

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE

held on 29 January 2007

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

Councillor	A.K. Bacon	Councillor	D.J. Lacey
"	E.L. Bamford	"	Mrs M. Molesworth
"	M.Z. Bhatti	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	M. Fayyaz	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	Mrs J. C Fulford		

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors V.M. Abraham, N.L. Brown, P.J. Murphy, Mrs P.R. Wilkinson MBE and P. Woodburn

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs A.M. Pirouet

56. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members declared personal interests in light of their representation on outside bodies.

Councillor Mrs J.C. Fulford – Chesham Environmental Group, Chess Valley Sports and Leisure Association (CVSLA).

Councillor Mrs P.R. Lindsley – Elgiva Board of Management

Councillor Mrs M. Molesworth - Friends of Chesham Cemetery.

Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg – The Allotments Group, Chesham Environmental Group.

Councillor P.W. Yerrell reported to the Committee that he had sought advice from Chiltern District Council's Legal and Monitoring Officer as to whether he was able to speak at Committees on matters pertaining to The Little Theatre by the Park in light of him being a Trustee of the building. Councillor Yerrell advised that the Legal and Monitoring Officer had expressed the view that he only had a personal, as opposed to a prejudicial, interest.

57. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 27th November 2006, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

58. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on 27 November 2006. It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

59. **IMPRESS THE CHESS CAMPAIGN**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Impress the Chess Steering Group held on the 16th January 2007. It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

In respect of Minute No. 2 of the Steering Group meeting, the Clerk advised he had set up a meeting with a planning officer from Chiltern District Council and the Conservation Officer from the Environment Agency on the 6th February 2007 to ascertain whether Wheel House Veterinary Centre would be likely to obtain planning permission for its plan to extend its car-park into Meades Water Gardens. If planning permission seemed likely, the Clerk further advised that the matter would be brought before this Committee again to seek Council's view on the desirability of this.

60. **ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Group held on 30 November 2006. It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

Councillor Mrs Fulford raised the matter of litter on The Moor car-park and the Clerk was requested to write to Chiltern District Council to enquire whether the recycling bins could be emptied on a more regular basis.

61. **WOODLAND VIEW PLAY AREA**

The Committee considered the matter of Woodland View Play Area again in light of the public meeting held on the 15th January 2007 at the Town Hall on this issue.

Though expressing regret at a temporary loss of a youth facility in Waterside, Members were in agreement that the goal module in Woodland View play-area should be dismantled and stored in the Council depot while an alternative location was sought.

The Clerk advised that permission needed to be sought from the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to avoid the possibility of Home Office funding having to be repaid. The next meeting of the partnership was scheduled for the 15th March 2007. A brief discussion took place as to whether the goal be removed immediately or until after the 15th March when the funding position would be clarified.

The Chairman put the matter to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

that, subject to receiving the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership's consent on the 15th March 2007, the Woodland View goal module be dismantled and stored at the Depot after this date and officers begin research on a suitable alternative venue.

62. **PROJECTS IN CHESHAM CEMETERY**

The Town Clerk's report on two proposed projects within the Cemetery was considered by the Committee.

In respect of security in the Cemetery, Members agreed that there was a need for increased palisade fencing around the perimeter to stop unlawful entries and it was noted that monies existed in the current year's Renewals and Repairs budgets to finance the erection of a fence in an area highlighted by both the police and the Friends of Chesham Cemetery as a priority area.

Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

that the fencing quotation received to erect palisade security fencing abutting Honeysuckle Field be approved.

The Committee then considered the proposal from the Friends of Chesham Cemetery to implement a small wildflower area in section F108-F129. Members noted that the area would be tended exclusively by the Friends of Chesham Cemetery and the Parks and Premises Manager had raised no objections to the proposal. The Committee also reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding devised by the Friends.

After the Committee had been assured of the fact the Friends of Chesham Cemetery had undertaken extensive consultation, it was

RESOLVED

that the wildflower project proposed by Friends of Chesham Cemetery be agreed and trialled for 12 months commencing March 2007 and that the proposed Memorandum of Understanding be noted, welcomed and adopted.

63. **SHRUBS AND FLOWERBED MAINTENANCE**

The Committee noted the current arrangements for using grounds contractors and it was

RESOLVED

that the officers be allowed to continue awarding contracts to companies from the parks and premises appropriate budget, subject to seeking competitive quotes at least every five years to ensure best value and then within the constraints of the Council's financial regulations.

64. **PANTOMIME AT THE ELGIVA**

The Committee was presented with a report compiled by the Elgiva Manager on the 2006/07 pantomime and recommendations for 2007/08.

Members expressed their appreciation of the efforts of the Manager and the Elgiva staff in ensuring that this year's 'Sleeping Beauty – and The Beast!' pantomime had improved financial and attendance figures and also congratulated the management for slotting in extra events during the pantomime season to increase revenue.

The Committee noted the proposed agreement with the company supplying the pantomime for 2007/08 and it was

RESOLVED

That the report on the 2006/07 pantomime be noted and welcomed and that the Elgiva Manager be authorised to hire Newpalm Productions on the terms proposed for 2007/08.

65. **REVISED TERMS AND REFERENCES FOR THE ALLOTMENTS GROUP.**

Councillor Bamford advised the Committee that the Allotments Group was proposing to discuss the terms and references at its Open Forum and therefore it was

RESOLVED

that the matter be deferred until the comments of the Allotment Holders' Open Forum had been received.

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

It was moved by the Chairman and

RESOLVED

that the public and the Press be excluded from the following two items in accordance with the Public Bodies (Access to Meetings) Act 1960, as matters which are considered to be confidential are about to be discussed.

67. **FUTURE OF MOOR ROAD SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES**

The Committee considered the current position in respect of the operation of the Moor Road Swimming Pool and sports facilities. It was agreed there was an urgent need to confirm that Chess Valley Sports and Leisure Association was still managing the facility in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association and take the necessary actions if this was not the case.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be authorised to proceed in connection with this matter in the terms expressed at the meeting.

68. **GRAVE DIGGING CONTRACT – CHESHAM CEMETERY**

In noting that the current grave digging contractors, Wyevale, had served notice to cease its operation by the 31st January 2007, it was

RESOLVED

that a new grave-digging contract be entered into with John O'Conner (Grounds Maintenance) Limited commencing 31st January 2007 or as soon as practicably possible until 31st March 2008.

69. **ICE-CREAM TENDERS – LOWNDES PARK**

The Committee considered the tenders for the new three-year ice cream concession in Lowndes Park.

It was

RESOLVED

That the tender submitted by Rossetti Ice Creams be accepted.

70. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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