



Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Meeting
Tuesday 21st February 2017
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
7pm

Present

Cllrs Hodivala, Pears, Allan, Allen, Bennett, Ellis, Griffin, Hewett, Jenkins, Mosson, Okello, Parry, Passey, Perks, Pocock, Puri, K Ward, S Ward and Wood.

In Attendance

Olive O'Sullivan – Acting Town Clerk and Mary Watkins – Finance Assistant.

There were 1 member of the press, 16 members of the public and 1 officer from Birmingham City Council present.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited questions or comments from the public.

Frances Heywood asked how the Town Council were going to influence an imaginative redevelopment at Brassington Avenue and also asked how the Town Council were going to engage with the community to hear residents' ideas.

Joe Cook asked when the reopening of Penns Lane station as part of the Birmingham Development Plan would likely happen and had some concerns around parking issues this may cause. Cllr Pears confirmed that several lines will need to reopen as part of the HS2 development and that it would form part of the HS2 2026 Agenda.

Joe and Laura Bennett asked the Town Council to consider revamping Sutton Coldfield to encourage more independent businesses and make the Town Centre more vibrant and community focused.

Jack Purcell-Burrows asked the Town Council to consider providing an arts space or bandstand in the Town Centre to encourage buskers and local musicians.

Russell Ludlam asked the Town Council to consider a community flag for Sutton Coldfield that could engage the community and be used by all. The Mayor invited Mr. Ludlam to liaise with Cllr Griffin and invited him to attend the next Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee meeting.

The Mayor thanked Alex Perks for his help with passing out the mic during public question time.

158 Apologies for Absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllrs Cairns, Ives, Long and Mackey.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.

159 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Parry and Puri declared non-pecuniary interests as members of the Library Lobby group and Boldmere Futures. Cllr Parry declared she is on the board of Highbury Theatre and that a fellow board member is also a member of SCART. Cllr S Ward declared a non-pecuniary interest in the



CBSO as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and Cllr Pears declared a pecuniary interest in independent retail as he work for bira bank, a specialist bank for independent retailers.

160 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor updated the group on her recent engagements and reported that she would be attending the Gang Show this weekend. The Mayor informed Council that the YMCA are running a Sponsored Sleep Easy Event on 31st March at the Gracechurch Centre and that all were welcome to take part. The Mayor advised that she would be bringing a motion to the March Town Council meeting to look at alternative systems of Local Government outside of Birmingham City Council and stated that she would like to hear residents' views before then.

161 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved to exclude members of the public and press during item 180.

162 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council held on Tuesday 24th January 2017 (previously circulated) be signed as a true record of the meeting.

163 Matters Arising

The Acting Town Clerk advised that the Birmingham City Council Landscape Practice Group had now been commissioned to carry out the consultation on proposed play areas. The consultation will seek views from residents, schools and relevant stakeholders. A public meeting will take place on 18th March and a questionnaire will be available of the Town Council website. It is expected that the results will be reported back to the March Town Council meeting.

Resolved that Councillors note the report from the Acting Town Clerk.

164 Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council and Birmingham City Council – Future Working Relationship

Cllr Pears welcomed Jacqui Kennedy from Birmingham City Council (BCC) and thanked her for the help and support that BCC had already provided to Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council (RSCTC).

Jacqui Kennedy confirmed that BCC is committed to maintaining a long term relationship with RSCTC and wants to support its growth in any way needed. Ms Kennedy fully supported the six pillars and felt that several areas mirrored the priorities of BCC. She stated that BCC had a very strong safety advisory service and in the interests of being a 'Neighbourly Neighbour' would like to offer to work with RSCTC to support events. Ms. Kennedy expressed an interest in working with RSCTC to create a Charter/Agreement.

Resolved that the Town Council enter into formal discussion with Birmingham City Council on production of a Charter/Agreement setting out how the two Local Authorities will work together.

165 Minutes of Committees

a) Planning and Highways held on 8th February 2017.



Resolved that the Town Council approve £4,319.42 funding for School Keep Clear campaign resources requested by Vesey Ward schools from the Planning and Highways budget.

Resolved that the Town Council approve the roll out of the School Keep Clear campaign to other Sutton Coldfield schools.

b) Finance and General Purposes held on 15th February 2017.

Resolved to adopt the Freedom of Information Model Publication Scheme.

Resolved to approve that the Finance and General Purposes Committee meet in May 2017 to consider the annual accounts.

Resolved to approve that a contingency allocation of £150,000 for Sutton Coldfield Town Centre Library be made from the unallocated 2016/7 budget.

Resolved to commission ClockWork City at a cost of up to £6,000 to procure WiFi for the Town Centre, to develop an online Sutton Coldfield heritage trail, to review the Town Council website, create a project plan and oversee delivery of that plan.

Resolved to approve that the Acting Town Clerk commission work to identify projects under the six pillar priorities and in particular projects to support the priorities of Cleaning and Improvement, Street Furniture, Traffic Island Improvement, Landscaping and Signage Replacement.

