



CHIPPENHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Improving the quality of town life

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Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee held virtually on Zoom on 29 July 2020 at 7pm.

Councillors present: Desna Allen
Bill Douglas
Ruth Lloyd
Nina Phillips
Chris Ruck
Pete Bishop
Teresa Hutton
Andy Phillips
David Powell
Sandie Webb

Officers present: Mark Smith (Chief Executive)
Barry Pirie (Director of Community Services)
Daryl Jones (Business Support Manager)
Heather Rae (Democratic Services Manager)
Lynsey Nichols (Marketing and Communications Manager)
Michael Weeks (Democratic and Civic Officer)
Ann Chard (Administrative Services Officer - Planning)
Gillian Ballinger (Finance Manager)
Will Tidmarsh (Head of Environmental Services)
Melissa Barnett (Head of Museum and Heritage Services)
Paul Harvey (Head of Leisure Services)
Jake Bailey (Arboricultural Officer)
Julie Hook (Head of Venues)

Also Present: Cllr Nick Murry

Public Present: There were 4 members of the public present

PUBLIC QUESTIONS There was 1 verbal question from a member of the public, which is appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX A**, the response post meeting are appended to these minutes at **APPENDIX B**.

Mayor of Chippenham, Councillor Teresa Hutton in the Chair

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

2. **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTION**

No notifications of substitution were received.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Desna Allen was nominated as Chairman by Councillor Sandie Webb and was seconded by Councillor Bill Douglas and with no other nominations it was

RESOLVED that

Councillor Desna Allen be elected Chairman of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee for the municipal year 2020/21.

Councillor Desna Allen in the Chair

5. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Councillor David Powell was nominated as Vice-Chairman by Councillor Sandie Webb and was seconded by Councillor Chris Ruck and with no other nominations it was

RESOLVED that

Councillor David Powell be elected Vice Chairman of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee for the municipal year 2020/21.

6. **MINUTES**

To approve as a correct record and to sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 04 March 2020.

RESOLVED that

The minutes were approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

7. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

i) The Chairman formally welcomed the recently appointed Arboricultural Officer to the Town Council and to the meeting.

ii) The Chairman expressed her thanks to all Officers of the Town Council for their commitment to work as normally as possible, during the COVID19 pandemic lockdown. The Chairman was also aware of the challenge to get virtual meetings organised.

8. **APPOINTMENT OF WORKING PARTY FOR 2020/21**

The Chairman proposed an amendment to the recommendation to include that the Terms of Reference for the Events Working Party should be made in consultation with the Leader and the Chairman of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee, all Councillors were in favour.

The Democratic Services Manager thanked Group Leaders for submitting Councillor names in advance of the meeting for appointment to the Events Working Party for 2020/21. With all in favour it was

RESOLVED that:

i) The Chief Executive be authorised to determine the Terms of Reference in consultation with the Leader and the Chairman of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee, the level of adequate support required and the date of the first meeting of the Events Working Party 2020/21.

ii) The following Councillors be appointed to the Events Working Party of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee for 2020/21

Desna Allen	Peter Hutton	Michael Merry	Mary Norton
Nina Phillips	David Powell	Chris Ruck	Sandie Webb

9. **SPLASHPAD SUMMER 2020**

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report regarding the potential reopening of the Splash Pad to Councillors.

Councillors debated the recommendations in the report highlighting their concerns regarding the Splash Pad being a non-chlorinated water system and in turn the risk posed by a water borne disease such as COVID19. Councillors asked if the system could be treated to become a chlorinated system, but the Head of Environmental Services confirmed that due to the waste water from the Splash Pad being used to water plants in John Coles Park, this would be harmful to the plants and also go against the Council's pledge to recycle the water.

With all in favour it was

RESOLVED that:

The Splash Pad remain closed for the summer season 2020, with clear communications about the reason why it has not opened for summer 2020.

10. **ROCK CROCODILE COMMUNITY STONES IN PEWSHAM**

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report regarding the rock crocodile community stones in Pewsham.

Councillors discussed the recommendation in the report and highlighted the need to ensure communication with residents was clear about the steps that need to be taken to make the feature permanent, to ensure no upset or confusion was caused.

With all in favour it was

RESOLVED that:

The Rock Crocodile becomes a permanent feature and all relevant parties informed of the reasons for the council's actions.

11. **BARBECUES IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report regarding the ban on the use of barbecues on all Town Council open spaces.

Councillor Bill Douglas proposed an amendment to the recommendations to include the investigation by Officers into the provision of permanent barbecues which could be hired by members of the public on Town Council open spaces.

