

CHRISTCHURCH TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 February 2023 at 6.00pm Christchurch
Library, Room 14, High Street, Christchurch, BH23 1AW

Present: -

Cllr A E Coulton – Mayor

Cllr V Charrett – Deputy Mayor

Present: Cllr Mrs S Bungey, Cllr M Cox, Cllr S Fotheringham, Cllr C A Gardiner, Cllr P Hilliard, Cllr G R Jarvis, Cllr D C Jones, Cllr T Lane, Cllr R D Luscombe, Cllr Mrs S Spittle and Cllr M J Tarling.

Officers Present: Zeynep Aktuna (Democratic Services Officer), James Atkinson (Project Officer), Vanessa Ricketts (Interim Town Clerk) and James Sheehy (Town Clerk).

Members of the
Public present: 3

Members of the
Press present: 0

294. Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Canon Charles Stewart opened the proceedings with prayers.

295. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Cox who had family commitments, Cllr Dedman who was attending another meeting at BCP Council, Cllr Farrell-Jarvis and Cllr Grace who were working and Cllr McCormack who was feeling unwell.

RESOLVED that the apologies be received and accepted.

296. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

297. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2023 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

298. Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) of the Council

The Mayor expressed thanks to Vanessa Ricketts on behalf of the Christchurch Town Council for all her work for the Council.

RESOLVED that James Sheehy be appointed as the Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer for any purpose in respect of which a Proper Officer and Section 151 Officer is mentioned in statute.

299. Announcements

The Mayor informed Members about the Holocaust Memorial Days she attended at Bournemouth Civic Centre and Poole Lighthouse and highlighted that both were very moving services. She also advised Members about the Quiz Night she was organizing for the Mayor's Charity on 28th February at the Rowing Club, and the film night at the Regent Centre on 29th March to raise money for Macmillan Caring Locally.

The full schedule of events had been circulated to each Member, a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

300. Public Participation

Reverend Canon Charles Stewart advised Members about the series of consultations that would take place in mid-March to share the Priory's masterplan and major projects with their key stakeholders including Christchurch Town Council.

Reverend Canon Charles Stewart also announced that a special service would be held at the Priory on Sunday, 26th February 2023 (3pm) to support Ukraine.

301. Public Questions

The Mayor reported that no questions had been submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

302. Questions from Councillors

Cllr Jones raised a question to the Chairmans of Planning and Regulatory Committee and Community Committee regarding the requests for consultation from BCP Council or Future Places Ltd concerning the development plans for the Civic Offices or other Town Centre sites.

The Chairmans of both Committees were not present at the meeting.

Cllr Jones raised a concern over the lack of effective communication from BCP Council/Future Places with Christchurch Town Council and suggested that BCP Council should be invited to inform the Council about their plans for the Civic Offices. The Mayor explained that the Future Places was dealing with the Civic Offices and that the Council was expecting to hear from them on the future use of the building.

303. Motions from Councillors

Members were asked to consider a notice of motion proposed by Cllr Cox and seconded by Cllr Tarling. Cllr Cox highlighted the various benefits of the '20's Plenty for Christchurch' campaign and pointed out that:

- it would be affordable,
- it would prioritize the quality of life and help create more places for human activity and walking/cycling,
- it would be safer for residents, school children and the elderly,
- it would be environment-friendly and sustainable,
- it would have a positive impact on traffic network, and
- it would be enforceable.

Cllr Cox highlighted that the residents and traders would be consulted to decide the exact roads where the 20mph limit would be applied. Members agreed that the schools should be carefully considered when deciding the roads.

Some Members expressed that they would not support the motion and argued that existing examples did show little improvement on the roads' safety and prevention of accidents.

RESOLVED that the Council

- a) Supports the 20's Plenty for Christchurch campaign;
- b) Calls on BCP Highways Authority to implement 20mph in Christchurch Town Centre and decides the exact roads in consultation with residents and traders;

- c) Writes to BCP Highways Authority to request 20mph speed limits on streets throughout Christchurch subject to agreement of such streets with the Town Council.

304. To receive any verbal reports from representatives of Outside Bodies and Partner Organisations

There were no verbal reports from Partner Organisations on this occasion.

305. Committee Minutes

The Committee Minutes for the last cycle of meetings were received as follows:

Planning Committee 24 January 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2023 were received.

306. Unity Trust Bank Signing Authority

RESOLVED that the previous Town Clerk be removed, and the new Town Clerk be added as an authorised signatory in the Unity Trust Bank account on behalf of the Town Council.

307. Calendar of Meetings (2023-24)

The Schedule of Meetings 2023/24 was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Meetings 2023/24 be approved.

308. The Quomps Policy

A draft 'Use of Open Spaces Policy' was submitted, a copy of which had been circulated to each member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members raised questions over the events that were exempt from licenses, the schedule of the events and the likelihood of clashing events. It was explained that the policy clarified the number/frequency of events that can take place during a calendar month and added that any future request to organise an event at the Quomps would be considered by the Town Clerk in line with the policy and in consultation with the Mayor.

Members discussed the use of the Quomps by the Bean Car Club for the National Daffodil Run, an annual charity event to raise money for the breast cancer.

Members also discussed the use of the Bandstand by Brentwood School Big Band. Some Members stated that the Band was too big (40 participants) to fit in the Quomps' Bandstand while some Members supported that the brass bands should be encouraged to play in the Bandstand.

RESOLVED that

- a) the Use of Open Spaces Policy be approved;
- b) the request from the Bean Car Club National Daffodil Run for use of the Quomps on 2 April 2023 be approved;
- c) the request from Brentwood School Big Band for use of the Quomps' Bandstand on 20 August 2023 be approved;
- d) the Town Clerk be delegated the approval of all future events on the Quomps and the Bandstand in consultation with the Mayor.

309. Delegation to Planning and Regulatory Committee

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group explained that the Working Group was planning to respond to the National Planning Policy Framework consultation and that the reason for asking delegation to the Planning and Regulatory Committee was due to time constraints as the deadline for submission (2 March 2023) was before the next Full Council (13 March). The Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Regulatory Committee invited all Members to the Planning Committee meeting scheduled on 21st February to express their view on the draft policy.

RESOLVED that the Planning and Regulatory Committee be delegated authority to respond to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation on behalf of the Council¹.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm

CHAIRMAN

¹ Members were sent the link to the National Planning Policy Framework Consultation through email.