

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the TOWN COUNCIL

held on Monday 18th June 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs M. Molesworth, Town Mayor (presiding)
Councillor Mrs A.M. Pirouet, Deputy Mayor

Councillor	V.M. Abraham	Councillor	Mrs J.C. Fulford
"	A.K. Bacon	"	F.G. Holly
"	E.L. Bamford	"	D.J. Lacey
"	M.Z. Bhatti	"	Mrs C. Littley
"	Ms J.E. Bramwell	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	M.E. Brand	"	Mrs G. Walker
"	N.L. Brown	"	Mrs P.R. Wilkinson M.B.E.
"	M. Fayyaz	"	P.W. Yerrell

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs C.M. Michael.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Town Mayor invited questions from the public. The following questions were put.

Mr V. Crompton, Chairman of the Allotments Committee, asked whether, in light of the recent spate of vandalism on Cameron Road allotments, the Council could give urgent consideration to improving the security of the allotments.

The Town Clerk advised that he had obtained an estimate for erecting security fencing around Cameron Road. He opined that its cost was potentially more than the Council could afford but he would be bringing the quotation to a future Committee for Members' consideration. He further reported that he had been in liaison with the police on the matter.

Mr P. Folly, an allotment holder, asked whether the Police Community Support Officers could be more engaged in tackling anti-social behaviour at the allotments site.

The Town Clerk advised that the Police Community Support Officers had been pre-eminent in distributing the non-emergency Thames Valley Police phone number to all residents located around Cameron Road allotments after the first outbreak of vandalism. The police sergeant had expressed his disappointment that no resident had rung during the second incursion that had taken place in the early hours on Sunday morning.

However it was conceded that the Police Community Support Officers did not work after 10.00pm.

Mr L. Faulkner, an allotment holder, asked whether the Council could desist in strimming back bramble bushes planted by allotment holders to deter vandalism.

The Town Clerk agreed to pass this back to the Parks and Premises Manager.

The Mayor, in summing up, thanked the allotment holders for their questions and stated that the Council would be working hard to try and deter anti-social behaviour, both through the provision of physical barriers and working with the police, though emphasised there was no easy solutions to such problems.

THE TOWN MAYOR OPENED THE COUNCIL MEETING AT 7.44PM

13. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 14th May 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

14. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In respect of Agenda Item No. 5 - Youth Council report - Councillors M. Fayyaz, Mrs A.M. Pirouet and Mrs G. Walker declared personal interests in the item as Council representatives of the Youth Council. Councillor Mrs Pirouet also declared a personal interest in respect of her sons and daughter being on the Youth Council and Councillor M.Z. Bhatti declared a personal interest in respect of his son being on the Youth Council.

Councillors E.L. Bamford and C.H. Spruytenburg declared a personal interest on any matters pertaining to allotments as current allotment holders.

15. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from 15th May - 18th June 2007. The Deputy Mayor reported that she had attended the following additional engagement:

- Saturday 16th June – judging of floats, Schools of Chesham Carnival

16. **CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

Thomas Pirouet, Chairman of the Youth Council, gave a brief overview of the last year's activities undertaken by the Youth Council. These included a trip to Westminster and involvement in the Victorian Evening/Christmas lights switch-on. He reported that the Youth Council had been attempting to promote a campaign to discourage under-age drinking but had received no feedback from the schools on this.

Councillor Mrs Walker congratulated the Youth Council Chairman and Council on their efforts and expressed her hope that the Youth Council would persevere with the alcohol project as she opined there was a problem within town.

17. **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor M. Fayyaz and seconded by Councillor A.K. Bacon

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 21st May 2007, be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor M. Fayyaz and seconded by Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 11th June 2007, be received and approved.

18. **RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE**

It was noted that Councillor Mrs Fulford had declared a personal interest as a member of the Environmental Group at this meeting but this had not been recorded.

It was moved by Councillor Mrs J.C. Fulford and seconded by Councillor A.K. Bacon and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 11th June 2007, as amended, be received and approved.

19. **PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor M. Fayyaz and seconded by Councillor F. G. Holly and

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Performance Review Committee held on 11th June 2007, be received, approved and adopted.

20. **BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2007/08**

Arising from *Minute No.3* of the Minutes of the meeting of the Performance Review Committee held on 11th June 2007, Councillor Mrs Pirouet proposed that Paradigm Housing be invited to be a partner in developing a strategy for tackling knotweed as a key target. This was agreed by Council.

