

Amenities, Leisure and Community Services

Tuesday 14th March 2017

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

7pm

Present:

Cllrs Cairns, Griffin (Chairman), Hewett, Long (substitute for Cllr Bennett) Mosson, Passey & K Ward.
Under item 4(v) of the Town Council Standing Orders, the Acting Town Clerk advised Committee that for this meeting Cllr Long would be substituting, with voting rights, for Cllr Bennett.

In Attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan – Acting Town Clerk, Natalia Gorman – Admin Assistant. Cllrs Perks, Pocock and Wood as non-voting observers.

There were six members of the public and no press present.

The Chairman welcomed those present and invited questions from the public. Stuart Moffat, Friends of Jones Wood requested Committee's support for their application considered under item 73.

Stuart Clarke, Trinity Ward, asked Committee to consider funding a continuous pathway within Rectory Park which would run parallel with Rectory Road. The Chairman advised Mr Clarke that this would be considered under agenda item 71.

John Heywood representing ECO Sutton, presented a report prepared by Eco Sutton on sustainability and resilience for Royal Sutton Coldfield for the Town Council to consider. The Acting Town Clerk thanked Mr. Heywood for the report, advising that it would be considered as the Town Council develops its policies and strategies.

63 Apologies for Absence

The Clerk received apologies from Cllr Bennett and Cllr Ellis.

Resolved: To accept the apologies received.

64 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Long declared a pecuniary interest in Boldmere Futures Partnership application, agenda item 73.

Cllr Perks declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 73, Friends of Jones Wood.

65 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Amenities, Leisure and Community Services held on Tuesday 17th January 2017 (previously circulated) be signed as a true record of the meeting.

66 Matters Arising

Consultation on new play area for Boldmere.

The Acting Town Clerk advised Committee that the 1,000 homes and businesses closest to each of the two proposed sites for the play area should now have received questionnaires to complete and return to Landscape Practice Group, Birmingham City Council. It was confirmed that schools would not be asked to distribute questionnaires for parents to complete as this would likely result in duplicate responses as the catchment area for the schools was broadly the same as the geographical area covered by the postal questionnaire.

In addition to the questionnaire, The Acting Town Clerk advised Committee that there would be a public consultation held in The Carpenter's Arms Community Centre, Boldmere on Saturday 18th March between 10am until 2pm.

Cllr Pocock noted that residents of Copenhagen Mews have not yet received a postal questionnaire. The Acting Town Clerk will follow this up with Landscape Practice Group.

Resolved: To note the update from the Town Clerk.

67 Community Flag

The Chairman welcomed Russell Ludlam to present his proposal for the creation and registration of a Community Flag for Royal Sutton Coldfield.

Mr Ludlam suggested that a Community Town Flag would enhance the identity of Royal Sutton Coldfield and the creation of a flag would be a great opportunity for community engagement. Russell advised that a Community Flag would not impact or detract from the Historic Civic Flag and that costs should be minimal.

The Acting Town Clerk suggested that Russell liaises with local neighbourhood forums and other community organisations to work up proposals for designs and costings for a community flag. Cllr Long showed his support for this idea and agrees that the community should come together to draw up a design that excludes the Town Council logo. Cllr Wood agreed to speak to Wylde Green Neighbourhood Forum at their next meeting about working with Mr Ludlam on this project.

Resolved: that Committee endorses that Wylde Green Neighbourhood Forum be approached to see if they would be interested in leading on a community flag project.

The Acting Town Clerk advised Committee that they may wish to consider funding the production of a replica of the Sutton Coldfield flag which is currently situated in the Trinity Centre.

Resolved: that the Acting Town Clerk be delegated to arrange for a replica of the flag of the former borough of Sutton Coldfield to be produced for the Town Council to keep as part of the Town's Civic Regalia and as per financial regulations for the expenditure to be authorised in consultation with the Leader.

68 Great British Spring Clean

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Hewett to present an update.

Cllr Hewett began by thanking Officers for assisting with the scheme. The Town Council had a positive response and litter picks were arranged by the Town Council in three wards, Four Oaks,

New Hall and Trinity. It was noted that Vesey Ward arranged their own scheme alongside Birmingham City Council however Cllr Hewett is still keen to approach residents and community groups to arrange further clean -ups.

Cllr Hewett praised the Cubs who arranged a clean-up of Withy Hill. A great start was made with the scheme and Cllr Hewett hopes to see it run again next year.

The Acting Town Clerk requested that a note of thanks be recorded to Birmingham City Council for providing litter picking equipment at short notice and for arranging collection of the refuse gathered.

Resolved: to note the update.

