

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

held on Monday 22nd March 2010

PRESENT Councillor V.M. Abraham, Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	M.W. Shaw
"	Ms J.E. Bramwell	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	M. Fayyaz	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	F.G. Holly		

In Attendance

Councillors D.J. Lacey, Mrs C. Littley, Mrs C.M. Michael and Mrs M. Molesworth

Officer: W. Richards – Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.E. Brand, N.L. Brown and Mrs J.C. Fulford

71. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Bacon, Ms Bramwell, Lacey and Spruytenburg declared personal interests in agenda item 13 as Members of Chiltern District Council.

72. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8th February 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

73. **CHESHAM ACTION PARTNERSHIP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Chesham Action Partnership held on 2nd February 2010.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

Arising out of Minute 3 (i), Councillor Ms Bramwell suggested that it may be prudent for Chesham Action Partnership members to declare interests when allocating grants.

74. **'CHESHAM IN TRANSITION' GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the 'Chesham in Transition' Group held on the 10th February 2010.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

75. **DEVOLVED SERVICES UPDATE**

The Committee considered the current position on the devolved services initiative emanating from Buckinghamshire County Council.

Following a query from a Member, the Town Clerk advised that the recording of the operative's work had to be of such detail in order to claim back monies from Buckinghamshire County Council's devolved services budget. He also explained that checking and re-arranging of the barriers had been requested by Buckinghamshire County Council due to safety concerns of the culvert under the Market Square.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

76. **ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

The Committee was asked to review the annual Investment Strategy.

The Chairman bemoaned the loss of almost £20,000 due to continued low interest rates but the Committee agreed that little could be done to rectify this.

It was

RESOLVED

that the 2009/10 Investment Strategy be continued and adopted for 2010/11.

77. **INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Committee considered the latest Internal Auditor's report.

It was

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

78. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

The Standing Orders were given their annual review by the Committee.

It was agreed with the officers' recommendations that Standing Orders 19 (c) and 41 be deleted, the latter to bring it into line with the Council's Financial Regulations.

It was

RESOLVED

that Standing Orders 19 (c) and 41 be deleted.

79. **UPDATE ON WORKING PARTIES**

The Committee received an update of the deliberations and proposals of the adverse weather, post office and cycling working parties respectively.

The Committee briefly discussed the future of the post office and the possibility of housing any future such facility in the Elgiva. While it was accepted that there may be many obstacles to making this become a reality, it was agreed that an opportunity to provide a community facility and potentially have an income generating scheme should be investigated further and the Clerk was requested to put the concept to Chiltern District Council's planners for an indicative view.

It was

RESOLVED

that the working parties' Minutes be noted.

80. **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR TEN MONTHS TO 31st JANUARY 2010**

The Financial Report for ten months to 31st January 2010 was presented. Certain Members expressed confusion on the figures and how they reflected the Finance and Contracts Manager's estimation of a £25,000 underspend. It was agreed that it would be desirable to have a phased budget for the next financial year.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Report be noted.

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

It was moved by the Chairman and

RESOLVED

that the public and the Press 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.

82. **CHESHAM MARKET**

The matter of the future of the management of Chesham Market was considered by the Committee.

While noting the recommendations of the market working party, the Town Clerk advised that the Finance and Contracts Manager had very recently been given a copy of Chiltern District Council's budget book. In it were the trading accounts of the markets and, on initial examination, it appeared that income was not as great as the Council had originally conceived.

In light of this, it was agreed that officers should speak to Chiltern District Council officers to try and get further information on these trading figures since the budget book was a public document. After this a further report should be brought before the next Council.

It was

RESOLVED

that the officers be instructed to attempt to find out further details in regard to Chiltern District Council's trading accounts for the market and report back to the next Council meeting.

83. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

CHAIRMAN

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