

CESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 20th January 2020

PRESENT Councillor Q. Chaudhry – Town Mayor (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	Mrs J.E. MacBean
"	J.L. Baum	"	R.C. McCulloch
"	M.Z. Bhatti MBE	"	Mrs D.M. Varley
"	N.L. Brown	"	N. Varley
"	Miss E.A. Culverhouse	"	N.T. Southworth
"	M. Fayyaz	"	S.P. Willmoth
"	A.W. Franks	"	F.S. Wilson
"	P.J. Hudson	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	D. MacBean		

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M.W. Shaw.

77. **MRS DOROTHEA CARTER**

The Mayor, Councillor Chaudhry, opened the meeting by paying tribute to the late Mrs Dorothea Carter who has served the Council as both a former councillor and town mayor.

78. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 9th December 2019 and be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

79. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Wilson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 as a Cabinet Member of the Shadow Buckinghamshire Council.

Councillor Brown declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 as a Member of Buckinghamshire County Council.

80. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr Michael Beasley enquired why his photograph had appeared in a party-political leaflet without his permission.

Mr Beasley was advised that this leaflet had not emanated from the Council and members present of the said political party offered apologies to Mr Beasley for this action.

81. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's engagements from 10th December 2019 – 20th January 2020. In respect to the engagement listed for the 22nd December, it was noted that the reception was 'for' the named guest and not 'by' him.

Through the Mayor, Councillor Franks then updated the Council on HS2. Members expressed their gratitude to Councillor Franks on all his hard work and diligence on behalf of the Council on this important topic likely to significantly affect the town.

Finally, the Mayor welcomed back Councillor Yerrell after his long absence due to illness.

82. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor D. MacBean and seconded by Councillor F.S. Wilson and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 16th December 2019, be received and approved.

83. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor J.L. Baum and seconded by Councillor R.C. McCulloch and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 6th January 2020, be received and approved.

84. **ANNUAL BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2020/21**

A discussion took place on the budget and precept for the next financial year as proposed by the Finance Committee.

While approving the proposed budget and precept, it was also agreed that the funding of consultants to progress a Neighbourhood Plan and carbon audit respectively be funded out of the General Reserve commencing as soon as possible.

After a short further discussion, it was formally moved and

RESOLVED

1. That the 2020/21 budget as set out in the updated budget summary be confirmed.
2. That the total funding requirement for 2020/21 to be levied on the Chiltern District Council be set at £977,160.
3. That the commissioning of the consultant to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan as recommended by the Local Plan Working Party and the consultant to undertake a carbon audit as recommended by officers and Chairman of the Recreation and the Arts Committee be agreed to be funded from the General Reserve from immediate effect.

85. **UPDATE ON UNITARY AUTHORITY**

Members considered the report written by the Town Clerk pertaining to developments in the commencement of the new Buckinghamshire Council on the 1st April 2020.

Members firstly discussed the proposed Community Boards. While agreeing with the general concept of them as a step forward to local devolvement of power, general disappointment was expressed on the decision not allowing town and parish councils a vote and having the Chair elected solely by Buckinghamshire Council Members. It was agreed there was a democratic deficit that needed to be addressed and it was agreed that Clerk be instructed to articulate this to the Leader of the Shadow Executive.

In respect to the question of devolved services, there was unanimous agreement that the Council should put itself forward as a pilot authority to undertake possible further services and facilities from the new unitary council though it was noted that, at this stage, the Council would not be committing itself to any contracts and would be merely submitting an expression of interest.

Having been apprised of the proposed planning process in the new unitary authority, Councillor Mrs MacBean raised her concerns in regard to how the fifteen strategic sites earmarked by the current Local Planning Authority would be considered and progressed under this new system and opined that having a separate Strategic Sites Committee may not be the best way forward. It was agreed that these concerns be also relayed to the Shadow Executive.

It was

RESOLVED

1. That the new Community Boards' proposed governance be noted and the Council, while welcoming the concept, express its concerns over the decision-making process.
2. That the Council submit an Expression of Interest to be a pilot authority for Devolved Services.
3. That the new structure for determining planning applications be noted but the Council express its concerns on the matter of considering strategic sites applications and issues.

Note: Councillor Bhatti left the meeting at 8.25pm

86. **HALF-YEAR PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Members considered the first and second quarter performance indicators for 2019/20.

The attendance of Members at meetings was raised by Councillor Bacon who opined that the figures were disappointing. He also enquired as to why the numbers attending the cinema at the Elgiva had risen but why average attendances per show had fallen. The Clerk advised this was because the Manager had been running additional matinee performances which cost very little to run.

Generally, Members were content with the figures and it was

RESOLVED

that the half-year Performance Indicators be noted.

87. **STREET NAMING – NEW DEVELOPMENT IN SPRINGFIELD ROAD**

The Council considered a request from the developers, Ridgepoint Homes, seeking suggestions on a street name for a new development off Springfield Road.

Having noted the developers' own suggestions, Members thought it more appropriate to have a name that reflected the nearby field names and farms.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

that appropriate field names be submitted for consideration to the developers with the final determination being delegated to the Clerk in liaison with the Mayor and Chairman of the Planning Committee.

88. **PAYMENTS NO. 5**

Following consideration of Payments Sheet No. 5, it was

RESOLVED

that Payments Sheet No. 5 in the grand total of £471,721.44 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

89. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

CHAIRMAN

23rd January 2020