21. **COMMUNITY BUILDINGS REVIEW**

Arising from *Minute No.4* of the Minutes of the meeting of the Performance Review Committee held on 11th June 2007, Councillor Ms Bramwell, as point of order, queried the accuracy of the minute. She suggested that the words '*as amended*' should be deleted from the recommendation '*that the membership of the external Challenge Panel, as amended, be approved*'. This was accepted and agreed by Council.

Following this alteration to the Minute, Councillor Ms Bramwell stated she wished to make an amendment to the recommendation. She opined that an external Challenge Panel needed to be seen by the public as independent and therefore felt that the Elgiva Manager should not be part of the panel that produced the final report. A discussion ensued on this and the contrary view was expressed that there was no legal requirement to have this external challenge panel; that few other Best Value Councils operated in this way and it would be difficult logistically not to involve the officers, and especially the Elgiva Manager, in the production of such a document.

After some debate, it was proposed by Councillor Ms J.E. Bramwell and seconded by Councillor F.G. Holly that '*in addition to the Chairman, the membership for the external Challenge Panel is composed of the Policy and Projects Officer, the Town Clerk, a representative from the Elgiva Board of Management, a Town Hall hirer, an Elgiva patron or hirer, an officer from a neighbouring town or parish council with responsibility for a community building and an additional member from outside The Elgiva's catchment area who has theatrical experience.*'

This amendment was **LOST** by 5 votes to 12.

A second amendment was then proposed by Councillor Mrs J.C. Fulford and seconded by Councillor M.E. Brand that '*in addition to the Chairman, the membership for the external Challenge Panel is composed of a representative from the Elgiva Board of Management, a Town Hall hirer, an Elgiva patron or hirer, an officer from a neighbouring town or parish council with responsibility for a community building and an*

additional member from outside The Elgiva's catchment area who has theatrical experience working alongside the manager of The Elgiva, the Policy and Projects Officer and the Town Clerk.'

This amendment was **LOST** by 5 votes to 12.

The Council then voted on the original recommendation from the Performance Review Committee, namely that *'in addition to the Chairman, the membership for the external Challenge Panel is composed of the manager of The Elgiva, the Policy and Projects Officer, the Town Clerk, a representative from the Elgiva Board of Management, a Town Hall hirer, an Elgiva patron or hirer, an officer from a neighbouring town or parish council with responsibility for a community building and an additional member from outside The Elgiva's catchment area who has theatrical experience.'*

This motion was **CARRIED** by 12 votes to 4.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that the membership of the external Challenge Panel, as recommended at the Performance Review Committee of the 11th June 2007, be confirmed.

22. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2006/07**

Members considered the recently prepared unaudited Statutory Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2007 as produced for the Council by RBS Accounting Solutions. Members were advised that these have been produced in accordance with the mandatory expenditure analysis set out in the Best Value Code of Accounting Practice (BVACOP). There was some confusion as to whether the previous or present Council be listed on the accounts, but, subject to clarification on this, it was

RESOLVED

that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007 be adopted, subject to audit.

23. **SMOKE-FREE POLICY**

The Committee considered the report from the Policy and Projects Officer and the proposed smoke-free policy required to conform to the provisions of the *Health Act 2006* which will come into force on 1 July 2007.

Members welcomed the legislation to make public buildings smoke free and requested that, subject to legislation, the areas under the Council's buildings' canopies and buildings' external steps be included in a smoke-free area.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Council agree to the adoption of the Smoke-Free policy.

24. **COUNCIL REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Following requests from the Chesham and District Community Association and the local Primary Care Trust, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs M. Molesworth be appointed as the new Council representative to the Chesham and District Community Association and that Councillor M. Fayyaz be appointed be as the Council's representative to the Healthzone Stakeholders meeting.

In respect to the former, Members fully endorsed Councillor Brown's suggestion that Mrs Nancy Downs be sent a letter thanking her for her many years' service as the Council's previous representative.

25. **PAY SCHEDULE NO. 1**

Following consideration of Pay Schedule No. 1, it was

RESOLVED

that Pay Schedule No. 1 in the grand total of £105,208.71 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

26. **INFORMATION ITEM**

The item presented on Information Sheet No. 3 was received and noted. In respect of the item pertaining to the Councillors' surgery, Councillor Mrs Pirouet advised that monies had been found within existing Buckinghamshire County Council budgets to resurface Milton Road.

Councillor Ms Bramwell endorsed the idea of producing literature about the New Friends of Lowndes Park to be handed out to dog walkers and expressed her hope that this could be undertaken.

27. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

TOWN MAYOR

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