

## **CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES of the meeting of the RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE**

held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor	M. Z. Bhatti	Councillor	P.J. Hudson
"	Miss E.A. Culverhouse	"	Mrs J.E. MacBean
"	A.W. Franks	"	Mrs D.M. Varley

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillors A.K. Bacon and P.W. Yerrell.

Mr T. Pilling – Elgiva Board of Management.  
Mr P. Brown – Chesham United Football Club.

Officer: Mr W. Richards, Town Clerk.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Fayyaz and D. J. Lacey.

#### 1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR 2017/18**

The Mayor opened the meeting and called for nominations for Chairman of the Recreation and the Arts Committee.

It was

#### **RESOLVED**

that Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean be elected Chairman for the remainder of the Council year.

*Note: Councillor Mrs MacBean took the Chair*

Councillor Mrs MacBean called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Recreation and the Arts Committee.

It was

#### **RESOLVED**

that Councillor A.W. Franks be elected Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the Council year.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs MacBean declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 and 9 as a member of the Chesham Allotments Group, Elgiva Board of Management, Impress the Chess and the Chesham Environmental Group.

Councillors Bacon, Miss Culverhouse and Mrs Varley declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 as members or regular users of Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre.

3. **MINUTES**

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. **IMPRESS THE CHESS GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meetings of the Impress the Chess Group held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

5. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

The Chairman asked Mr Trevor Pilling, Chairman of the Elgiva Board of Management if there was anything in particular he wished to speak to the Committee about. Mr Pilling replied that he had no immediate concerns as he believed the Elgiva was performing well and had a strong 2016/17. On a minor matter, he did enquire as to whether the Council could provide secretarial support, either directly or by sourcing a volunteer. Members agreed to see whether they could provide names of possible volunteers individually, and, if not, the Clerk was asked to consider the implications of a staff member taking notes.

Councillor Mrs MacBean briefly updated the Committee on the initial designs forthcoming by the commissioned architect in respect to the patio and increasing the theatre's capacity and also on the appointment of the Marketing Manager and Elgiva web design tenders.

6. **ALLOTMENTS GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Group held on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

7. **FRIENDS OF CHESHAM CEMETERY**

Members received the Minutes of the Friends of Chesham Cemetery meeting and AGM of the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

8. **CHESHAM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meetings of the Chesham Environmental Group A.G.M. and group meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

9. **SUMMER EVENTS 2017**

The Committee received a report on summer events and activities taking place that were pertinent to the Council.

Members firstly considered the free Lowndesbourne and Town Picnic event which is now in its third year. As previously, the organisers were requesting a £500 grant and for the Council to pay for the portable toilets as part of its partnership funding for the event. Members were unanimous that this was an excellent community event and were happy to accede to this request.

The 'Chesham Remembers' event – a community event in Lowndes Park commemorating the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele and the fallen from Chesham – was then discussed. It was noted that the Council was contributing £200 to the event in lieu of its usual Bands in the Park fee and the day was welcomed by the Committee.

In respect to the First World War One centenary, Mr Peter Brown from Chesham United F.C. was invited to briefly address the Committee. He explained that the club, in order to commemorate its own hundred year anniversary (which came into existence only due to two Chesham football clubs having to merge after so many local men lost their lives during the Great War) was commissioning a special centenary kit. The club was seeking funding from a number of different sources but Mr Brown said he would welcome a contribution from the Council as a one-off to reflect its respect for the fallen. Accordingly it was agreed an amount of £300 be earmarked from the Donations budget for this project.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Committee agrees to support the Lowndesbourne Town Picnic with a grant award of £500, and further to support the event by directly hiring portable toilets.
2. That the Committee notes the Council's involvement with 'Chesham Remembers' and its £200 contribution to the day.
3. That the Committee agrees a contribution of £300 to Chesham United's request for funding of its centenary football shirts from the Donations budget.

10. **CHESHAM MOOR GYM AND SWIM CENTRE UPDATE**

The Committee considered the officers' report on the current financial situation at the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre facility.

Members were also asked to consider whether these reports were still required by this Committee or whether such a report should now lie under the auspices of the new Finance Committee. It was agreed that as the report often advised on additional Gym and Swim matters, it was desirable for it to continue to be presented to this Committee.

It was

**RESOLVED**

1. That the financial position be noted.
2. That these reports to be continued to be brought before this Committee.

11. **NAMING OF THE TOWN BELL**

The Committee was requested to agree that the Town Bell be named 'The Stirling Bell' in memory of the late Mr Stirling Maguire. Members were reminded that Mr Maguire was a Mayoral Award recipient in 2015 for his hard work and dedication to conserving Chesham's heritage. It was thanks to his efforts that the original town bell was restored in Market Square and its presence will be an enduring memorial.

It was agreed that Mr Maguire's passing was a sad loss to the town and this would be a very fitting tribute and it was therefore

**RESOLVED**

that the Town Bell be renamed 'The Stirling Bell'.

12. **ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT REVISIONS**

Members were requested to consider and agree the Allotments Group's proposed revisions to the allotment tenancy agreement.

The Clerk explained that the Allotment Group had suggested these changes originally, to ensure plots were more rigorously cultivated. Officers had some reservations to the initial changes and the circulated revisions were a reflection of this. The Clerk said he was pleased to report that his recent meeting with the Vice Chairman of the Allotments Group had confirmed that the Group was broadly happy with these amendments but had suggested that point 5 be changed to 'may' rather than 'will' and 7i have the additional wording of '*that room should be left for wheelbarrow access*'. The Clerk and the Parks and Premises Manager supported these suggestions.

The Committee expressed its gratitude for the Allotment Group's continued support and it was

**RESOLVED**

that the proposed changes to the allotments tenancy agreement, as amended at this meeting, be agreed.

13. **TOWN FAIRS**

It was reported that Smiths Fair has requested that the Council allow a small fair to be held in Lowndes Park this summer. It is proposed that this be a young children's fair only with no large rides such as the dodgems and the waltzer. This was proposed to take place between the 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> July.

Members were not adverse to trialling this, subject to officers ensuring a reasonable rental fee and a bond to be held against any damage.

A brief discussion then took place on the Charter Fair generally. It was agreed that, ideally, it would be preferable for local Waterside residents; the Gym and Swim

Centre and the fair operators themselves if a more suitable hardstanding location than the Moor car-park could be secured and it was agreed that this ought to be considered further as the Local Plan progressed.

**RESOLVED**

1. The Committee agrees to allow a small fair to take place in Lowndes Park in July subject to the Clerk and Fairground operators agreeing a suitable bond in advance.
2. That a future new location for the Charter Fairs be discussed again as the Local Plan progresses.

14. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

CHAIRMAN