Resolved to approve that the Summer in Sutton budget come within the remit of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

166 Summer in Sutton Coldfield

Cllr S Ward presented a plan to deliver a weekend of City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) concerts this summer in Sutton park. The events would be delivered by a production company with relevant experience and would include local music groups and choirs. Cllr S Ward stated that he hoped this would be an annual event and the costings provided were a 'worst case scenario'.

Cllr Pocock supported the event but stated that the £100,000 cost to the Council was excessive, extravagant and took away opportunities to invest in other community events. Cllr Pocock proposed an amendment that the Council do not commit the full £100,000 and to look for sponsorship opportunities towards the cost of the proposed events.

The Mayor replied that the full £100,000 funding would only be needed if ticket sales were low and stated that funding approval was needed now to progress the summer events.

Cllr Bennett stated that there was a need to do something spectacular and that a £10 ticket price was right for this event. She also stated that all attendees should buy a ticket and there should be no VIP's or 'freebies'.

The Mayor suggested that other events in the Town, for example Boldmere Festival, may be eligible to apply for funding under the Community Grant scheme.

Cllrs Wood, Perks, Hewett, Allen, Pears and K Ward spoke in support of the event.



Cllr S Ward replied that the events would be bold not extravagant and that further funding through sponsorship would be looked into but there was a need to commit the money in order to progress.

Full Council voted on Cllr Pocock's amendment, "That the Town Council approves a contribution towards the cost of the event from the budget for Summer in Sutton previously approved by Town Council." This amendment was not carried.

Resolved that the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) be commissioned to perform an open-air concert at Sutton Park on Saturday 1st July 2017.

Resolved that the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) be commissioned to provide a mini orchestra to perform a programme especially designed for a young audience on Sunday 2nd July 2017.

Resolved that the Acting Town Clerk be delegated to be the lead event organizer on behalf of the Town Council and oversee the arrangements and management of the events.

Resolved that the Town Council engages the services of a professional, specialist event and management production company.

Resolved that the Town Council approves a contribution of £100,000 towards the cost of the events from the budget for Summer in Sutton previously approved by Full Council.

167 Reports and Updates from Working Groups

a) Socially Responsible Community

Cllr Mosson reported that the group met last week to discuss voluntary groups and reported that there were plans to hold an event/conference in December 2017.

Resolved that Town Council note the report.

b) Youth Engagement

Cllr Puri reported that there is a conference planned for the end of March.

Resolved that Town Council note the report.

c) Staffing

Cllr Pears read an update ([copy attached](#)) regarding staffing. Council was also advised that Cllr S Ward would replace Cllr Ives on the staffing working group.

Resolved that Town Council note the report.

168 Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Cllr S Ward reported that a meeting with the leader of Birmingham City Council would be happening before the March Town Council meeting. He stated that the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council are working with the Sutton Coldfield Arts and Recreational Trust and are supportive of finding the right long term solution for the Town Hall.

Resolved that Town Council note the report.

169 Sutton Coldfield Library

Cllr Pears reported that two meetings had taken place with Birmingham City Council (BCC) and that BCC had agreed to:

- Look to let out the second floor
- Look to change the layout of the first floor to create a space to be rented out at £41,000 PA.
- Support a library in Sutton Coldfield at the cost of £100,000 per annum.
- Instruct agents to let the second floor and arrange for Acivico to complete overdue repairs.

Cllr Pears stated that he had received confirmation from Acivico that they are seeking a remedy for the repair work that is needed and officers are investigating various issues.

Cllr Pears also stated that a further report would be given at the March Town Council meeting and that he would not recommend that the £150,000 be committed at this stage.

Standing Orders were suspended for Jacqui Kennedy from Birmingham City Council to provide an update.

Jacqui stated that she had received an update from Acivico today that they had visited the site and they were looking at a major refurbishment that would see installation of toilets on the 1st floor. She anticipated that there would be a positive report brought to the next meeting.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Cllr Pocock thanked everyone involved for working collaboratively and constructively to deliver this largely positive report.

Cllr Parry asked if delaying a decision being made on funding until 28th March would jeopardize the future of the Library. The Mayor confirmed that Birmingham City Council is aware of the timescales involved.

Resolved that the Town Council note the report.

170 Community Awards

Cllr Perks presented an update of his previous motion to host a Community Awards event. He stated that the Council needed to give thanks to the people of Sutton Coldfield for all the extraordinary tasks that they do for the good of the community.

Resolved that the Award ceremony takes place at Moxhull Hall on 11th May 2017.

Resolved that the Award categories are; Teacher of the Year, Young Person, Good Citizen Award, Local Business Award, Commercial Award to a Large Organisation, Local Leader Award and Mayors Award.

Resolved that a Working Group be set up to select the winners of each award. The Working Group will be Cllrs Hodivala, Perks, Pears, Allan, Griffin, Bennett and Puri.

Resolved that the awards shall comprise of a certificate, flowers and trophy.

