

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 28th October 2019

PRESENT Councillor Q. Chaudhry – Town Mayor (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	Mrs J. E. MacBean
"	J.L. Baum	"	R.C. McCulloch
"	Miss E.A. Culverhouse	"	S.P. Willmoth
"	M. Fayyaz	"	N.T. Southworth
"	P.J. Hudson		

Officer: Mr W. Richards - Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.Z. Bhatti MBE, N.L. Brown, A.W. Franks, D. MacBean, M. W. Shaw, Mrs D.M. Varley, N. Varley, F.S. Wilson and P.W. Yerrell

48. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 9th September 2019 and be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

49. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Fayyaz declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 as a member of Chesham in Bloom. Councillors Baum and Mrs MacBean declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 as governors of Elmtree School.

50. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions that were brought to the Mayor's notice.

51. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from 10th September – 28th October 2019. It was noted that the Deputy Mayor had also attended two further engagements during this time, namely:

- 3rd October – Newport Pagnell Town Council civic event
- 20th October – Cancer Charity event, Beaconsfield.

The Mayor, Councillor Chaudhry, then presented Councillors Miss Culverhouse and Mrs MacBean with Past Mayors' badges.

52. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Arising from Minute No. 27 of the meeting of the Planning Committee of the 7th October 2019, Councillor Southworth advised that his declaration of interest was because he lived opposite the applicant's property under consideration and not because he worked for them.

It was moved by Councillor J.L. Baum and seconded by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7th October 2019, as amended, be received and approved.

53. **RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and seconded by Councillor N. T. Southworth and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and Arts Committee held on 7th October 2019, be received and approved.

54. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Arising from Minute No. 18 of the meeting of the Finance Committee of the 28th October 2019, Councillor Bacon expressed that he was pleased to see that the monies allocated to the 'Communi-tree' project had now been earmarked from the Renewals, Investment and Community Projects budget but opined that he would still like to see a bid made to the national 'Urban Tree Challenge Fund'.

Arising from Minute No. 21, Councillor Bacon noted that the Finance Committee was giving further financial consideration to the possible Elgiva extension which he opined was sensible but suggested the Council needed to give greater deliberation on the implications of undertaking major capital works to both the theatre and the Gym and Swim Centre at much the same time. Councillor Mrs MacBean replied this would happen in due course but there was no certainty both or, indeed, either would actually proceed at this juncture.

It was moved by Councillor J.L. Baum and seconded by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 28th October July 2019, be received, approved and adopted.

55. **CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE**

The Council received a report from officers on actions undertaken or proposed since the Council declared a Climate Emergency at its last meeting. Foremost to this had been seeking a quote from the Carbon Trust to undertake a carbon audit of the Council's facilities.

Members were of the view that it was too premature to make a decision on this and such matters were best discussed in detail at the next Recreation and Arts Committee meeting.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted and the question of a carbon audit be considered at the next Recreation and Arts Committee meeting following liaison with other partners including Buckinghamshire County Council.

56. **SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ELECTRICITY BILL**

Members considered a request from the 'Power for People' campaigning group seeking the Council's support for the Local Electricity Bill which it devised to become law. It was noted that the Bill aimed to solve the current problem whereby local renewable energy generators, such as community energy groups, are unable to sell energy that they generate to local people. This is because of the huge setup and running costs involved in doing so. It was explained that the Bill would resolve this problem by establishing a 'Right to Local Supply' that would make the costs of selling locally generated clean energy proportionate to the scale of the operation.

Having agreed that such an initiative would appear to accord entirely with the Council's Environment Policy and position on Climate Change, it was

It was

RESOLVED

that the Council formally support and agree the circulated draft motion to support the Local Electricity Bill and sign up to the campaign to progress this.

57. **ANNUAL DONATIONS 2019/20**

The Council gave detailed consideration to the 28 applications from community organisations requesting financial assistance. The report summarised each organisation, purpose of application, grant awarded last year, where applicable, and extent of financial assistance requested for 2019/20.