69 Britain in Bloom

The Chairman invited Cllr Wood to provide an update.

Cllr Wood advised Committee that the first meeting to discuss Britain in Bloom took place last week and everyone showed enthusiasm for the scheme. Cllr Wood thanked Councillors, Daren Share MBE, John Porter, Elizabeth Allison and Alan Gardner for their time given so far.

Resolved: to note the update.

70 Community Defibrillators

The Acting Town Clerk advised Committee that the Community Heartbeat Trust has been commissioned to provide a 'managed solution' for the installation of defibrillators funded by the Town Council. Locations for defibrillators have been identified for both Four Oaks and New Hall however Councillors should identify suitable locations for the Trinity and Vesey wards.

Cllr Ward advised committee that following conversations with members of the public, it is difficult to identify where defibrillators have already been installed. Cllr Ward would like to log locations online using Heart Safe and asked that if Committee know of any locations to advise him so he can record this information. Cllr Long advised that he too would like to log information with First Responder and it was agreed that Cllr Long and Ward would share information.

Cllr Cairns suggested that when defibrillators are installed, leaflets should be distributed to households.

Cllr Wood advised that Community Heartbeat would be providing a demonstration to Wylde Green Neighbourhood Forum and recommended that a demonstration takes place at a Full Town Council meeting.

Resolved that Cllr Hewett will identify suitable locations for a defibrillator to be installed in Trinity Ward and Cllr Passey will identify suitable location within Vesey Ward.

71 Improvements at Rectory Park

The Chairman read out correspondence received from Mr and Mrs Clark at the previous Amenities Committee meeting. The Town Clerk advised that this is Birmingham City Council (BCC) owned land they have the final decision however the Town Council has committed funding to approving the area and will consider the proposal once BCC approve.

72 Summer Florals 2017

The Acting Town Clerk informed Committee that £50,000 has been approved for the floral scheme across Sutton Coldfield. An outline scheme has been drawn up for Committee to discuss. The proposal does not include stress tests on lamppost and an amount would need to be identified from both the Floral and Festive Light budgets to fund the tests.

Cllr Long disagreed with the proposed plan and expressed his disappointment that the allocation for Vesey Ward was disproportionate to other areas and in particular that Boldmere High Street would see a reduced scheme in comparison to the proposed new scheme at New Oscott. Cllr Long asked that a decision is not reached until Vesey Ward Councillors have met to discuss. Cllr Pocock believed that reducing the scheme throughout Boldmere may cause upset and suggested that the Town Council liaised with Boldmere Traders on the proposed scheme.

The Acting Town Clerk reported that BCC Officers advised of concerns raised in previous years about the floral planters obstructing views at junctions hence the reason for the omission of planters at this location.

Cllr Wood spoke in favour of the proposal, in particular the proposed scheme for New Oscott which previously had no florals. Cllr Hewett also spoke in favour of the scheme with a request for the locations to be reviewed next year. Cllr Cairns asked that if the current proposal were agreed that next year's scheme would include locations that were not included in the current year.

Cllr Ward suggested that as flower towers in Mere Green are on private property and cannot be funded the proposal should be amendment to support a scheme in Beeches Walk.

Resolved that Committee recommend the proposal to Full Council subject to amendment that the flower towers in Mere Green are removed from the scheme and the £1800 budget to be allocated to Beeches Walk.

Cllr Long voted against this resolution.

Cllr Griffin proposed, that in accordance with Standing Orders the meeting be extended up to a period of one hour from 8.40pm.

Resolved that the meeting be extended for further hour.

The chairman requested a comfort break for Councillors & Officers at 8.45pm

Meeting resumed at 9.00pm.

73 Community Fund

The committee noted that Council had been allocated £100,000 in the current financial year for local groups who want to make Royal Sutton Coldfield an even better place to live and work. £25,000 had been approved for allocation in each of the four Sutton Coldfield wards. Any approved projects that exceed the £25,000 budget per ward will be taken from that wards 2017/18 budget.

