



## **CHIPPENHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

### **AMENITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee held at the Town Hall, High Street, Chippenham on Wednesday 31 July at 7pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Desna Allen Peter Bishop  
Holly Bradfield Bill Douglas  
Teresa Hutton (Chairman) Rajvir Gill  
Ruth Lloyd Nina Phillips  
David Powell Sandie Webb

**OFFICERS  
PRESENT:** Adrian Jones (Deputy Chief Executive)  
Lynsey Nichols (Communications and Customer Services Manager)  
Will Tidmarsh (Head of Environmental Services)  
Melissa Barnett (Head of Museum and Heritage Services)  
Paul Harvey (Head of Leisure Service (Acting))  
Heather Rae (Democratic Services Manager)  
Michael Weeks (Democratic & Civic Officer)

**ALSO  
PRESENT:** There were five members of the public present.

#### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were five public questions. A copy of the comments and questions asked is included in **APPENDIX A** to these minutes.

7.25pm Councillor Rajvir Gill joined the meeting

#### **16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris Ruck and Melody Thompson.

#### **17. NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTION**

There were no notifications of substitution.

#### **18. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Pete Bishop declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 as a trustee of Chippenham Borough Lands Charity and abstained from voting.

## 19. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 05 June 2019 were approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

### RESOLVED that

The minutes be accepted as a true record of the proceedings.

## 20. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i) The Chairman noted that this was the Deputy Chief Executives, Adrian Jones, final Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee meeting. The Chairman thanked Adrian for the huge amount of work he has done for the committee and Chippenham Town Council over the years, and wished him well for the future.
- ii) The Chairman noted that in June 2019, at their annual awards evening, the Chippenham Civic Society, recognised Chippenham Town Council, for its restoration of the entrance to the Chippenham museum.
- iii) The Chairman congratulated the Head of the Environmental Services and team for their hard work resulting in John Coles Park being awarded Green Flag Status.
- iv) BBC Radio Wiltshire recently hosted their Breakfast Show live from the park as part of their 30th year anniversary celebration tour.
- v) The Chairman read a statement to councillors regarding the Multi Use Games Area Net at John Coles Park. A copy of this statement is at **APPENDIX B** to the minutes.

## 21. CHILDREN'S FUNERAL FUND FOR ENGLAND

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report to councillors regarding the introduction by Central Government of the Children's Funeral Fund for England, which came into effect on 23 July 2019. The Deputy Chief Executive noted that the online procedure was straightforward and details had been passed onto the finance department.

Councillors noted that this is a positive step by Central Government to assist families in need, at a very difficult time.

### RESOLVED that

- i) Council noted the introduction of the Children's Funeral Fund for England and the implications to the Town Council, as detailed in the report.

**22. YELDE HALL DEVELOPMENT**

The Head of Heritage and Museum Services presented the report to councilors, noting that while the outside of the Yelde Hall is in a good repair, the inside of the building needs attention. The addition of a flexible hanging system would encourage local community groups and outside exhibitors to hire the space.

It was proposed by councillor Nina Phillips and seconded by councillor David Powell and with all in favour.

**RESOLVED that**

i) The lighting and exhibition boards are purchased utilising the Museum Infrastructure Ear marked Fund.

**23. PRESS RELEASE**

Councillors did not request a press release.

**24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Amenities, Culture & Leisure Committee will be held on Wednesday 11 September 2019.

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

**RESOLVED that**

The press and public are excluded due to the confidential nature of the business under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960 s1. sub section 2.

Five members of the public left the meeting

**26. JOHN COLES PARK - LEASE TO CHIPPENHAM PARK TENNIS CLUB**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented a report to Councillors regarding the lease to Chippenham Park Tennis Club.

**RESOLVED that**

i) Councillors approved the recommendation as per the report.

**27. CHIPPENHAM BOROUGH LANDS CHARITY - LEASE OF LAND AT WESTMEAD**

Councillor Pete Bishop declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 as a trustee of Chippenham Borough Lands Charity and abstained from voting.

The Deputy Chief Executive presented a report to Councillors regarding the lease of land at Westmead.

