

## **CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

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

held on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**PRESENT** Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean – Chairman (Presiding)

Councillor	Q. Chaudhry	Councillor	R.C. McCulloch
"	A.W. Franks	"	N. T. Southworth
"	M. Fayyaz	"	Mrs D.M. Varley
"	P.J. Hudson		

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor A.K. Bacon.

Officer: Mr W. Richards - Town Clerk

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Miss E.A. Culverhouse.

#### 15. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was noted that, as agreed, all previously stated Declaration of Interests remained unchanged from the first meeting of the administrative year or reported subsequently.

#### 16. **MINUTES**

It was

##### **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

#### 17. **CHESHAM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Chesham Environmental Group meeting and AGM held on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

It was

##### **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

Arising out of the Minute No. 9, Councillor Bacon enquired as to whether there had been any significant changes to the maintenance and cultivation regime for

Berkhampstead Field Meadow. The Chairman advised that she believed that the cutting and baling of the field would be continuing as previously.

18. **IMPRESS THE CHESS GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Impress the Chess Group held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

19. **ALLOTMENTS GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Group held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

20. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

21. **FRIENDS OF CHESHAM CEMETERY**

Members received the Minutes of the Friends of Chesham Cemetery meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

22. **MAYORAL CHARITY EVENTS**

The Committee was asked to agree to Mayoral charitable events being classed as 'Council' events to allow for them to be covered by the Council insurance. The Clerk advised that the question of who should insure these, now often high profile, events had become somewhat blurred, particularly when they take place on Council land and the fact that the Council's insurers had stated that, with these events, the Council will need to be involved in the organisation of the event and will need to take on the responsibility for that event if they wish it to be covered under its insurance. This would involve being part of the planning and risk assessments and make the Council ultimately responsible if negligence occurred at the event.

Members agreed that the Mayoral events should be supported by the Council through the insurance cover but, equally, accepted that the organisation and administration should continue to lie with the Mayor and their volunteers rather than officers. Moreover, the Clerk should have the powers not to sanction an event if he believed public health and safety was being compromised.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Committee agrees that Mayoral events be classified as Council events under the terms of the Council's insurance policy on the understanding that the Mayor remains the primary organiser and administrator of said event and any potential officer input is agreed in advance between the Mayor and the Town Clerk.

23. **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.

The Committee noted and welcomed the increase in income at the centre. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs MacBean, also reported that the new coin operated coffee machine was proving very successful and freeing up officer time. However staff were still being asked to provide change at the reception, often at busy times, so she was recommending that the centre look to purchase or lease a change machine to alleviate this problem.

Finally the Committee offered a vote of thanks for all staff at the Gym and Swim Centre and particularly the Manager and Deputy Manager who had worked exceedingly hard and often beyond their allotted working hours to ensure the open air pool functioned smoothly in the exceptionally hot summer to date.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the financial position and other matters be noted.

24. **CHESHAM CEMETERY**

The Committee received an update on developments with the Cemetery administration and the number of likely interments being able to be facilitated at the current cemetery.

While it was noted that the Unconsecrated section still had spaces to facilitate interments for several years, it was reported that the more accurate mapping of the Cemetery, both digitally and manually, may suggest that the 20 year scenario reported two years ago may be over-optimistic and the lifespan much less than that.

Accordingly, Members discussed the future of the Council continuing to provide a place for interments in Chesham. It was generally agreed that the residents of the town would expect either this council or the principal authority to provide a site within the parish boundary and efforts should be made to ensure this occurred. A brief debate took place on whether the Council should uplift its current £5,000 per annum contribution to potentially buy land for a new site. The general consensus was that the amount should remain the same as it was unlikely that, even by significantly increasing the amount, it would be enough to finance this and, moreover, it may be that no suitable land could be located in any case. Instead it was agreed that Chiltern District Council should be fully engaged and requested to help identify potential sites and with potential purchases thereof as the Local Plan proceeds. Councillor McCulloch opined that the Friends of Chesham Cemetery would be happy to be involved but reminded the Committee they were primarily a voluntary group tasked with advising on and helping with basic maintenance issues.

Members also offered a vote of thanks to the Administration Manager for her work on the cemetery, particularly in respect to transferring all the manual records onto the digital system which now allowed residents to search for the burial locations if interred relatives.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Council engages with Chiltern District Council in respect to it helping to identify potential sites and with potential purchases thereof as the Local Plan proceeds.

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

It was moved by the Chairman and

**RESOLVED**

that the public and the Press, save for Mr Hugo Hardy, 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.

26. **AIR CONDITIONING AT THE ELGIVA THEATRE**

The Committee was reminded that the Elgiva was due to install air conditioning during its traditional August closedown and maintenance period but, following an assessment by an independent company of the submitted tenders, there were doubts on the effectiveness of the air conditioning proposed. Accordingly the scheme had been deferred and officers were recommending a company be contracted to oversee the project from start to finish including the devising of a proper specification.

Members agreed this was a sensible approach but proposed that the contracting of the company should be deferred until the business plan for the possible extension of the Elgiva was more advanced as this may impact on the quantity and quality of air conditioning required.

Accordingly it was

**RESOLVED**

that the Committee agrees to look to commission Derwent FM to oversee a specification, assessment of tenders and installation of air conditioning at the Elgiva at a fixed fee to be confirmed Following the draft production of the Elgiva Extension Business Plan.

27. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.32pm.

CHAIRMAN