

## **CHESHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES of the meeting of the RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE**

held on 4 September 2006

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

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

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillors Mrs S.M. McEwan, Mrs. P.R. Wilkinson M.B.E. and P. Woodburn

Mr T. Pilling, Chairman of the Elgiva Board of Management

Officer: Mr. W. Richards, Town Clerk

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P.W. Yerrell

#### 14. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Councillor E.L. Bamford - The Allotment Group.

Councillor Mrs J.C. Fulford – Impress the Chess Forum, Chesham Environmental Group, Chess Valley Sports and Leisure Association (CVSLA). She further declared that her husband was involved with Strides F.C.

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

Councillor Mrs S.M. McEwan – Friends of Chesham Cemetery. She further declared that her daughter worked as an employee of CVSLA.

Councillor Mrs M. Molesworth - Friends of Chesham Cemetery.

Councillor A.M. Pirouet – The Allotment Group.

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

#### 15. **MINUTES**

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation and the Arts Committee held on 5 June 2006, be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

16. **ELGIVA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Elgiva Board of Management held on 24 July 2006. It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

Mr Trevor Pilling, Chairman of the Elgiva Board of Management, gave a brief verbal update on the Elgiva. He was delighted to report that the theatre was still performing strongly, both in financial and performance terms. He paid tribute to the work of the Theatre Manager and his staff who worked often long hours to ensure the Elgiva's continued success. He further advised that the Board was seeking to develop a comprehensive sponsorship strategy, particularly with a view to building a conservatory over the patio, but emphasised the difficulties of attracting investment. The project to possibly install an on-line booking system was also being investigated by the Board.

The Committee acknowledged the continued dedicated efforts of the staff and requested that Mr Pilling offer its thanks for the continuing work of the Board.

17. **ALLOTMENT GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meetings of the Allotment Group held on 6 June and 17 July 2006. It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

In respect of Minute No. 3 of the meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2006, the Committee offered its congratulations to the Allotment Group for organising a successful open day.

Councillor Mrs Pirouet advised that the Allotment Group was recommending a more stringent implementation of eviction notices now that a comprehensive waiting list had been developed.

18. **ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Group held on 25 May 2006. It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

*Councillor Mrs Pirouet left the meeting at 8.40pm*

19. **'IMPRESS THE CHESS' FORUM**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the Impress the Chess Steering Group held on 20 June 2006. It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

20. **CVSLA COMMITTEE**

Members received the Minutes of the meeting of the CVSLA Committee held on 13 July 2006. It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes be noted.

The Clerk reported that the Working Party, charged with representing the Council in discussions with representatives of CVSLA, had already met with the Association's Committee and would be reporting back to Members after it had met with the owner of Strides Gym.

21. **DRAFT OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR CHESHAM**

The local priorities and action plan for Chesham in regard to upgrading and enhancing leisure provision in the town, as devised by Chiltern District Council, was discussed by the Committee.

It agreed to the accuracy of the priority list and action plan in general but queried whether the Council should be the lead partner on nearly all of the projects. Members suggested a number of organisations and voluntary groups that should be suggested as more appropriate in this role. It was also requested that Nashleigh Hill Recreation Ground play area be submitted as an area requiring further investment. It was raised that the Committee had not listed the projects in order of priority and it was agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the principal authority's officer to determine how essential this was to the plan.

It was

**RESOLVED**

that the Committee respond to the draft priorities and action plan reflecting the views expressed in the meeting.

*Councillor Mrs Wilkinson left the meeting at 9.12pm*

22. **LYE GREEN MAINS DRAINAGE APPLICATION**

The Committee considered a request from the owners of Lye Green House, Lye Green to lay underground pipe work and connect into the main drainage running through Lye Green.

It was noted that the property owners would be responsible for ensuring reinstatement of the area but there was a concern on the responsibility for any future maintenance of the underground pipe work. The Clerk advised that the preferred option was for Thames Water to adopt the pipe work under Lye Green, thereby becoming responsible for any future maintenance and that this view has been expressed to the occupiers. However it was reported that Thames Water would only adopt if constructed to its strict, and potentially costly, specification. An alternative position used by Buckinghamshire County Council, is the payment of a bond to be held by the Council to cover any future maintenance.

Members agreed it would be preferable for Thames Water to adopt the pipe work but, in accordance with the County Council's policy, accepted that the issuing of a bond would be allowable

It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

that the actions of the officers be confirmed and that a licence be issued, subject to either adoption by the Thames Water Authority as a preferred option or a bond, set at the amount recommended by the County Council, be obtained.

*Councillor Bhatti left the meeting at 9.20pm*

23. **MARSTON FIELD, CODMORE FIELD AND MOOR SPORTS PAVILIONS**

The Committee discussed the future of the Council's pavilions, particularly Marston in light of its general state of disrepair and a possible re-building funding application to external funders.

It was noted that the general downturn in participation in playing football had meant that all the adult football teams could be accommodated at Codmore Field. Moreover, the Clerk advised that junior football could still be played at Marston Field as these teams did not require changing facilities. Members agreed with the

officers' recommendations that it would be prudent to move all adult football to Codmore Field thus saving over £1,000 by not replacing the boiler in Marston Pavilion. In respect of junior football, the Committee agreed to the hire fee of £25 as recommended by officers. It was further noted that Strides FC was considering instigating repairs at the Moor Pavilion and therefore agreed no further action should be taken at this time.

It was

**RESOLVED**

1. That the boiler not be replaced at Marston Pavilion until the future use of the building has been determined
2. That the senior club previously hiring Marston Field be offered a pitch and pavilion at Codmore Field for the 2006/07 season at the Marston Field rate of £50 per match.
3. The charge for junior football clubs not requiring changing facilities be fixed at £25 (including VAT).

24. **POLICY ON CEMETERY RESERVATION OF GRAVES AND KERBING**

The Town Clerk reported on the successful meeting officers had held with the Mosque Committee and the Committee were apprised on the Mosque Committee's wish for clarification on the reserving of graves and on kerbing and edging.

There was general consensus that it would not be good practice to allow for the reservation of more than one annexed grave. It was also agreed that general, unrestricted kerbing was unsightly and hindered grass-cutting.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

1. The Council agree to implement a condition restricting a reservation of annexed graves to one per family.
2. That the policy of not allowing kerbs and edging in the Sections H, J, K, L, M, N, NN, O and P be confirmed.

25. **PURCHASE OF MINI-TRACTOR**

Members considered the proposal to purchase a replacement mini-tractor for the parks and premises team.

After noting that officers had sought appropriate estimates for the machinery in accordance with the Council's financial regulations and that the purchase could be financed through existing budgets, it was

**RESOLVED**

that officers be authorised to proceed to purchase a new mini-tractor with front loader, including the part exchange of Council machines, at a total cost of £12,830,00 and that the costs be met from the Renewals & Repairs Programme..

26. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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