

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the meeting of the COMMUNITY, ASSETS AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

held on 1st June 2020

PRESENT

Councillor	M.Z. Bhatti MBE	Councillor	Mrs J.E. MacBean
"	Q. Chaudhry	"	P.J. Hudson
"	Miss E.A. Culverhouse	"	R.C. McCulloch
"	A.W. Franks	"	N.T. Southworth

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor A.K. Bacon

Officer: Mr W. Richards, Town Clerk

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. Fayyaz.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR**
ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR 2020/21

The Mayor, Councillor McCulloch, opened the meeting and called for nominations for Chairman of the Community, Assets and Environment Committee.

It was

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean be elected Chairman for the remainder of the Council year.

Councillor Mrs MacBean took the Chair and called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Community, Assets and Environment Committee.

It was

RESOLVED

that Councillor Miss E.A Culverhouse be elected Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the Council year.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

This being the beginning of a new administrative year, the Chairman referred Members to their Register of Interests and said that these would be taken as standing Declarations of Interest at each meeting but Members would need to declare any further interests where relevant to future agenda items if such interests fell outside those listed on the register.

3. **MINUTES**

In consideration of Minute No. 51 of the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 17th February 2020, Councillor McCulloch stated that he was of the view that the meeting had asked officers, rather the Friends of Chesham Cemetery, to investigate external funding options, albeit that they would liaise with the Friends. This amendment to the Minute was agreed and it was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 18th March 2019, as amended, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. **COVID 19 AND ‘RETURN TO WORK’ STRATEGY**

The Committee received and considered a report from the Town Clerk which outlined officers’ draft Return to Work policy once the Government had confirmed that public buildings can reopen following an appropriate reduction in the Covid-19 infection rate.

As the reopening of the Elgiva and the Gym and Swim Centre had been discussed at the recent Finance Committee meeting, the report mainly focussed on plans to reopen the Town Hall to the public and hirers and the logistics and measures required to ensure the safety and health of both staff and the public. It was noted that officers had already begun the process of implementing measures such as 2 metres, social distancing, markers; installing a Perspex screen at reception and instigating a one-way system. It was also noted that a sanitising electric sprayer was about to be purchased to be used in all the Council’s buildings. It was also reported that all the Parks and Premises operatives were now back working a full 37-hour week, though remaining in two teams on staggered shifts to avoid mass infection.

Members welcomed the plans being put in place and commended officers for their enthusiasm to return to work and it was agreed that regular updates should continue to be provided as the national situation evolved in respect to the virus.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

5. **CLIMATE EMERGENCY & ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE**

The Chairman gave a brief verbal update on the Environmental Audit commissioned by the Council. She advised that the, now received, audit was with officer Section Heads to consider, in-depth, the implications for their services and to provide possible 'quick wins' projects in light of the recommendations. She advised that representatives of Sustainable Chesham were also being invited to review the audit to consider how it could assist in implementing the carbon reduction ideas and it was proposed that the audit, along with proposed recommendations, would be brought back before this Committee for full scrutiny and discussion.

There were no questions arising from Members and it was

RESOLVED

that the verbal update be noted.

6. **TOWN GUIDE 2020/21**

The Committee was asked to consider a proposal to reduce the print run for the 2020-21 Town Guide and to encourage people to use the online version of the Guide.

It was reported that the production of the 2020/21 Chesham Town Guide has been delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The publication is funded through advertising income and, as the majority of local businesses have been closed for many weeks, it has not been possible for the publisher to sell the advertising space as usual. The Committee was advised therefore that the publisher was proposing to produce a limited print run of 4,000 copies (compared to the usual 11,000 copies) and there would be widespread publicity for an online, downloadable version, allowing the publisher to offer cheaper advertising for local businesses at this difficult time. It was also noted that this reduction in hard copies would reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

The Committee agreed this was a sensible approach especially with on-line advertising revenue becoming easier to access. A brief discussion ensued on the advantages of setting up a designated Town Guide page on the Council's website and revisiting the idea of implementing a 'Town App' and it was agreed this should be considered at a future meeting.

It was

RESOLVED

that a reduced print run of the 2020/21 Town Guide be agreed.

7. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 6.49pm.

CHAIRMAN

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