

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 26th February 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.Z Bhatti	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	M. Bignell	"	Mrs P.R. Wilkinson M.B.E.
"	N.L. Brown	"	P. Woodburn
"	Mrs J.C. Fulford	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	D.J. Lacey		

Officer: Mr. W. Richards - Town Clerk

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P.J. Murphy.
Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors E.L. Bamford, M. Bignell and N.L. Brown.

106. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Town Mayor invited questions from the public. There were no questions that were brought to the Mayor's notice.

THE TOWN MAYOR OPENED THE COUNCIL MEETING AT 7.33PM

107. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 15th January 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

108. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In respect of the supplementary Agenda Item - Consultation on Changes to Library Opening Hours - Councillors Mrs P.R. Lindsley and Mrs P.R. Wilkinson declared a personal interest in the item as Members of Buckinghamshire County Council. Councillor A.K. Bacon declared a personal interest as his wife worked for the library service but he advised that she was not employed in the branch libraries under consideration.

In respect of Agenda Item No. 10 – Councillor Mrs J.C. Fulford declared a personal interest in respect of her being a Council representative for Chess Valley Sports and Leisure Association.

109. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from 16th January – 26th February 2007. The Mayor reported that he or the Deputy Mayor had attended the following additional engagements:

- 23rd February – Presentation of Lottery grant to Little Theatre by the Park Trustees.
- 24th February – Completion of building re-development, Trinity Baptist Church. (Deputy Mayor).

The Mayor invited nominations to represent the Council at the Chesham and Amersham Transport Study stakeholders meeting on the 14th March 2007. It was agreed that it would be appropriate for Councillor Mrs Molesworth to attend in her capacity as Chairman of the Development Control Committee.

The Mayor then invited nominations to attend the Royal Garden Party on the 19th July through the auspices of the Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils. It was noted that invitations are in recognition of past service and therefore Councillor Mrs Wilkinson proposed Councillor Mrs Lindsley in light of her service to the people of Chesham. The rest of the Council warmly endorsed this proposal.

110. **CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Youth Council held on 17th January 2007 were received and approved.

In respect to the agenda item No. 3, Councillor Mrs Pirouet advised that there was no proposal to put a skatepark on Botley Road playing fields but that the Youth Council was considering a survey for young people's needs for the area.

111. **PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor P. Woodburn and seconded by Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Performance Review Committee held on 22nd January 2007, be received and approved.

112. **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs M. Molesworth and seconded by Councillor Mrs J.C. Fulford and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 29th January 2007, 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 19th February 2007, be received and approved.

113. **RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs P.R. Lindsley and seconded by Councillor A.K. Bacon and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 19th February 2007, be received and approved.

114. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg and seconded by Councillor P.W. Yerrell and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 19th February 2007, be received and approved.

115. **FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT POLICY**

Arising from *Minute No. 57* of the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 19th February 2007, Members reconsidered the recommendation in light of concerns raised by Councillor Brown and further information received from Buckinghamshire County Council and South East England Employers.

It was moved by Councillor A.K. Bacon and seconded by Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg that the recommendation be amended to read “*that the Council’s flexible retirement policy be ‘that the Council will consider each case on its merits and costs’ but that the policy be reconsidered at the next Executive Committee following the production of a model policy statement on the matter from South East England Employers.*”

This amendment was agreed and it was

RESOLVED

that the agreed amendment be confirmed as the Council policy in regard to flexible retirement.

116. **PAY SCHEDULE NO. 6**

Following consideration of Pay Schedule No. 6, it was

RESOLVED

that Pay Schedule No. 6 in the grand total of £112,044.25 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

Councillor M. Bignell arrived at the meeting at 7.55pm

Councillor E.L. Bamford arrived at the meeting at 7.59pm

Councillor M.Z. Bhatti arrived at the meeting at 8.05pm

Councillor N.L. Brown arrived at the meeting at 8.10pm

117. **CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO LIBRARY OPENING HOURS**

Members considered the proposed new opening hours for the libraries put forward by Buckinghamshire County Council in order to reduce its budget. It was noted that it was proposed that Chesham Library close half-an-hour earlier on Tuesday and Thursday and not open at all on Wednesdays.

Members were in full agreement that, as Wednesday is market day in Chesham, this was not the best day to close the town’s library and such a proposal should be opposed. A

debate then took place as to whether any reduction in opening hours should be opposed in the consultation reply or whether the Council should comment only on where the reductions should be made.

After some discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Woodburn and seconded by Councillor Spruytenburg that *'the Council reply to the consultation document opposing any reductions in opening hours at Chesham Library.'*

This was **CARRIED** by 7 votes to 5.

Note: Councillors Bacon and Mrs Lindsley requested that their decision to abstain in the vote be recorded.

The question was then raised as to whether it would be appropriate to merely oppose any reduction in hours without commenting on preferred opening days if the reductions were to proceed. It was agreed that the Council should also make reference to the importance of Chesham Library being open on a market day and to state that Chesham Library should not have more than the average 'across-the-board' cuts in percentage terms.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that the Council reply to Buckinghamshire County Council opposing any reductions in opening hours at Chesham Library but, in the likelihood of reductions being imposed, the Council request that Chesham Library remain open on a Wednesday and that the cuts in opening hours for Chesham do not exceed the 11 per cent average for libraries in Buckinghamshire.

118. **INFORMATION ITEM**

The item presented on Information Sheet No. 23 was received and noted.

Councillor Mrs A.M. Pirouet left the meeting at 8.20pm

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

It was moved by the Mayor and

RESOLVED

that the public and the Press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Access to Meetings) Act

1960, as matters which are considered to be confidential are about to be discussed.

120. **UPDATE ON CHESS VALLEY SPORTS AND LEISURE ASSOCIATION (CVSLA)**

The Town Clerk updated the Council on the current position in regard to the future of CVSLA

It was

RESOLVED

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

121. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.

TOWN MAYOR

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