

## CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### **Minutes** of the meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL**

held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs C. Littley ó (Town Mayor - presiding)

Councillor	V.M. Abraham	Councillor	Mrs R. Juett
"	A.K. Bacon	"	R.C. McCulloch
"	Miss R.K. Bhatti	"	Mrs A.M. Pirouet
"	Mrs P.R. Cherrill	"	M.W. Shaw
"	M. Fayyaz	"	C.H. Spruytenburg
"	T. Franks	"	P.W. Yerrell
"	P.J. Hudson		

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

Mr M. Carling and Mr M. Parkes ó Better Chesham.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N.L. Brown, D.J. Lacey, Mrs C.M. Michael and F.S. Wilson.

#### 46. MINUTES

It was

#### RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

#### 47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Pirouet and Shaw declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 as the Council's representatives on the Youth Council.

The following declarations of interest were recorded in respect of agenda item 11 due either to Members' active involvement with the organisations requesting donations or being the Council's nominated representative.

Councillor Mrs P.R. Cherrill - Pond Park Community Association.

Councillor M. Fayyaz - Chesham Old People's Christmas Day Party.

Councillor P.J. Hudson ó Waterside Community Association.

Councillor Mrs Juett - Chiltern Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Councillor Mrs C. Littley - Chesham Environmental Group; Chesham Old People's Christmas Day Party and Walkers are Welcome.

Councillor Mrs A.M. Pirouet ó Aylesbury Youth Action; Chiltern Voice; Chesham Old People's Christmas Day Party; Chesham Sick Poor Fund; Priors Charity; Pond Park Community Association and Rachel Johnson Trust.

Councillor M.W. Shaw - Pond Park Community Association; Priors Charity and Rachel Johnson Trust.

Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg - Chesham Museum.

Councillor P.W. Yerrell - Pond Park Community Association.

Councillor Hudson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 16 as a member of the Buckinghamshire Strategic Flood Management Group.

48. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Town Mayor invited questions from the public. No questions were forthcoming.

49. **MAYORAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members had before them and duly noted the list of the Town Mayor's engagements from 4<sup>th</sup> September ó 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

The Mayor then informed the Council it was her very great pleasure to award a certificate of recognition to Mr Bernard Meldrum who was retiring after very many years unpaid service as the Council's Tree Warden. Various Members paid tribute to Mr Meldrum for his service to the town following the presentation of his certificate and wished him and his wife, Beryl, all best wishes with their imminent move to Suffolk.

50. **CHESHAM YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Annual Report from the Youth Council Chairman was presented and noted.

Councillor Mrs Pirouet reported on the success of the recent Youth Activities Fair and, particularly, the Youth Unemployment Event. Both the Mayor and Councillor Hudson stated that they had attended these events and both requested that their congratulations be passed on to the Youth Council.

51. **DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs P.R. Cherrill and seconded by Councillor C.H. Spruytenburg and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012, be received and approved.

It was moved by Councillor M. Fayyaz and seconded by Councillor V.M. Abraham and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012, be received and approved.

52. **RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs A.M. Pirouet and seconded by Councillor Mrs P.R. Cherrill and

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012, be received and approved.

53. **COUNCIL'S BYELAWS**

Arising out of Min No 27 of the Recreation and Arts Committee meeting, it was agreed that Councillors Fayyaz and Franks be added to the working party instructed to review the Council's current bye-laws.

54. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

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

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012, be received and approved.

55. **PRESENTATION FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF 'BETTER CHESHAM'**

The Council received a brief presentation from Mr Mick Carling and Mr Martin Parkes of Better Chesham in respect to the setting up of a 'Town Team' and the awarding of a £10,000 grant following the submission of a 'Portas Pilot' town centre regeneration bid.

Mr Carling explained that the Town Team, which already included the Mayor and Town Clerk from the Council, had recently added the local M.P., Mrs Gillan, to the group thus unlocking the government grant. Mr Carling added that the Town Team was confident in doubling this figure for the benefit of the town centre. He added that the team was researching a number of potential projects and would welcome the Council's support in facilitating these as they were progressed, particularly with liaising with the principal authorities. Mr Parkes opined that all high streets and town centres were changing rapidly with the growth of on-line shopping and this initiative from the government could play a part in arresting any decline and promote a more sustainable future for retailers.

The Mayor then sought questions and comments from Members. Councillor Mrs Cherrill asked whether Mr Carling and Mr Parkes could give details of who was actually part of Better Chesham. Mr Carling and Mr Parkes gave a list of town centre retailers who played an active part on the group. Councillor Hudson stated that he was aware of the considerable support for the group expressed to him both verbally and on social media sites.

There being no more questions, the Mayor thanked Mr Carling and Mr Parkes for their attendance and invited them to stay for the rest of the meeting.

56. **DISPENSATIONS**

The Clerk reported that, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, Members had requested the following dispensations until the next Council's Ordinary Election scheduled for May 2015:

- To address the meeting and be permitted to vote on agenda item 11 ó Annual Donations - Councillors Mrs Cherrill, Fayyaz, Mrs Littley, Hudson, Mrs Pirouet, Shaw, Wilson and Yerrell. Reason: Membership of, or appointment to, organisations applying for a donation but where no personal financial benefit to a Member would accrue.
- To determine the Council's Precept/Council Tax and any allowances, payment or indemnity for Members at future meetings. Councillors Abraham, Bacon, Miss Bhatti, Brown, Mrs Cherrill, Fayyaz, Franks, Hudson, Mrs Juett, Lacey, Mrs Littley, McCulloch, Mrs Pirouet, Shaw, Spruytenburg, Wilson and Yerrell.

