

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

held on Monday 14th September 2009

PRESENT Councillor V. M. Abraham, Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	Mrs J.C. Fulford
"	Ms J.E. Bramwell	"	F.G. Holly
"	M.E. Brand	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	N.L. Brown	"	P.W. Yerrell

In Attendance

Councillors D.J. Lacey, Mrs C.M. Michael, Mrs M. Molesworth and Mrs G. Walker.

Mr P. Folly and Mr H. Peters – Chesham Environmental Group.

Officer: W. Richards - Town Clerk

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Brand and Councillor Yerrell declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 as representatives of the Local Area Form and the Chesham Action Partnership respectively. Councillor Ms Bramwell declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 as Councillor Brand's spouse.

Councillor Ms Bramwell and Councillor Mrs Fulford declared a personal interest in agenda item 9 as members of the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre.

19. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 29th June 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Councillor Brown arrived at the meeting at 7.40pm

20. **LOCAL AREA FORUM AND CHESHAM ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

Members considered the current position in respect of both the Chesham Action Partnership (ChAP) and the proposed Local Area Forum (LAF).

There was a general agreement that the revised model for the LAF submitted by Buckinghamshire County Council for Chesham was preferable to the previous proposed model in that it was now proposing that there be five representatives from the town. It was noted that ChAP had recommended that two representatives be from ChAP and three from the Council and had proposed that the two ChAP representatives be the Chairman, Dr Tom Gorsuch and the Treasurer, Mr David Carter. The Committee agreed with this suggestion and duly sought three nominations from Members who would not be attending as either District or County Council Members. It was agreed that Councillors Mrs Michael, Mrs Molesworth and Yerrell be authorised to represent the Council at future meeting but that only Mrs Molesworth attend the inaugural meeting to be held on the 16th September as requested by Buckinghamshire County Council.

The Committee then considered what if any bids it wished to submit or support in relation to the various LAF funding streams. The Town Clerk advised that bids from the Delegated Transport Budget were not required until November and would therefore be put before a future Development Control Committee. The Committee agreed to support in principle the proposal from Chiltern District Council and Nexus to seek funding for its free play schemes and also to ascertain whether funding may be available for a skatepark mural project.

Finally Members reviewed the 'Profile of Chesham' document compiled by the Chairman of ChAP. A debate took place as to who its target audience was and whether it should be more weighted towards highlighting areas of deprivation or towards accentuating Chesham as a tourist destination. After some discussion, it was accepted that there was nothing within the document that Members would fundamentally object to but it was agreed that the independence of ChAP should be respected and, rather than 'endorsing', the Committee should merely note its contents while thanking the Chairman of ChAP for his efforts.

It was

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee appoint Councillor Mrs Molesworth to attend the inaugural LAF meeting and Councillors Mrs Michael, Mrs Molesworth and Yerrell to attend future meetings.
2. That Dr Tom Gorsuch and Mr David Carter be agreed as the two further representatives for Chesham in light of their prominent roles in ChAP.
3. That the bid to the LAF from Chiltern District Council's Community Projects and Revitalisation Officer be supported and the Committee

consider submitting a bid in respect of a skatepark mural project if appropriate.

4. That the ChAP 'Profile of Chesham' be noted and the Chairman of ChAP be formally thanked for his efforts in compiling the document.

21. **SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PROPOSALS**

The Committee discussed matters pertaining to promoting sustainable transport within Chesham.

Mr Phil Folly, Chairman of the Chesham Environmental Group, gave a brief presentation on the advantages of the 'Walkers are Welcome' initiative which encouraged walkers to come and visit a town and enjoy walking it and its environs. Members agreed this seemed an excellent initiative and were happy to formally endorse the concept of getting such status for Chesham.

Following the Town Clerk's meeting with two officers from Buckinghamshire County Council's 'Cycling and Walking' team, it was agreed that a small working party be set up to look at options to progress cycle paths within town.

It was

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee formally endorse the proposal that Chesham become part of the 'Walkers are Welcome' Towns Network.
2. That a small Working Party comprising of Councillor Mrs Fulford, Councillor Mrs Littley and Mr Henricus Peters of the Chesham Environmental Group be set up to look at developing better cycling routes with other partners.

22. **MAYORAL CHAIN OF OFFICE**

The Committee considered options for the Mayoral Chain since all the current links had been utilised.

Members did not feel that in the current economic climate, the purchase of a new chain could be justified. After much discussion, it was agreed that the most desirable option would be using the blank spaces in the middle of the larger links even though future Mayors would not be recorded chronologically.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that the Council do not purchase a new Mayoral chain but utilise the existing blank spaces between the designated inscribed links to record the names of the current and future Mayors.

23. **REVISED DISCIPLINARY POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

The Committee considered the revised Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

It was

RESOLVED

that the revised Disciplinary Policy and Procedure be approved and adopted.

24. **REVISED GRIEVANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURE AND COLLECTIVE GRIEVANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

The Committee considered the revised Grievance Policy and Procedure and a new Collective Grievance Policy and Procedure.

It was

RESOLVED

that the revised Grievance Policy and Procedure and the new Collective Grievance Policy and Procedure be approved and adopted.

25. **INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Committee considered the latest Internal Auditor's report.

Members were advised of the fact that there were no issues identified that warranted formal comment.

It was

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

26. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THREE MONTHS TO 30TH JUNE 2009**

The Financial Report for three months to 30th June 2009 was presented.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

27. **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.

28. **MANAGEMENT OF CHESHAM MARKET**

Members considered options for the future management of Chesham Market following recommendations from the Market Working Party.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be authorised to proceed in connection with this matter in the terms expressed at the meeting.

29. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

CHAIRMAN