

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

held on Monday 17 October 2005

PRESENT Councillor Mrs. P.R. Lindsley Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	Mrs. A.M. Pirouet
"	E.L. Bamford	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	Mrs. J.C. Fulford	"	P. Woodburn.
"	D.J. Lacey		

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors: V.M. Abraham, Ms J.E. Bramwell, Mrs P.R. Wilkinson M.B.E. and P.W. Yerrell

Officers: Mr. W. Richards - Town Clerk
Ms S. Butt – Policy and Projects Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.Z. Bhatti, M. Fayyaz and Mrs. M. Molesworth

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P.W. Yerrell declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 - Chiltern District Council: Open Spaces, Sport and Recreational Facilities Audit and Needs Assessment – as a Trustee of the Little Theatre by the Park and as a governor at Newtown School.

28. MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 11th July 2005, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

29. ALLOTMENT GROUP

Members received and noted the Minutes of the meeting of the Allotment Group held on 12th September 2005 and the Allotment Group A.G.M. held on 29th September 2005.

In respect of the A.G.M., the Town Mayor, Councillor Spruytenburg, remarked upon the very good attendance from allotment holders and the Committee offered a formal vote of thanks to the Allotment Group for its continuing efforts in promoting and overseeing the allotments. Councillor Mrs Pirouet advised that, as current secretary of the Allotment Group, she had been asked to pass

on the appreciation of the Chairman, Mr Crompton, for the hard work and support offered by the Parks and Premises Manager and the Town Clerk to the Group.

30. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received and noted the Minutes of the meetings of the Elgiva Board of Management on the 11th July and 7th September 2005.

Arising out of Minute No. 5 of the meeting held on the 11th July, Councillor Ms Bramwell enquired as to whether a report on the financial implications of the role of the Box Office and Marketing Officer could be brought to a future meeting. Councillor Bacon asked whether the amount of 'ring-fenced' monies utilised for this position could also be clarified.

Arising out of Minute No. 7 of the meeting held on the 7th September, Councillor Mrs Wilkinson reiterated her view that she thought it important that Board members came from a variety of backgrounds including the business sector.

31. **WOODLAND VIEW PLAY AREA**

Through the Chairman, a member of Friends of Pheasant Rise Residents Association (FoPRRA) enquired as to how many Committee members had viewed the Woodland View play area. It was noted that all Committee members had visited the site to consider the possible installation position of youth recreation equipment.

The Policy and Projects Officer advised that she had just received confirmation from Paradigm Housing that it would contribute up to £2,000 to the proposed new equipment. Members welcomed this announcement and agreed that this would be a necessary additional financial contribution to the £6,000 allocated from Chiltern District Council's Community Safety budget and an amount of up to £5,000 earmarked from the Council's play equipment renewals and repairs budget for this project.

The Policy and Projects Officer reported that FoPRRA's preferred choice was a 'kick-about area' with fencing to be located at the south end of the existing play-area. Members considered the options submitted by play companies and, after some debate, agreed that the option submitted by Wicksteed Leisure, namely a rounded closed goal module, including basketball hoop, with one three metre high panel each side with rounded one metre high side panels replete with Mattas safety tiles in the goalmouth area, be the quotation accepted. It was noted that the cost of this equipment, including installation and the re-turfing of the damaged area by the slide amounted to £11,612 plus V.A.T. It was further noted that, by locating the equipment to the southern end of the site, the need to remove the cradle swing would be negated.

The Committee thanked the Policy and Projects Officer for her efforts in compiling the report and, in noting that she would be ascertaining that there would be no planning constraints; reservations expressed by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents or major objections expressed by residents, it was

RESOLVED

that the quotation submitted by Wicksteed Leisure be accepted.

