

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE

held on 9 October 2006

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors V.M. Abraham and P. Woodburn

Officer: Mr. W. Richards, Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.Z. Bhatti and Mrs M. Molesworth

27. **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 A.M. Pirouet – The Allotment Group.

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

Councillor P.W. Yerrell declared a prejudicial interest in respect of the second recommendation pertaining to agenda item 5 – Redecoration of Town Hall – in view of his son's business.

28. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 4 September 2006, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

29. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on 25 September 2006. It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

In respect of Minute No. 4, the Clerk confirmed that any major recommendations for the implementation of an on-line booking scheme would be referred to this Committee.

30. **ALLOTMENT GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meetings of the Allotment Group held on 11 September 2006 and the Allotment Holders AGM held on the 28 September 2006. It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

31. **ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Group held on 7 September 2006. It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

In respect of Minute No. 3c, a query was raised as to who would be involved with the proposed wildflower project at the Cemetery since it had been a matter of some debate previously in the Council and it was agreed Members should be involved again if the matter was progressed.

In respect of Minute No.10a, the Committee congratulated the Environmental Group for its magnificent clear-up of the River Chess on the 1st October which attracted nearly 60 volunteers and private sponsorship of the skips and shredders. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Environmental Group to express the Council's appreciation.

32. **REDECORATION OF TOWN HALL**

The Committee considered the three estimates for redecorating the Town Hall. Members opined that it would be advantageous to have received the references before deciding upon contractors but accepted that this was not always possible. It was therefore agreed that the company listed as 'A' be awarded the works, subject

to satisfactory references, and if these were not forthcoming, the contract be awarded to the company listed as 'B'.

Councillor Yerrell left the Chamber before the commencement of the second part of the discussion on redecoration.

The Committee considered, and agreed, with the Administration Manager's recommendations that the carpets in the foyer and Lowndes Room required replacing, subject to finance.

Accordingly it was

RESOLVED

1. that the lowest quotation of £3,800 for repainting of the Town Hall be accepted. This to be subject to satisfactory references being obtained and assurances that the works will be carried out to the satisfaction of the Town Mayor, the Town Clerk and within the time scale and, if such assurances are not forthcoming, the second lowest quotation be accepted.
2. that the carpet in the foyer and Lowndes Room be replaced, subject to a further report.

33. **LOWNDES PARK CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Committee was presented with the amended sections on 'Community Benefit' and 'Vision and Policies' of the Lowndes Park Conservation and Development Management Plan. Upon satisfying themselves that previously suggested facilities such as a labyrinth, bandstand and enhancements to the entrances would be potentially included in a capital funding bid, Members agreed the contents and it was

RESOLVED

that the amendments to the Lowndes Park Conservation and Development Plan be noted and agreed

34. **WOODLAND VIEW PLAY AREA**

The problems that had arisen at Woodland View play-area since the installation of the rounded closed goal module was discussed by the Committee.

The main cause of concern articulated by near-by residents had been the perceived increased occurrences of anti-social behaviour, increased number of footballs coming into their gardens, mud on the abutting footpath and flooding of the properties in Whichcote Gardens. The Parks and Premises Manager had also raised the matter of the area now becoming a regular slip hazard.

Members expressed concern that on the allegations that those over the age of 17 were arriving by car from outside Waterside to use the facility. Queries were raised on whether the police were fully aware of the problem but the Clerk advised that they had been apprised on a regular basis and PSCOs were tasked to visit periodically. Members expressed sympathy with the residents but also acknowledged that young people in Waterside were lacking such facilities. In respect of the flooding and lack of grass, the Committee recognised the problem and considered whether the safety surfacing that allowed grass to grow through might be a solution.

The Committee considered it advisable to liaise with Paradigm Housing to consult again with the local young people for whom the equipment is intended to ascertain their views while, at the same time, investigating the possibility of re-locating the equipment to the Moor or other sites and obtaining quotations thereof.

It was

RESOLVED

that the further report be brought before the Committee following further consultation and the securing of appropriate estimates to attempt to alleviate the perceived problems articulated by residents.

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

It was

RESOLVED

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

36. **CONTRACT FOR TOWN FAIRS 2007**

The Committee agreed that there was little demand for three fairs to be operated throughout the year. Accordingly it was agreed that a contract be offered to the current fairground operator to run a fair in April and July though there should be no penalties if the operator declined to run a fair in April.

It was

RESOLVED

that a contract be offered to the current fairground operator in Chesham to run two fairs for 2007 in the months of April and July respectively.

37. **UPDATE ON CHESS VALLEY SPORTS AND LEISURE ASSOCIATION (CVSLA)**

The Working Party charged with looking at CVSLA, particularly in regard to the Association's relationship with Strides Gymnasium, reported back to the Committee in regard to the current situation.

It was noted that there was little movement on the position originally taken by both parties and no amended agreement had been forthcoming. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a strongly worded letter to both parties expressing the importance to the Council that the outstanding issues be resolved amicably and a revised contract be agreed reaffirming CVSLA's right to manage the facility.

It was accepted that little else could be done practicably at the present time and therefore

RESOLVED

That a further report be brought to the Committee following CVSLA's AGM scheduled for the 23rd November.

38. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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