The Clerk explained that the reason for such dispensations was in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 where it applies in respect to: *'A dispensation may be granted where: i. the Council considers that the number of Members otherwise prohibited from taking part in the meeting would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business that it would impede the transaction of the business'*.

It was moved by the Mayor that the dispensations, as requested, be granted and it was

**RESOLVED**

that, in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, the requested dispensations be approved to allow Members to speak and vote where appropriate at this and future meetings until May 2015.

57. **GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

The Council was reminded that at the Policy and Resources Committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012, Members were advised that the Council was now able to apply for the General Power of Competence once the Clerk had updated his necessary professional qualification by passing a further set of exams. It was accordingly resolved that, subject to the Clerk

obtaining the necessary qualification, the Council pass a resolution at the first appropriate meeting seeking the General Power of Competence.

Having noted the Clerk had now passed the necessary exams, it was

**RESOLVED**

that the Council formally agree to the adoption of the General Power of Competence as prescribed in The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

*Note: Councillors Mrs Juett and Spruytenburg left the Chamber during consideration of the next agenda item.*

58. **ANNUAL DONATIONS**

The Council gave detailed consideration to the 23 applications from community organisations requesting financial assistance. The report summarised each organisation, purpose of application, grant awarded last year, where applicable, and extent of financial assistance requested for 2013.

In respect to the requests, it was

**RESOLVED**

that grants be made to the following organisations:

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED GRANT</b> <b>£</b>
Amersham & Chesham Hard of Hearing Club	100
Aylesbury Youth Action	500
Chesham Environmental Group	300
Chesham Museum	250
Chesham Old People's Christmas Day Party	400
Chesham Over 50's Positive Action Group (COPAG)	300
Chesham Pioneers Visually Impaired Bowling Club	250
Chesham Sick Poor Fund	150
Chesham Walkers are Welcome	300
Chiltern Arts Network	200
Chiltern Citizens Advice Bureau	1,500
Chiltern Moving Art	250
Chiltern Music Therapy	250
Chiltern Voice Association	100
Chilterns Dial a Ride Ltd.	1,490
Great Chesham PCC on behalf of Churches Together for Chesham	Nil (£400 hire fee for Lowndes Park waived so no actual grant awarded)

Little Theatre By the Park	400
Pond Park Community Association	300
Priors	100
Rachael Johnson Charity Trustees	100
Shed@ThePark	400
Waterside Community Association	300
WJ Standing Bequest	100
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS AWARDED</b>	<b>8,040</b>
<b>BUDGET AVAILABLE</b>	<b>8,040</b>

Monies allocated through the newly adopted Power of General Competence

The Council then discussed the matter of complimentary use of the Town Hall and The Elgiva. Details of complimentary use for the 12 months ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 were given in the report and noted by Members. The Council endorsed the continuation of complimentary use of the premises to those listed organisations.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the extent of the Council's support to those local organisations in receipt of use of the Council's premises be noted and that the practice of complimentary use be continued.

59. **SKATEPARK UPGRADE AND RENOVATION**

Following the meeting of the Recreation and Arts Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> September, the Council re-considered the possibility of re-siting the skatepark following another meeting of the Play-Area Working Party.

It was reported that the Working Party was fully behind the earlier proposal to re-site and re-equip the skatepark and was recommending the following:

- The preferred option would be the upper park side of the existing Multi Games Play Area.
- No additional lighting to be installed and the skatepark to be used only during daylight hours.
- The bulk of funding to come from savings accrued this year on the Gordon Road Play Area renovation; next year's play-area renovation monies; monies set aside for re-skinning and saving on annual chaining of the park.
- The skatepark equipment to be based on consultation previously done with young people and users.
- Contractors to build a bund on the Park Road side of the new skatepark as possible extra noise protection using the dug-up soil.
- The youth shelter to be left in the current location with benches provided at a new site.

- The current area to be left as tarmac for occasional community events not suitable for the Performance Area.
- A new path is required from bridleway to be Disabled Discrimination Act compliant.
- Emergency access is not an issue as new site only 30-40 metres away from existing site.
- The Council to be encouraged to go for a Lottery Awards for All grant up to £10,000 to try and offset the £13,000 shortfall. Application perhaps to be submitted by the Friends of Lowndes Park. A Member had stated that he had been informed that bids from the Chiltern area were undersubscribed and therefore stood a reasonable chance of success.

Members broadly agreed with the proposal while emphasising the need to consult with users, nearby residents and the Bowls Club as the project progressed.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that officers begin to draw up tenders for the relocation and upgrading of the skatepark to the upper park side of the Multi-Games Area while preparing external funding bids and further consultation on the location and equipment.

60. **PAY SCHEDULE NO. 3**

Following consideration of Pay Schedule No. 3, it was

**RESOLVED**

that Pay Schedule No. 3 in the grand total of £426,413.78 be approved and the various payments and transactions set out therein be confirmed.

61. **INFORMATION ITEM**

The item presented on Information Sheet No. 10 was received and noted.

The Mayor raised the matter of the last surgery being cancelled due to lack of Members able to attend and queried whether the Council still wished to continue with the surgeries. Members were of the view that they should be continued as they played an important part in directly communicating with the public. It was accepted that it was essential that Members gave the earliest possible notice if they were scheduled to be on duty and were unable to attend and should arrange for other Members to take their place wherever possible.

62. **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.

63. **CONTRACTUAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS PERTAINING TO VALE BROOK CULVERT**

It was

**RESOLVED**

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

64. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.23pm.

TOWN MAYOR

*Publication Date:9.11.2012.*