

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE

held on 11 April 2005

PRESENT Councillor Mrs. P.R. Lindsley, Chairman (presiding)

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	P.J. Murphy
"	M.Z. Bhatti	"	Mrs. A.M. Pirouet
"	D.J. Lacey	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	Mrs. S.M. McEwan		

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors: V.M.K. Abraham, N.L. Brown, Mrs J.C. Fulford, D.A. Gomm, Mrs. P.R. Wilkinson M.B.E, P. Woodburn and P.W. Yerrell.

Officer : Mr. W. Richards, Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E.L. Bamford, M. Fayyaz and Mrs M. Molesworth

90. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor P.W. Yerrell declared a personal interest in the information item pertaining to the Little Theatre by the Park lease.

91. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 21 February 2005, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

92. **ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the Environmental Group held on 24 February 2005.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

93. **ALLOTMENTS GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the Allotments Group held on 1 March 2005.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

94. **FRIENDS OF CHESHAM CEMETERY**

Members received the Minutes of the Friends of Chesham Cemetery held on 1 March 2005.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

95. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on 11 March 2005. It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

Arising out of Minute no. 9, a brief discussion ensued on whether the Board of Management should have made a more definite recommendation on the new catering contract at the theatre though it was accepted that the final decision should lie with the Council.

96. **WOODLAND VIEW PLAY AREA**

In light of the information received from Chiltern District Council on what could be funded through its Community Safety budget, Members reconsidered whether it wished to progress the proposal to install a youth shelter on Woodland View Play Area.

The prevailing view of the Committee was that the site is too small to adequately cater for a youth shelter without causing disturbances to nearby residents. As it was noted that no immediate action was required by the Council, it was agreed that all further options for providing youth provision in Waterside should be considered.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that officers be requested to investigate all options pertaining to developing additional youth leisure provision, including costings, within the ward of Waterside and report back to a future Committee.

97. **SECURITY AT TOWN HALL**

Members considered the report from officers that highlighted a number of security problems that had arisen within the Town Hall within the last few months and, particularly, in relation to private hirings for parties in the Community Hall.

General concern was expressed at the incidents that had recently taken place in and around the building and it was accepted that the facility's central location in the Town Centre was likely to attract those intent on causing anti-social behaviour especially on weekend evenings. It was agreed that the CCTV cameras needed to be operational at all times both inside and outside the building. It was also accepted that the automated opening doors currently exacerbated security problems and any proposals to ameliorate this should be investigated.

In respect of private parties, it was agreed that it would be prudent to allow officers, in the short-term, to use their discretion in allowing or refusing bookings if it was considered that security of the building may be compromised. It was further agreed that a clear lettings policy needed to be considered and approved by Members following an analysis of the next few months' bookings.

It was

RESOLVED

1. that officers, in consultation with the Chairman of Recreation and the Arts Committee, be authorised to have discretionary powers on accepting bookings at the Town Hall when considering security and health and safety issues for the next six months after which a letting policy be devised for the Committee's consideration.
2. that costings for, and the operation of, electromagnetic locks for the main doors be investigated and brought back to a future meeting.

98. **WILD BIRDS IN LOWNDES PARK AND WAR MEMORIAL**

The Committee was supportive of the idea to reduce the number of wildfowl at Skottowe's Pond but it was accepted that this needed to be done humanely and in line with the guidelines set out by DEFRA. It further accepted that pigeon feeding in the town centre should be discouraged due to the general damage caused by, and health problems associated with, their droppings.

Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

1. that the Council agree in principle to the relocation of some of the wildfowl from Lowndes Park, subject to a suitable site being confirmed, approval from DEFRA being obtained and there being no major financial implications.
2. that officers be authorised to undertake a campaign to try and discourage the feeding of pigeons at the War Memorial and within the town centre.

99. **FENCING AT CHESHAM CEMETERY**

The Committee welcomed the proposal to purchase and erect steel palisade fencing on the Sunnyside Road side of Chesham Cemetery. After noting that the costs would be financed through monies set aside for renewals and repairs for cemetery wall repairs, it was

RESOLVED

that the fencing be authorised using the contractor supplying the lowest of three estimates.

100. **BARRIER AT MARSTON FIELD LANE**

Councillor Lacey advised the Committee that he had been liaising with the residents who had wayleaves across the lane leading to Marston Field. Issues had been raised about access to and from their drives because of parked cars so Councillor Lacey enquired as to whether the Marston Field barrier could be moved further up the lane and the wayleaves' holders be given barrier keys.

Members noted that the Parks and Premises Manager had raised some concerns on the actual installation of a collapsible post and the safety of his officers parking on a blind bend while unlocking any such post. It was also accepted that as a public bridleway, access needed to be available at all times for horses and pedestrians.

Following consideration of the advice received, it was

RESOLVED

that, subject to the Council confirming that the wayleaves' holders wish to re-site the barrier and that the County Council's Highways department have no objections to its re-siting, a further report be brought to the Committee on costs and other matters pertaining to such an action.

101. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The items presented on Information Sheet No. 30 were received and noted.

The Chairman also brought to the Committee's notice the Town Consortium's application into the 'Britain in Bloom' contest for 2005

102. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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