

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 19th April 2021

PRESENT Councillor R.C. McCulloch – Town Mayor (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	D. MacBean
"	J.L. Baum	"	Mrs J.E. MacBean
"	N.L. Brown	"	N.T. Southworth
"	Q. Chaudhry	"	Mrs D. M. Varley
"	Miss E.A. Culverhouse	"	N. Varley
"	M. Fayyaz	"	S. M. Willmoth
"	A.W. Franks	"	F.S. Wilson
"	P.J. Hudson	"	P.W. Yerrell

Officers: Mr W. Richards - Town Clerk
Ms K. Graves - Policy and Projects Officer

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M.W. Shaw

94. **HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AND DAME CHERYL GILLAN M.P.**

The Mayor opened the meeting by making reference to the recent sad news of the deaths of both Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Chesham and Amersham M.P., Dame Cheryl Gillan, and the Council duly observed a minute's silence in memory of them both.

Members then paid tribute to both public servants. It was stated that HRH Prince Philip would be remembered for his environmental support for the Worldwide Fund for Nature and his support for young people through the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme but, particularly, for his unceasing support for, and devotion to, Her Majesty the Queen.

Councillor Mrs MacBean and Brown then provided personal testimonies to the diligence and support received from Dame Cheryl, offered both to them and residents over her 29 years of serving the constituency. Her kindness and generosity were remarked upon and Councillor Mrs MacBean opined she had been inspiration to women in politics. The Council endorsed these tributes and Members offered their thoughts and prayers to both families.

95. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest that were brought to the Mayor's notice.

96. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 22nd March 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

97. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

98. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was noted that the current restrictions on public gatherings and meetings during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic meant there had been no Mayoral Engagements since the last meeting.

The Mayor advised that, on behalf of the Council, he had signed an on-line Book of Condolence hosted by the Royal Family in respect to the aforementioned passing of Prince Philip.

The Mayor then raised the matter of the Government's decision not to extend virtual meetings after the 6th May due to the time required to enact primary legislation. However, there was strenuous lobbying taking place to try and change this decision. With social distancing remaining in place until the 21st June at the earliest, Councillor McCulloch suggested he and the Town Clerk were of the view that the Annual Town Meeting should be provisionally scheduled for just after that date. In respect to the Annual Council Meeting, it was noted that there was a legal requirement to hold the meeting shortly after the elections so this would need to proceed as planned in some form on the 17th May. Due to the uncertainties currently, it was agreed that the date and format of the Annual Town Meeting and the format of the Annual Council Meeting be delegated to the Town Clerk in liaison with the Mayor once the Government had confirmed its position on virtual and hybrid meetings.

99. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor D. MacBean and seconded by Councillor Q. Chaudhry and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 29th March 2021 be received and approved.

100. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor N.T. Southworth and seconded by Councillor J.L. Baum and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 29th March 2021 be received and approved.

101. **COMMUNITY, ASSETS, RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean and seconded by Councillor A.W. Franks and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Assets, Recreation and Environment Committee held on 12th April 2021 be received and approved.

102. **CLOSING REMARKS PERTAINING TO LAST COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

This being the last Council meeting before the new Council was elected on the 6th May, the Mayor invited comments from Members recognising this.

Several Members paid tribute to the two longest-serving Members, namely Councillors Brown and Yerrell, who were not re-standing for election. It was noted that Councillor Brown had been a Member for 45 years and it was agreed that his knowledge and experienced had assisted many other Members as they joined the Council and he was owed a special debt of gratitude. For his part, Councillor Brown thanked his colleagues for their support. He particularly praised officers for their efforts and stated that he hoped he had played his part in making the town a better place. Looking forward he said he hoped the Neighbourhood Plan would be completed soon and had provision for car-parks which, he opined, were essential for the economic viability of Chesham. Councillor Yerrell was praised for his consistent, independent viewpoints over a number of years. Councillor Yerrell responded by also thanking fellow Members and officers. He stated he had found his time on the Council both interesting and enjoyable and expressed a hope that the next Council would be balanced and continue to move the town forward.

Councillor Franks was also retiring and he was thanked for all his efforts in terms of coordinating the Council's response to HS2. He responded by saying that he believed that this Council's comments, along with others, had at least secured some concessions from HS2. He stated that he was retiring primarily on ill-health grounds and had thoroughly enjoyed his term on the Council.

The Mayor then thanked all other Members who had decided not to re-stand for their efforts over the extended 5-year period of this Council and wished all Members standing for re-election every success.

103. **PAYMENTS NO. 6**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 6, it was

RESOLVED

that Payments Sheet No. 6 in the grand total of £169,757.08 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

104. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

It was moved by the Chairman and

RESOLVED

that the public and the press be excluded from the following item in accordance with the Public Bodies (Access to Meetings) Act 1960, as matters which are considered to be confidential are about to be discussed.

105. **RIVER RESTORATION AND ACCESS PROJECTS**

It was

RESOLVED

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

106. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.17pm.

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