The committee received details of five applications and assessed these against the Councils' aims and objectives of:

- Supporting the health and wellbeing of the local community
- Creating a socially inclusive and caring community
- Protecting and improving the environment of the Town
- Supporting and contributing to the economic, culture and leisure life of the Town
- Preserving and promoting the unique identity and heritage of Royal Sutton Coldfield

The committee agreed that the following recommendations should be made to Full Council:

New Hall Ward

Organisation	Status	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommendation
Friends of Jones Wood	Community Group	Friends of Jones Wood have spent the past two years working to bring the ancient woodland Jones Wood in Walmley back into use by the local community. In order to continue the improvements Friends of Jones Wood would like to replace the main gate, install nesting and bat boxes, obtain tools for landscaping works i.e. prune trees, bushes. Money will also be spent to obtain equipment to be utilised for events such as a children's Easter trail and Christmas 'music in the wood' concert. Last year an estimated 600 people including approx. 170 children attended the park on Easter Sunday to participate in activities. The project will enable a recreational facility to be used by all residents, schools, scouts and brownies.	£8,500	Approve Creating a socially inclusive and caring community

Vesey Ward

Organisation	Status	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommendation
Boldmere Futures Partnership	Voluntary Organisation	Boldmere Summer Music Festival 2017 is taking place on Saturday 24th June. Funding will be used for stage costs, artists' fees, technical support and security. The project will be undertaken in partnership with Boldmere Traders Association, who will separately fund and organise street stalls and promotional brochures. The event will bring people together and showcase artistic and musical talent ranging from a range of genres. It attracts a broad cross section of Sutton Coldfield residents as well as residents from Birmingham, Lichfield & Tamworth. The event will increase footfall and add to the economic sustainability of the local centre.	£4,830	Approve Supporting and contributing to the economic, culture and leisure life of the Town

Two Wards (New Hall & Trinity)

Organisation	Status	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommendation
Performance Birmingham Ltd	Registered Charity	In partnership with local residents, Performance Birmingham Ltd wish to further develop the 'Live in the Lodge' project in and around the Falcon Lodge neighbourhood. Funding has already been secured until June 2017 with the organisation asking if the Town Council would provide funding until September 2017. The project involves free weekly instrumental lessons in guitar, ukelele and drums, free weekly workshops for the choir, professional performances and shows and transport to take groups to concerts. The choir currently has approx. 20 participants and there are currently 20 individuals learning drums, guitar, ukulele and spoken word. Live in the Lodge project was developed to bring music into the area and to raise aspirations of local residents in greater community cohesion and local pride. The specific choices about instruments and choir were developed through direct involvements of local people.	New Hall £6,000. Trinity £6,000 Total = £12,000	Rejected

All Wards

Organisation	Status	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommendation
Royal Sutton Coldfield Community Directory	Voluntary Organisation	This directory aims to provide information for use by the public and organisations who provide local services. The directory offers organisations and individuals the opportunity to publish information about the services they operate in Royal Sutton Coldfield, how these can be accessed, in what quantities, where, when and by whom. Funding will be used to print more copies of the directory and to provide a hard copy in libraries, churches, health centres and community centres. A need for this service was identified by those organisation at a launch event in 2015 and in April 2016. The amount requested will fund the directory for three years.	Four Oaks £385.00. New Hall £385.00. Trinity £385.00 Vesey £385.00 Total = £1540.	Approve Supporting and contributing to the economic, culture and leisure life of the Town
Special Olympics Sutton Coldfield	Registered Charity	Funding requested for Sutton Coldfield team to compete in Special Olympics National Games taking place during August in Sheffield. Athletes have qualified to represent Royal Sutton Coldfield competing in sports such as badminton, basketball, table tennis and swimming. Funding will be used for accommodation, entrance fees, Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council logo t-shirts and travel expenses. This event develops lifelong friendships and inspires and encourages future athletics to participate individually and has a team to represent their community.	Four Oaks £1968.75. New Hall £1968.75. Trinity £1968.75. Vesey £1968.75 Total = £7875.00.	Approve Supporting the health and wellbeing of the local community
Sutton Coldfield Adventure Unit	Registered Charity & Voluntary Organisation	Sutton Coldfield Adventure Unit (SCAU) are requesting funding to purchase a long wheel base van that will enable easier, safer and more efficient transport of equipment around the Sutton Coldfield area including large marquee tents and associated camping equipment. SCAU has over 200 children aged between 7-18 and also an active 18-25 yr section. Activities take place once a week to include: archery, air rifle shooting, survival skills and map reading.	Four Oaks £2500. New Hall £2500. Trinity £2500. Vesey £2500. Total = £10,000	Approve with conditions Supporting the health and wellbeing of the local community

Deferred from 17th January 2017

Organisation	Status	Project Summary	Amount Requested (£)	Recommendation
Four Oaks Toy Library	Part of Arthur Terry School	Relocation and hire costs of new premises for toy library.	£5000 Four Oaks Ward	Rejected

The Committee Recommends that the Council should **RESOLVE**, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the LGA 1972, to incur the expenditure set out above. In the opinion of the Council, this expenditure is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner that is commensurate with the expenditure.

Meeting Closed 9:29pm

Signed as a correct record

Signed.....
Cllr D Griffin

Date.....