

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 15th January 2007

PRESENT: Councillor M. Fayyaz, Town Mayor (presiding)
Councillor Mrs M. Molesworth, Deputy Mayor

Councillor	V. M. Abraham	Councillor	Mrs P.R. Lindsley
"	A.K. Bacon	"	Mrs S.M. McEwan
"	E.L. Bamford	"	Mrs A.M. Pirouet
"	M. Bignell	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	N.L. Brown	"	Mrs P. R. Wilkinson M.B.E.
"	Mrs J.C. Fulford	"	P. Woodburn
"	Mrs J.E. Franks	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	D.J. Lacey		

Officer: Mr. W. Richards - Town Clerk

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M.Z Bhatti

95. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Town Mayor invited questions from the public.

A number of questions were raised by current allotment holders in light of recent proposals on the allotment fees and charges.

Note: Councillors Bamford and Spruytenburg left the Chamber during Public Question Time following the submission of the first question.

In respect of a query raised on whether Members were aware that the proposed increase for Cameron Road was 50p per pole when considered at the Policy and Resources Committee, the Clerk advised that, while officers may have verbally reported 'a proposed 50p increase' in response to a question, all preceding paperwork had correctly referred to a proposed 50p per pole increase.

In regard to a question as to whether increased rents would lead to greater investment in the allotments, the Clerk reported that a great deal of monies had already been spent in Cameron Road over the last few years and further monies had been allocated for the site in the next financial year.

The reason for why Councillors Bamford and Spruytenburg had left the previous Policy and Resources Committee during discussions on fees and charges and why Councillors Bamford and Spruytenburg had vacated the Chamber at this time was requested to be

explained. The Clerk advised that, because the named Members rented allotments from the Council, the District Council's Legal and Monitoring Officer had advised them they had a prejudicial interest and therefore should leave the meeting. Moreover, it was explained that Councillor Mrs Pirouet did not rent an allotment and therefore, as secretary of the Allotments Group, only had a personal interest allowing her to speak on related allotment matters.

A question was asked as to why the matter of the implementation of a car-park in Cameron Road had not been progressed after being suggested at the Allotments Holders' AGM. The Clerk reported that while the matter had been noted, no request had been received in writing to date on this and he suggested that a formal letter be sent for the Parks and Premises Manager and Members to consider.

In respect to a query as to whether the proposed increase for the Cameron Road site was based on the disparity in charges with other Council sites, the Clerk confirmed that this was largely the case. He then reiterated that these were only suggested fees and Members had already agreed to be further guided by the recommendations of the Allotments Best Value Service Review and would consider the thoughts of the Allotments Group before deciding on a final charge.

Finally the Chairman of the Allotments Group asked whether any Member would be prepared to visit the sites on a tour. The Mayor replied that the Council had noted this invitation and Members were invited to respond individually if they so wished. The Mayor further advised that he was aware that the Allotments Group had its next meeting on the 24th January and looked forward to receiving its comments after the meeting.

THE TOWN MAYOR OPENED THE COUNCIL MEETING AT 7.47PM

96. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 11th December 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

97. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In respect of Agenda Item No. 5 - Verbal update from the Youth Council - Councillors M. Bignell and Mrs A.M. Pirouet declared personal interests in the item as Council representatives of the Youth Council.

In respect of Agenda Item No. 6 – Councillor Mrs A.M Pirouet declared a personal interest in respect of her representation of the Allotments Group. Councillor E.L.

Bamford and C.S. Spruytenburg declared a possible prejudicial interest in respect of them being allotment holders.

98. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from 12th December 2006 – 15th January 2007. The Mayor advised the carol service on the 12th December was organised by the Fire Authority and reported that he or the Deputy Mayor had attended the following additional engagements:

- 13th December - Dr Challoner's Boys School, carol service at St Mary's, Old Amersham (Deputy Mayor)
- 16th December – Receipt of Christmas Day Party for the Elderly turkey from Jeremy the Butchers.

The Mayor welcomed Councillors Tom Dodd and John Warder from Chiltern District Council who were observing from the public seating and advised that they had indicated that they would be happy to answer any questions Members may have.

99. **CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 18th November 2006 were received and approved

100. **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs M. Molesworth and seconded by Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 18th December 2006, be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs M. Molesworth and seconded by Councillor Mrs S.M. McEwan and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 8th January 2007, be received and approved.

101. **REVISED COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATION**

Arising from *Minute No.84* of the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 8th January 2007, Councillor Mrs Wilkinson requested that, in light of further information she had received in regard to planning application CH/06/2123/FA, the Council change its position from offering no objections to this application to recommending refusal. This was agreed.

102. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

It was noted that Councillor Mrs McEwan had been in attendance at the meeting but this had not been recorded.

It was moved by Councillor V.M. Abraham and seconded by Councillor P. Woodburn and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes, as amended, of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8th January 2007, be received and approved.

103. **PAY SCHEDULE NO. 5**

Following consideration of Pay Schedule No. 5, it was

RESOLVED

that Pay Schedule No. 5 in the grand total of £402,868.28 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

In respect of the payments to the bottled water supplier, Councillor Woodburn noted two separate payments to the company and requested that further details be supplied as to the amounts paid annually for this provision.

104. **INFORMATION ITEM**

The item presented on Information Sheet No. 20 was received and noted.

Councillor Brown reported that the matter raised at the Council surgery in respect of flooding in Botley Road had now been acted upon by Buckinghamshire County Council.

105. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

TOWN MAYOR

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