

CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the RECREATION AND THE ARTS COMMITTEE

held on 18th March 2019

PRESENT Councillor Mrs J.E. MacBean – Chairman (Presiding)

Councillor	Q. Chaudhry	Councillor	R.C. McCulloch
"	Miss E.A. Culverhouse	"	N. T. Southworth
"	M. Fayyaz	"	Mrs D. M. Varley
"	P.J. Hudson		

Officer: Mr W. Richards - Town Clerk

In attendance: Councillor A.K. Bacon

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Z. Bhatti MBE and A.W. Franks

65. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hudson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 in respect to his relationship with the prospective hirer of the Cemetery Chapel.

It was noted that, as agreed, all previously stated Declaration of Interests remained unchanged from the first meeting of the administrative year or reported subsequently.

66. **MINUTES**

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 18th February 2019, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

67. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on the 11th March 2019.

It was

RESOLVED

that the Minutes be noted.

68. **CHILTERN HILLS ACADEMY 3G SPORTS PITCH UPDATE**

The Committee considered a written report from Dr Mark Pegg on the progress of the planned full size 3G artificial pitch at the Chiltern Hills Academy.

The report explained that Chiltern Hills Academy (CHA) was promoting a project to build an all-weather pitch on the school's premises to be used by the school and other local schools during school hours and after school hours, at weekends and in school holidays for use by the local community including boys, girls, men and women of all ages and team sports clubs such as Chesham United, Chiltern Athletic and Chesham Stags. It was reported that the capital cost was around £850,000, to be funded through contributions from multiple providers including CHA Governors, the Football Foundation, the Football Association and the Premier League. England Rugby was providing a contribution towards the shock pad so that the new facility was suitable for rugby training and mini-rugby games. Additionally, there will also be a public appeal in 2019 to raise a financial contribution from various clubs, organisations and individuals. The Committee was also advised that, if the planning application was successful, it was proposed that construction of the Chiltern Hills 3G pitch would commence at the end of 2019 to be completed in spring 2020, with the whole facility to be tested in the summer and fully up and running for the start of the 2020-21 season.

The Committee noted that, within the report, there was a request for the Council to provide £25,000 capital sum towards the £850,000 total project cost and to take a seat on Chiltern Hills 3G's governing body drawn from Chiltern Hills Academy Governors, Local Clubs, the FA, and the local community. While the Committee was highly supportive of the project as a much needed and welcome community facility, it did not feel it was in a position to accede to the financial request at the present time, particularly with budgets now set for the next financial year. However Members accepted that longer-term funding could be considered as the project progressed. In respect to providing a representative for the governing body, the Committee agreed it required further information as to the governance and terms of reference of it before committing a Member to this role.

It was

RESOLVED

that the views of the Committee be reported back to the project facilitators.

69. **CHESHAM MOOR GYM AND SWIM CENTRE UPDATE**

The Committee considered the officers' report on the current financial situation at the Chesham Moor Gym and Swim Centre facility.

It was

RESOLVED

that the financial position be noted.

70. **VOLUNTEER FAIR**

The Committee was asked to consider whether a Chesham Volunteer event should be held in 2019 and what format it should take. It was reported that thirty-five groups attended the 2018 event which was held in the Baptist Church after previously being held at the Town Hall in 2015 and 2017.

Members were broadly of the view that the event should be continued but only if the groups usually invited were keen to see it run again. Accordingly the Policy and Projects Officer was asked to contact them to this effect, along with their preferred venue, with the matter to be considered anew once this had been ascertained.

It was

RESOLVED

that the question of a 2019 Volunteers' Fair be reconsidered at a future meeting following evidence of demand from community groups.

71. **CEMETERY CHAPEL AND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE USAGE**

The Committee was reminded that at its previous meeting, it had been resolved that the principle of a change of use for the Cemetery Chapel for alternative business use be agreed but this be subject to a further report outlining the detailed plans of any prospective hirers.

In light of this, Members considered a proposal of usage from a respective hirer. While it was agreed that none of the proposed activities would be unacceptable in general terms, it was agreed that the cost of making the building fit for purpose to cover the Council's duty of care be confirmed first. On receipt of this, it was requested that the hirer then confirm their proposed contribution to these works as well as a possible mutually agreed hire fee to be agreed by Council. To confirm the building's suitability for general public use and commercial hires, it was requested that a professional surveyor be contracted to undertake a survey. Once this had been undertaken, the usage and the future of the coffin bier could be reconsidered.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that a survey of the Chapel in respect to its suitability for public hirers outside of interment services be undertaken and reported back to the Council.

72. **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.

73. **AIR CONDITIONING AT THE ELGIVA**

The Clerk updated the Committee on more detailed specifications and likely costs thereof of suitable air conditioning in the Elgiva.

In the light of the fact that indicative costs considerably exceeded the monies allocated for these works in 2019/20, coupled with the possible redevelopment of the theatre, it was

RESOLVED

that the proposal to install air conditioning at the Elgiva in August 2019 be deferred until the likelihood of major capital works taking place becomes clearer.

74. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

CHAIRMAN