

**CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

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

held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**PRESENT** Councillor D.J. Lacey - Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	Miss R.K. Bhatti	Councillor	Mrs C.M. Michael
"	M. Fayyaz	"	R.C. McCulloch
"	T. Franks	"	M.W. Shaw
"	Mrs C. Littley	"	C.H. Spruytenburg

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor A.K. Bacon

Officer: Mr W. Richards, Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C.I. Boxer and Mrs A.M. Pirouet.

31. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Littley declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 4 as a member of the Chesham Environmental Group and the Allotments Group.

Councillor Mrs Michael declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 4 and 5 as a member of the Friends of Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre.

Councillors Bacon and Spruytenburg declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 as members of the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre.

Councillor McCulloch declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 as a member of the Friends of Chesham Cemetery.

32. **MINUTES**

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record and that the notes of the inquorate meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 be noted.

33. **CHESHAM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meetings of the Chesham Environmental Group held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

Arising out of Minute No. 5, Councillor Spruytenburg expressed his disappointment that the repairs to Lords Mill weir had been delayed and that the funding may be lost.

34. **ALLOTMENTS GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Group held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

35. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

Arising out of Minute No. 3, the Clerk advised that he had been asked to approach the Committee by the Board to ascertain whether monies could be utilised to pay for a social event for the Elgiva staff. The Board was of the view that not only had the Pantomime financial figures been spectacularly good, but all the staff had sacrificed a lot of their Christmas working on it and deserved to have these efforts recognised.

While Members were hugely appreciative of both the efforts of staff and the quality of production/financial results, they did feel that committing public monies for such a reward would not be well-received by the public in the current economic climate. Moreover they were also concerned on the precedent it would set for other Council departments (particularly as it was pointed out that staff at the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre came in on Christmas Day this year to cover the Christmas Day swim).

The Chairman called for a vote on the matter and the proposal to commit monies to an Elgiva staff social event in recognition of their efforts working on the Pantomime was **LOST** by 6 votes to 1.

36. **FRIENDS OF CHESHAM MOOR GYM AND SWIM CENTRE**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Friends of Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2013. It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

Arising out of Minute No. 6, Councillor Bacon noted with concern that the Friends had still not appeared to have adopted a constitution which, he opined, needed to be agreed and approved by the Council. The Clerk agreed to ensure an acceptable draft constitution was put before the Friends A.G.M. scheduled for May.

Arising out of Minute No. 7, it was also noted and agreed that the Council's Finance Working Party needed to meet with the Friends of Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre Finance Group to go through the Business Plan together as a matter of some urgency.

37. **CHESHAM MOOR GYM AND SWIM CENTRE UPDATE**

The Committee considered the Finance and Contracts Manager's report on the current financial situation at the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre facility.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the financial position be noted.

38. **SOLAR POWER UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the solar power installation carried out at the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre and operational from the end of 2011.

It was noted that from 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013 it has produced 14,901 units of electricity which had produced cash receipts of £6,520. If such income continued, it is likely that the pay-back figure will be in less than seven years as opposed to the eight years originally envisaged.

Members expressed their great satisfaction with this and it was

**RESOLVED**

that the matter be noted, the results be welcomed and the Friends of Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre be congratulated on the success of the scheme and thanked for their efforts that went into bringing this particular project to a conclusion.

39. **CEMETERY GATES LOCKING-PROCEDURE**

The Clerk suggested that Members revisit the current locking up times of the Cemetery in light of a recent anti-social behaviour incident that had taken place and elicited a great deal of interest on a local social media site.

He opined that, while the particular incident had been upsetting for the individuals concerned, generally anti-social behaviour appeared to be at an acceptably low level. He reported that the Friends of Chesham Cemetery, the police and the Chiltern District Council Community Safety Officer were all of the view that there was no need to change the current policy of keeping the pedestrian access open all hours while locking the vehicular access at weekends and after 4.00pm.

Councillor McCulloch advised that he was the Chairman not the Secretary of the Friends of Chesham Cemetery as recorded in the Minutes. He suggested that as the Secretary, Mrs Sharon McEwan, had undertaken the locking and unlocking of the vehicular gates during the Christmas period, she be formally thanked by the Committee. This was agreed.

Members agreed that the current system appeared to be working well and saving monies on paying for locking outside working hours.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

1. That the policy of keeping the pedestrian gates permanently unlocked at the cemetery be continued subject to there being no serious and sustained anti-social behaviour occurring within the facility.
2. That officers, in liaison with the Mayor and the Chairman of Recreation and the Arts Committee, be given delegated powers to revert to evening locking in the event of serious anti-social behaviour occurring.

*Note: Councillor Spruytenburg left the meeting at 8.30pm*

40. **ELGIVA PANTOMIME AND DIGITAL PROJECTOR UPDATE**

Members considered the figures from this year's recently finished pantomime season at the Elgiva. The Committee paid tribute to the excellence of the production of 'The Wizard of Oz' and the fact there had been the highest ever net profit (in excess of £40,000) for the seasonal production and an increase in income of nearly £11,000 in comparison with last year's very successful production of 'Aladdin'. The Clerk advised that there had been an average audience of 234 people per performance this season compared with a figure of 211 people per performance in 2012/13.

The Committee also welcomed the news of the excellent advanced ticket sales for the events now being streamed live from theatres and opera houses thanks to the

purchase of the digital projector.

It was

**RESOLVED**

1. That the 2013/14 Pantomime figures be noted and welcomed and that the Committee support the principle of offering an in-house pantomime again next season at the proposed budget within the report.
2. That the Digital Projector update be noted and welcomed.

41. **POLICY ON FITNESS CLASSES ON COUNCIL LAND**

The Committee was asked to review the Council's policy on fitness classes in Lowndes Park and other open spaces. Members noted that there had been no increases in known classes since the matter was first discussed in June 2012 and therefore no major revisions were required.

It was

**RESOLVED**

1. That all personal trainers/fitness class organisers be required to fill in and complete an application form, to be renewed annually and supply all requested documentation.
2. That the personal trainers/fitness class organisers be required to pay an annual £25 amount to the Friends of Lowndes Park.

42. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

CHAIRMAN