RESOLVED that:

i) Councillors agreed to adopt the policy whereby barbecues in parks and open spaces that Chippenham Town Council maintain are not allowed.

ii) Professional operators who use a barbecue as part of an organised event can use them, provided that they are operated in a safe and controlled manner, with risk assessments submitted to and approved by the Town Council.

iii) Officers investigate in the fullness of time the provision of formally constructed barbecues on Town Council open spaces.

12. **TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Arboricultural Officer presented the report regarding the tree management policy to Councillors.

Councillors raised concerns that there was no mention in the policy about the replanting of felled trees or the planting of new trees.

The Arboricultural informed Councillors that this policy will become a FAQ policy for members of the public to access online and that separate management plans covering planting of new and replacement trees will be brought to a future meeting for consideration, and this policy in question is in line with what other Councils have adopted.

Councillor Pete Bishop proposed an amendment to the recommendation to include a six month review of the policy in consultation with outside bodies who have relevant knowledge and experience such as the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust or the Woodlands Trust. With all in favour

RESOLVED that:

Councillors adopt the Tree Management Policy as presented, but with the addition that the policy be reviewed in 6 months with input from other expert parties such as the Woodland Trust.

13. **MONKTON PARK PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL**

The Head of Environmental Services presented the report regarding the Monkton Park Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.

Councillor Ruth Lloyd asked that the Town Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Group be included in any consultation process.

Councillor Sandie Webb asked that the Youth Council be consulted on the document and proposed an amendment to the recommendation in 3.5 of the report that Councillors and Ward Members will also be asked to contribute to the appraisal. With all in favour

RESOLVED that:

i) Councillors noted the report.

ii) Public consultation to be progressed by officers in partnership with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

iii) Councillors and ward members to contribute to the Ecological Appraisal and a separate meeting will also be held between Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and the newly appointed Aboricultural Officer who can offer important input on not only on Tree Management but also on Ecology and Botany.

iv) Once all the community and public engagement events are complete Wiltshire Wildlife Trust will use all the coordinated and consolidated information gathered to develop a management plan for the future maintenance of Monkton Park and Monkton Meadow This finalised Monkton Park and Meadow Management Plan will be presented to a future Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee meeting for ratification.

14. **NOTE ALL AMENITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE DECISIONS MADE UNDER DELEGATION**

The Chief Executive presented the list of all Amenities, Culture and Leisure decisions that were made under delegated authority by the Chief Executive during the period 17 March to 21 July 2020.

RESOLVED that

Councillors noted the list of Amenities, Culture and Leisure decisions made under delegated authority throughout the period 17 March to 21 July 2020.

15. **ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION**

Councillor Chris Ruck asked that the proper and valid reasons for not reopening the Splash Pad be communicated.

Councillor Teresa Hutton asked that the positive decision about the Rock Crocodile be released, to include why we are removing the stones and signage in Pewsham with a notice period on the removal of the stones.

That the Youth Council be asked for their input on the Ecological Appraisal.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 09 September 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

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

DRAFT

APPENDIX A

Public Comments and Questions

At the invitation of the Chairman a resident addressed the Council.

There are some quite interesting things on the agenda tonight which is great, and the Splash Pad I hope the Council are minded to reopen that, on the similar basis that the parks have been reopened which is a fantastic amenity particular for our kids who properly won't be getting away this summer.

I read the tree report with interest, I think in general it's a really positive start, particularly how not to cut down trees, but it would be really nice to see in there maybe a little bit more about what you are doing to promote trees and how that could be done, so maybe I am asking to see some sort of management plan for introducing new trees when we look at our requirements to have more tree cover over the next few years, it would be really good to see the Council promoting that.

Also the Monkton Park report from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is really good to see an acknowledgement of some of the things we have been talking to the Council about these last few months, it would be nice to see fishing licenses that maybe encourage fishers to tidy up and to do some balsam pulling while they are down by the river, and to take a bit of overall responsibility of the overall environment. To refrain from using pesticides from within 5 metres of a waterway, that would be great, and maybe Chippenham Town Council could have a word with Wiltshire Council and ask them to do that as well because we have seen glyphosate used to close to the river, right by the edge of the river by the weir. There are also some interesting things in there about Ivy and not cutting it down, however calling Monkton Meadow a meadow is a little bit wrong it isn't a meadow, it's never been a meadow and the implication now its ok to cut it, when really it shouldn't be, because it never has been, and again coming out of that, I think we all would like to see a management plan, and what the Councils plans are to put that in place.

That probably sums it all up, lots of plans we need to see on how we are going to get more trees and we are actually going to put some management into place, we have lots of volunteers, Zero Chippenham have a tree group, and can get plenty of people to help out with this, it doesn't necessarily have to cost any money.

Not part of the meeting

APPENDIX B

Written response to public question asked at Amenities, Culture and Leisure on 29 July 2020.

Thank you for your public question at the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee meeting on 29 July 2020, your comments regarding the Tree Management Plan, use of pesticides and grass cutting have been noted.