**RESOLVED that**

- i) Councillors approved the recommendation as per the report.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

Signed on behalf of the Town Council as a true record of the meeting.

Signature

Date

## APPENDIX A

### Public Questions and Comments

At the invitation of the Chairman a resident spoke regarding Monkton Park. The resident highlighted the opportunity the Town Council has to work with local wildlife groups to plant wild flowers in parts of the park. The resident noted that the feeding of garden birds by the British has improved their diversity and that there is a huge opportunity for more biodiversity in Chippenham.

The Deputy Chief Executive noted the Town Council has been responsible for Monkton Park for eight weeks and are developing a management plan for the park which will cover these areas. The Deputy Chief Executive also highlighted that the Town Council is currently looking for six residents of Chippenham to apply to join the Climate Emergency Advisory Group.

At the invitation of the Chairman a resident spoke regarding the grass cutting in Monkton Park. The resident noted that frequent grass cutting encourages people to go outside but can cause problems for insects and pollinators. The resident suggested that the river bank would benefit from wild flowers and that the grass can be grown longer for it to develop.

At the invitation of the Chairman a resident spoke about John Coles Park. They noted that the Park is a great asset for the town with native trees supporting native insects and the the sensory garden. The resident noted that the bedding areas are good but contain plants not native to this country. The resident asked whether the Town Council would consider planting native plants in these areas next year to attract native insect species.

The Deputy Chief Executive highlighted that the Green Flag Award judges also advised the Town Council to have more native plants which this is being looked at as part of the management plan. The Deputy Chief Executive noted that the Town Council are hoping to develop a friends group to work with residents to improve John Coles Park.

At the invitation of the Chairman a resident spoke about their confusion on recent decisions made by the Town Council on the clearance work at Monkton Park, the wild flower meadow at the Bridge Centre not being cared for and grass verges in Cepen Park being cut, but brambles growing and blocking pavements. The resident asked the council to; Stop the clearance work at Monkton Park, plant more wildflowers and stop unnecessary cutting of grass verges and ensuring pavements are clear.

The Deputy Chief Executive noted that the residents' comments had been addressed previously and there were no other comments.

At the invitation of the Chairman a resident spoke regarding Monkton Park. They noted their shock at recent clearance work, and asked why this had been done. The resident also questioned why the riverbank had been cut, where Japanese knotweed is growing and needs to be treated correctly.

The Deputy Chief Executive noted the residents' comments but highlighted that the Town Council are aware of the areas of Japanese Knotweed along the river bank, and specially trained staff within the Town Council have dealt with these areas.

**Amenities, Culture & Leisure Committee - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019**

**Statement under Chairman's Announcement**

At the ACL Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Officers presented a report on the Multi Use Games Area net at John Coles Park, which had broken and collapsed inwards following heavy snow. Council resolved the following:

**“The height of the MUGA net at one end be raised slightly”**

This work subsequently took place.

Within the minute the following was recorded:

**“Councillors noted that negative behaviour could return and affect residents”.**

Within the body of the report Officers presented to the March meeting it stated that and I quote:

“Subject to Council approval, the situation can be monitored over the coming months and as necessary, a further report be brought back to Committee for consideration.

Clearly the Committee's decision I have already read out.

In May the Chief Executive received correspondence from a resident who lives next to the MUGA complaining that youths were once again entering their property to retrieve balls and such action should be prevented.

The Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Environmental Services subsequently met with a group of residents at the MUGA on 28<sup>th</sup> May to hear their concerns.

Following the meeting officers made the decision to reinstate the MUGA net and the residents were written to accordingly. Quotations were sought for the works and an order was placed. This week work to reinstate the net commenced and the cost of £3,175 will be met from an existing Earmarked Fund.

Officers made the decision ‘in the best interests of the Town Council’. Given the past involvement of Wiltshire Council's Public Protection section, who had received complaints that the Town Council were not protecting neighbouring properties from unauthorised access, Officers felt that the net ought to be reinstated to placate the residents' ongoing complaints.

Officers felt they were acting in accordance with the Council resolution and for the purpose of the Minute this statement should be noted.