Questions were raised about the operation and effectiveness of two particular organisations and therefore it was agreed to defer approving grants to them until further clarification on these concerns had been received.

Members also received a request from the organisation overseeing the installation of a new community all weather sports pitch at Chiltern Hills Academy for a donation to its fundraising account. It was agreed to award a £1,000 grant with the possibility of providing additional funds in the new financial year if deemed necessary.

Following further explanations from the Deputy Mayor in respect to the rationale behind recommended levels of support, it was

RESOLVED

that grants be made to the following organisations:

<u>Name of Organisation</u>	<u>Amount Requested £</u>	<u>Recommended Award £</u>
CHESHAM ALLOTMENTS GROUP*	500	500
CHESHAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOC*	500	500
CHESHAM CONNECT*	500	deferred
CHESHAM IN BLOOM *	430	430
CHESHAM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP*	500	500
CHESHAM EVENING WOMENS INSTITUTE	300	300
CHESHAM MUSEUM *	500	500
CHESHAM OLD PEOPLES CHRISTMAS DAY PARTY	200	200
CHESHAM OVER 50'S POSITIVE ACTION GROUP (COPAG)*	400	400
CHESHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB	200	100
CHESHAM STATION GARDEN REVIVAL	250	250
CHESHAM STUDENTS AND APPRENTICES FUND	150	150
CHESHAM SICK POOR FUND	250	250
CHESHAM WALKERS ARE WELCOME*	400	400
CHESHAM YOUTH CENTRE	100	100
CHILTERN DIAL A RIDE	1,800	deferred

CHILTERN HARRIERS ATHLETIC CLUB	500	250
ELMTREE FRIENDS AND FAMILY	500	250
FAIRTRADE CHESHAM*	500	500
RACHEL JOHNSON TRUSTS EDUCATION AND ELEEMOSYNARY*	150	150
PRIORS CHARITY	100	100
RAF AIR CADETS CHESHAM AND AMERSHAM SQUADRON	500	250
SCHOOLS OF CHESHAM CARNIVAL	400	400
SPARKLES –SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DOWN’S SYNDROME	500	0
TOWN BRIDGE COURT RESIDENTS ASSOC.	500	100
CHESHAM UNITED REFORMED CHURCH	500	500
WEDNESDAY STRETCH & FLEX WATERSIDE	30	30
W J STANDRING BEQUEST	100	100
CHILTERN HILLS ACADEMY ALL WEATHER PITCH FUNDRAISING GROUP	1000	1000
TOTAL	12,260	8,210
	BUDGET	GRANT TOTAL
Town Council Partners’ Support	5,000	3,380
Local Organisations	5,000	5,330

58. **CHESHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Following advice from the local Planning Authority that decisions pertaining to developing a Neighbourhood Plan should be determined by full Council, it was

RESOLVED

that the Council formally agree to the progression of a Neighbourhood Plan; agree that its designated area should be the whole of the town in terms of its parish boundaries; confirm that the Council, by making the application, is the relevant body under the act and delegate to officers the composition of the supporting statements as to why the town boundaries ought to be the designated area.

59. **DEVOLVED SERVICES**

It was reported that Buckinghamshire Council's Shadow Executive had agreed the extension of existing County Council highways devolution contracts for 2 years for those local councils who already have an agreement. It was further noted that Expressions of Interest from local councils who wish to continue delivering devolved highways services in their community must be received by Thursday 31st October 2019.

The Council expressed its keenness to continue with this valuable service and it was accordingly

RESOLVED

that the Council formally agree to the principle of a two-year contract (subject to any legal matters) being confirmed with Buckinghamshire Council from April 2020 to continue the existing highway maintenance devolved services agreement.

60. **PAYMENTS NO. 3**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 3, it was

RESOLVED

that Payments Sheet No. 3 in the grand total of £369,298.87 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

61. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

CHAIRMAN

1st November 2019