32. **SECURITY OF OPEN AIR POOL, MOOR ROAD**

The Committee considered the proposals from Chess Valley Sports and Leisure Association (CVSLA) to implement a number of security measures following a spate of break-ins and acts of vandalism at the open-air swimming pool. Members were supportive of the concept of installing systems design to prevent anti-social behaviour and were in agreement that the first two stages as suggested by CVSLA, namely the fitting of prikka strip to one boundary wall and to part of the plant room roof plus the strengthening of the double doors to the ramp and the fitting of a security door to the plant room, should proceed immediately. However, cognisant that monies may be available from Chiltern District Council's Community Safety budget, it was agreed that the fitting of an alarm system and a CCTV camera should be delayed until a bid for funding had been submitted and determined.

It was

RESOLVED

that CVSLA's proposed security measures are agreed in principle, but the installation of an alarm system and CCTV system be subject to the finances being confirmed following an application to the District Council's Community Safety budget.

33. **CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL – OPEN SPACE AND SPORT RECREATION FACILITIES AUDIT AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The Committee considered its response to the Chiltern District Council Planning Policy Guide 17 (PPG17) Study of Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation and the independent survey of the facilities across the District carried out by consultants

There was universal criticism of the needs assessment document pertaining to Chesham produced by the consultants and many inaccuracies were highlighted by Members. It was agreed that the research undertaken appeared to be rudimentary at best and concern was expressed that the consultants' fees for producing an apparently unsatisfactory piece of work was paid for by the local tax payer.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be instructed to write to Chiltern District Council highlighting the inaccuracies and expressing the Council's dismay over the quality of the document.

34. **UPDATE ON LICENSING OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

The current position on the applications to gain Premises Licences for Lowndes Park, Nashleigh Hill Recreation Ground and Codmore Field was discussed by the Committee. The Clerk advised that, following hearings in front of the District Council's Licensing Sub-Committee, the Lowndes Park application had had few restrictions upon it but Codmore Field had been refused permission to host social events upon a Sunday and Nashleigh Hill had not been granted a licence at all. Since the Codmore Field decision effectively disbarred the Lions Club from operating its annual Donkey

Derby, the Clerk recommended that the Committee agree to appealing against both decisions made by the District Council in regard to Nashleigh Hill Recreation Ground and Codmore Field. It was further recommended that, as the Donkey Derby raised much of its charitable monies through the provision of a beer tent, a variation on the Codmore Field licence was sought to allow for the provision for the sale and consumption of alcohol for this event.

The Committee agreed that the Council was a responsible public body who should be able to determine applications for hiring of its open spaces and it was

RESOLVED

that the Council proceed with the appeals in regard to premises licences for Nashleigh Hill Recreation Ground and Codmore Field and, in the event of being successful with the Codmore Field appeal, seek a variation on the licence to allow alcohol sales to correspond with the Donkey Derby.

35. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The items presented on Information Sheet No. 10 were received and noted.

In respect to information item 31, the Clerk advised that the correct date for the CVSLA A.G.M. was the 29th November.

Councillor Mrs Fulford raised the matter of CVSLA possibly wishing to convert the multi-games area into purely tennis courts. Initial concern was raised at the loss of a facility but it was accepted that demand should be the determining factor and the Clerk was requested to investigate the current usage figures.

In respect to information item 32, the Committee congratulated the Impress the Chess Forum on its work so far. Councillor Mrs Fulford highlighted the current dry state of the River Chess and the associated matter of water abstraction. It was noted that Pow Wow bottled water company was seeking to increase its abstraction levels and it was agreed that it should be considered at a future Development Control meeting.

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

It was

RESOLVED

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

37. **TOWN FAIR**

The Clerk advised that the current fairground operators had been in breach of contract this year since they had not provided a fair for July or September as agreed. Members were advised of the alleged numerous acts of verbal abuse and anti-social behaviour perpetrated by the operators over the last few years and noted that another fairground operator had expressed a wish to provide three fairs per annum if invited to do so.

It was

RESOLVED

that no new contract be offered to the current fairground operators and alternative operators be invited to provide fairs for 2006.

38. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN

Publication date 21.10..05