.R. Lindsley, Mrs M. Molesworth and Mrs A.M. Pirouet.

Officer: W. Richards - Town Clerk

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P.J. Murphy.
Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors N.L. Brown and C.H. Spruytenburg.

54. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

55. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 9th January 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Councillor N.L. Brown arrived at the meeting at 7.55 pm.

56. **PRESENTATION BY BUILT ENVIRONMENT ADVISOR, THAMES VALLEY ENERGY**

The Committee received a very interesting and informative presentation from Mr Ian Bacon from Thames Valley Energy. He gave many examples of alternative energy sources available and explained how potentially the Town Council could be involved.

Members agreed that there appeared to be many opportunities to progress a more sustainable agenda for the Council and expressed a willingness to work further with Thames Valley Energy to progress this. The Chairman thanked Mr Bacon for his presentation and he left the meeting at 8.30p.m.

Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg arrived at the meeting at 8.20 pm.

57. **'BUSINESS 4 BUSINESS' 2006 EXHIBITION**

The Committee considered the request from the Chesham Chamber of Trade & Commerce for sponsorship of the 2006 'Business 4 Business' Exhibition to be held at the Elgiva in May 2006.

Members fully endorsed the work the Chesham Chamber of Trade & Commerce was undertaking in promoting and supporting local businesses and it was

RESOLVED

that £700 be approved from the revitalisation fund for Supporter Level sponsorship and a stand at the 2006 Business 4 Business Exhibition.

58. **CHESHAM HERITAGE WEEKEND 2006**

The Committee considered the draft programme drawn up by the Chesham Heritage Steering Group to tie in with National Heritage Week, promoted by English Heritage. It was noted that the Steering Group consisted of both Members and representatives of the Chesham Society, Chesham Chamber of Trade and Commerce and Chesham Museum and the proposed weekend of events was scheduled for the 9th and 10th September 2006.

It was agreed that the programme appeared to accord with the aims of the Chesham Community Vision and that there would be a satisfactory audit trail.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

that the Committee agree to supporting the Chesham Heritage Weekend to an amount of up to £1,250 to be administered by the Heritage Steering Group.

59. **CONSULTATION ON THE RE-ORGANISATION OF THE TWO SHIRES AMBULANCE TRUST**

The Town Clerk advised that the Patient and Public Involvement Forums were seeking Town and Parish Council comments on the proposed restructuring of the ambulance service in England and, specifically, the proposal to split the current Two Shires Ambulance Trust that currently covers Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire.

Councillor Mrs Wilkinson reported that she would be attending a meeting organised by Buckinghamshire County Council on this matter and therefore could give a more informed opinion to the Town Clerk shortly. Other Members expressed their dissatisfaction on the short timescale allowed for this consultation exercise.

It was

RESOLVED

that Members be requested to submit their views to the Town Clerk by the 3rd March 2006 so that these can be submitted as the Council's response to the consultation process.

60. **SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES FOR 2006/07**

The Committee considered whether it wished to make any recommendations to the Independent Remuneration Panel on the setting of a parish basic allowance payment to the Chairman and Members and/or to set any other out of pocket expenses such as travel and subsistence in 2006/07.

It was agreed that no allowances should be paid to the Chairman and Members and

RESOLVED

the position adopted by Council for 2005/06 remain unchanged for the financial year 2006/07.

61. **UPDATE ON 'GETTING CLOSER TO COMMUNITIES' AGENDA**

Councillor Bacon and the Town Clerk reported on the latest meeting that had taken place with officers and Members of all three tiers of local government covering Chesham to progress the 'Getting Closer to Communities' initiative. Councillor Bacon advised that, at the meeting, officers representing the County Council stated that they were currently drawing up a Charter to allow for Quality Councils such as Chesham to take on devolved services if deemed desirable by both parties. Accordingly, they had invited the Town Council to suggest what, if any, services it would wish to see come under the auspices of its delivery.

Members accepted that, as Chesham was being 'piloted' for a year, there was a need to be proactive over the next few months. However, there was general agreement that devolvement of services needed to be considered in light of the effect it would have on current staffing workloads, administrative back-up and office accommodation. It was also agreed that the roles of the parishes in the cluster areas needed to be fully clarified.

It was agreed that some of the services that could be practicably transferred from the County Council would have an impact on the Parks and Premises team and it was therefore

RESOLVED

that the Parks and Premises Manger be invited to discuss the options with Councillor Bacon and the Town Clerk and that the result of this meeting be fed back to the Committee at a future date.

62. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR TEN MONTHS TO 31st JANUARY 2006**

The Financial Report for ten months to 31st January 2006 was presented.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

63. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The items presented on Information Sheet No. 23 were received and noted.

In respect of item no. 68, Councillor Yerrell expressed his satisfaction in reading that the government was proposing to clarify the guidelines on what constituted Members' personal and prejudicial interests.

64. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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