Resolved that the Community Awards be funded from the £3,000 budget approved by the Full Council for the Community Awards.

Resolved that the event be publicised via the Town Council website and Local Media.



171 Britain in Bloom

Resolved that a working group be set up with Cllrs Wood, Perks, Ives, Okello, Passey and Griffin.

172 Boldmere Adult Education Centre

Resolved that Town Council has no objection to the nomination of Boldmere Adult Education Centre (BEAS) as an Asset of Community Value.

173 Notice of Motion

Submitted by Cllr Keith Ward 31st January 2017.

“That this Council opens discussions with M&G Real Estate Limited the owners of the derelict site on Brassington Avenue supported by our MP Andrew Mitchell and the BID to explore the opportunity of opening up said land to become a green space in the Town Centre until such time as development is to take place. Any development is looking to be many years in the future and we feel that this site has been an eyesore for long enough and this would be an excellent solution until a long-term solution is found.”

Cllr K Ward proposed an amendment to his motion as he had been advised that the owners of the site were Pegasus Life and not M&G Real Estate Limited as stated in the motion.

Resolved that Council accept the change of wording from M&G Real Estate Limited to Pegasus Life.

Cllr K Ward reported that there had been numerous plans over the years for development at Brassington Avenue but nothing had yet happened. Cllr K Ward proposed that a meadowland with wildflowers would be much nicer to look at than a fence.

Cllr Parry asked who would be responsible for the cost and if it would have any implications for future development plans.

The Mayor confirmed that a proposal and plan would follow at a later meeting.

Cllr Bennett asked that any proposal consider installation of a barrier to protect the site.

Resolved that Town Council opens discussions with Pegasus Life the owners of the derelict site on Brassington Avenue supported by our MP Andrew Mitchell and the BID to explore the opportunity of opening up said land to become a green space in the Town Centre until such time as development is to take place. Any development is looking to be many years in the future and we feel that this site has been an eyesore for long enough and this would be an excellent solution until a long-term solution is found.

174 Accounts for Payment

Resolved to appoint Cllr S Ward and Cllr D Allan to approve the online payments.

175 Use of Town Clerk's Delegated Powers

The Town Clerk advised that the cost of the consultation on the location of the proposed Boldmere Play Area would be £2,500 and that she had authorised the consultation to go ahead in conjunction with the Leader as per Financial Regulations.

Resolved to note the Acting Town Clerks report.

176 Amendment to Standing Orders

The Acting Town Clerk asked Council for an affirmative motion for the Standing Order amendment that had lain on the table for a month.

Section 1g to:

“ Amendments to motions that appear on the published agenda must be submitted to the Clerk by 5pm on the day of the meeting. The Clerk will forward the amendments to the Chairman and ensure that hard copies of the amendments are on the meeting table by 6:30pm.”

Resolved that the Town Council accept the amendment to 1g of the Standing Order as detailed above.

177 Local Government Boundary Review

Resolved that Full Council note the Boundary Review.

178 WALC Briefing

The Acting Town Clerk asked for nominations for representatives to attend the Annual Event on Saturday the 4th March.

Resolved that Cllr Allan, Cllr Allen, Cllr Parry and Olive O’Sullivan attend the event at a cost of £50 per person.

179 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th March 2017.

A short comfort break was called at 8:29pm. The meeting resumed at 8:43pm.

180 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The following agenda items, subject to agenda item 161 were heard with the Public and Press excluded.

a) Staff in confidence – Update on recruitment.

Cllr Pears reported on the staffing issues.

Resolved that Andrew Tucker be engaged as a consultant for 15 hours per week on a 15-month contract to be reviewed within 3 months of the start date and quarterly thereafter.

Resolved that the Acting Town Clerk be delegated responsibility for advertising and recruiting to the new role of Assistant Town Clerk.

Resolved that the services of Janet Eustace be retained as a consultant in the short term.



20:55pm - Cllr Pears proposed that in accordance with Standing Orders the meeting be extended up to a period of one hour.

Resolved that the meeting be extended for a further hour.

b) Commercial in Confidence – Event delivery and management costs of summer concerts.

Resolved that the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) be commissioned to perform an open-air concert at Sutton Park on the evening of Saturday 1st July 2017 and to perform a programme specially designed for a young audience on the morning of Sunday 2nd July 2017 at an estimated cost of £21,000.

Resolved that JA Productions be commissioned as the specialist event management and production partner to deliver and market the event, at an estimated cost of £93,000.

Resolved that Financial Regulations 11.1 (d) relating to Contracts be waived to enable the CBSO and JA Productions to continue their partnership or working together to ensure the success of the event. This is in order to avoid the risk that a production partner without the appropriate experience and track record of working with the CBSO could be selected in a procurement exercise

Resolved that the Town Council's insurance providers be commissioned to provide insurance for the event.

Meeting closed at 9:06pm.

Signed.....

Cllr Charlotte Hodivala

Date.....