

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE

held on 8th October 2007

PRESENT Councillor Mrs J.C. Fulford, Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	Mrs C.M. Michael
"	E.L. Bamford	"	Mrs M. Molesworth
"	Mrs C. Littley	"	Mrs G. Walker

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors V.M. Abraham, F.G. Holly and C.H. Spruytenburg.

Mr T. Pilling, Elgiva Board of Management.

Officers: Mr. W. Richards, Town Clerk and Mr S. Pearson, Finance and Contracts Manager.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.Z. Bhatti, Ms. J.E. Bramwell, D.J. Lacey and Mrs A.M. Pirouet.

38. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mrs Fulford, Mrs Littley and Spruytenburg declared a personal interest in the agenda item 4 as members of the Environmental Group.

39. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 3 September 2007, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

40. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on 10 September 2007. It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

A brief discussion ensued on the matter of smoking in the open air patio area. Mr Trevor Pilling was invited to address the Committee and he expressed the Elgiva Board's view

that a blanket smoking ban in that area may adversely affect business. The Committee accepted this and it was agreed to monitor the situation accordingly over the next few months.

41. **THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Group held on 6 September 2007. It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

42. **IMPRESS THE CHESS**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Impress the Chess Steering Group held on 11 September 2007. It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

43. **VICTORIAN LATE NIGHT SHOPPING EVENING**

The Committee considered a report from the Policy and Projects Officer outlining the current position in respect of the Victorian Late Night shopping evening.

It was

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

44. **GRASS –CUTTING REGIME IN CEMETERY**

The recommendations from the Parks and Premises Manager in respect of the grass cutting within the cemetery was discussed by the Committee.

It was noted that the Parks and Premises Manager was proposing that the monies currently being used for contractors be utilised for ‘in house’ cemetery maintenance when the present contract expires at the end of March 2008. It was accepted by Members that the cemetery’s general appearance could be improved by having a designated officer responsible for grass-cutting and other tasks though were cognisant that the costs of extra staffing provision had yet to be fully confirmed.

It was

RESOLVED

that the proposal to bring the cemetery grass-cutting and maintenance ‘in-house’ be supported in principle, subject to the financing of such a proposal being agreed by Council.

Councillor Bamford arrived at the meeting at 7.43pm

45. **INTERMENTS IN MUSLIM SECTION OF CEMETERY**

The Committee was reminded that the Council has recently simplified interments in all other sections of the cemetery by requiring the undertaker to engage and organise the grave digger. It was noted that at the present time, the same system does not apply to the Muslim community and the Council still attempts to provide a grave digger to provide a walled grave. The Clerk advised that this was proving increasingly difficult and officers believed that it would be more satisfactory for all parties if the Muslim undertaker or the Mosque Committee engaged a grave digger directly to build the walled graves to the Committee’s specification. In addition, the proposal that the Mosque Committee be empowered to undertake the administration and minor works for non-working days interments was also put forward within the report.

The Clerk further advised that he and the Administration Manager had had a meeting with representatives of the Mosque Committee who seemed satisfied with such arrangements. However these representatives had not, as yet, reported back the views of the Mosque Committee as a whole.

The Committee generally was supportive of the proposals so long as they were agreeable to the Muslim community in general.

The Clerk informed the Committee that Councillor Bhatti had requested that this matter be referred to full Council for determination in accordance with Standing Order 26 c).

It was

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND

that the proposal that the Muslim walled graves be built by grave diggers directly commissioned by the bereaved or the Mosque Committee and the administration of interments on non-working days be devolved to named representatives of the Mosque Committee be agreed in principle, following written agreement being obtained in respect of the concept from the Mosque Committee itself.

46. **SETTING UP OF FRIENDS GROUP FOR MOOR ROAD LEISURE FACILITIES**

The Committee considered the notes emanating from the open meeting held on the 2nd October 2007 at the Open Air Pool and the large public support for the facilities there.

Members expressed their satisfaction that so many centre users had volunteered to serve on a 'Friends' advisory group and a brief discussion took place as to what form this advisory group should take. It was agreed that the suggested template for this advisory group should come from the Council as opposed to the interested parties at the Moor Road facilities in the first instance and it was agreed that Councillor Mrs Fulford and the Clerk draw up a draft constitution to be considered by Council.

Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

that the proposal to set up an advisory group for the Moor Road leisure facilities be welcomed and a draft constitution be drawn up for consideration by Council.

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

It was moved by the Chairman and

RESOLVED

that the public and the Press, save for the Chairman of the Elgiva Board of Management, 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.

48. **CONTRACT CLEANER – THE ELGIVA**

Having been satisfied that the current cleaner would not be deemed by the Inland Revenue as a Council employee, the Committee

RESOLVED

that the current contract cleaner be offered a three year cleaning contract at the rate specified in the report, to be annually uplifted by any increase in the General Index of Retail Prices and this contract to be backdated to commence from the 1st October 2007.

49. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

CHAIRMAN

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