

Amenities, Leisure and Community Services
Tuesday 11th July 2017
Wylde Green Community Hall
7pm

Present:

Cllrs Bennett (joined meeting at item 7), Ellis, Hewett, Hodivala, Ives, Mosson, Passey & K Ward.

In Attendance:

Janet Eustace – Consultant, Natalia Gorman – Admin Assistant & Becki Leonard, Assistant Town Clerk (Projects and Community Development). Bob Churn Landscape Practice Group, Birmingham City Council. Cllr Horrocks as a non-voting observer.

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

Members of the public were invited to speak. Terry Johnston, a Four Oaks resident spoke on behalf of Four Oaks forum group to express his disappointment with the recent floral displays. Ms Eustace stated that the Town Council is as frustrated as residents and confirmed that the Town Clerk had met with Birmingham City Council (BCC) who have apologised for the poor displays.

Ms Eustace took this time to introduce Becki Leonard, the newly appointed Assistant Town Clerk (Projects and Community Development).

1 Election of Chairman

Resolved that Cllr Hodivala is appointed chairman of the Amenities, Leisure & Community Services Committee until May 2018.

2 Election of Deputy Chairman

Resolved that Cllr Ives will act as Deputy Chairman of the Amenities, Leisure & Community Services Committee until May 2018.

3 Apologies For Absence

None to report.

4 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ives declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11, St James Hill application and a pecuniary interest in Birmingham Pride.

Cllr Mosson declared a non-pecuniary interest in the St James Hill application.

Cllr Passey non-pecuniary interest on Autism Services agenda item 10.

5 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Amenities, Leisure and Community Services held on Tuesday 2nd May 2017 (previously circulated) be signed as a true record of the meeting.

6 Matters Arising

Ms Eustace reported on Summer Florals, Britain in Bloom and Community Defibrillators.

Summer Florals

Birmingham City Council have apologised for the delay in getting the florals out and for the relatively poor displays. A meeting has taken place with BCC to seek to understand what went wrong and the lessons that can be learned for next year.

Britain in Bloom

A number of meetings have taken place and ambitious plans drawn up which will be presented in the September meeting.

Community Defibrillators

The Town Council has received signed hosting agreements for three locations: Ian Hazels Funerals, Lloyds Pharmacy & Moor Hall Primary. Community Heartbeat have invoiced us and defibrillators are due to be installed within the next few weeks.

The Chair thanked those who agreed to be hosts of a community defibrillator.

Resolved to note the update.

7 Birmingham Pride Update

Cllr Ives advised committee that the Town Councils attendance at Birmingham Pride 2017 was a success and he hopes that the Town Council will continue to demonstrate its commitment to diversity and inclusiveness by taking part in Birmingham Pride next year.

Resolved to note the update.

8 Ley Hill Recreation Ground North (Mere Green Community Centre)

The chair welcomed Bob Churn, Landscape Practice Group for BCC to the meeting.

Bob showed committee plans to enhance Ley Hill Recreation Ground in which BCC will install outdoor gym equipment and refurbish the tennis courts. Subject to the Town Council funding of £25,000 there is provision to install an interactive SONA arch by Jupiter Play. Bob advised that the SONA arch is keeping up with the new play world for children and combines the possibilities of computer games with the fun and physical activity of outdoor play.

There was a discussion around the durability and warranty of the equipment and how long it would take to implement. Mr Churn confirmed that Birmingham City Council would be liable for the equipment and that, as the designs are prepared, construction could begin as early as September. Mr Churn also advised committee that this piece of equipment would be a first within the West Midlands.

The chair asked that the Town Council logo is incorporated onto the equipment.

Cllr Hewett suggested that the allocation of £25,000 should be spent on several pieces of equipment.

Cllr Hodivala advised committee that this new piece of equipment would have a wide appeal and that research had shown its use to have positive effects on people with dementia and autism.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council £25,000 in accordance with its powers under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19, towards the cost of an interactive SONA arch at Mere Green Play Area as part of the planned improvements at Mere Green play area to be funded by BCC.

Cllr Bennett joined the meeting at this point.

9 **Play Equipment in Open Spaces**

Mr Churn talked Councillors through the schedule of play areas in Sutton Coldfield by ward, focusing on those older areas which were most in need of refurbishment.

It was suggested that Calder Drive Playing fields and Thimble End Park could benefit from additional inclusive play, more swings and a possible outdoor gym area. Councillors are keen to see play equipment that is suitable for older children and teenagers at Withy Hill Recreation Ground. Mr. Churn advised that Princess Alice Park is tired, in need of a refresh and would benefit from more modern equipment.

Mr Churn to draw up proposals for new equipment for consultation with local residents via Be Heard on the BCC website and with schools adjacent to the proposed locations. Mr. Churn would then draw up proposals and subject to Full Council agreeing this expenditure at the July Council meeting, it was agreed that the new equipment should be purchased and installed.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council in accordance with its powers under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19 an allocation of £75,000 from parks and enhancement budget to make improvements to Calder Drive Playing fields, Withy Hill Recreation Ground and Princess Alice Park.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Mayors Challenge 2016 proposal to install a Trim Trail. Cllr Hodivala identified New Hall Valley Country Park has a possible location to install a trim trail. Mr. Churn to work up plans on how best to implement this.

The Chairman thanked Mr Churn for his input and he left the meeting at 8.20pm.

10 **Autism Service Consultation**

Cllr Passey advised committee that following an online survey, the majority of respondents confirmed that advice sessions is a service they would use if available in Sutton Coldfield. Committee fully supported this proposals and congratulated Cllr Passey on her work.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council that Autism West Midlands be commissioned to deliver autism advice sessions at a cost of £6,495 from the Social Inclusion budget previously approved and that Financial Regulations 11.1(d) relating to contracts be waived to ensure continuity of service

provision and to avoid families having to build relationships with new service providers in a specialist, sensitive area of work.

11 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 ward's 2017/18 budget.

The committee received details of three 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:

Organisation	Status	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommendation
St James Church	Registered Charity	St James Church are seeking funding to complete phase two of their community dementia café. With the £10,000 already approved from Sutton Coldfield Town Council, the church now have brand new kitchen facilities which can be used to welcome people from the community and those living with dementia along with their carers. The second phase of the project is to refurbish the centre foyer area which will host this dementia café. The refurb to the foyer will include none slip flooring, wheelchair friendly tables & chairs, better lighting and clear electronic notice screens and a loop system.	Four Oaks Ward £10,000	Rejected

Organisation	Status	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommendation
Erdington Gymnastics Club CIO	Registered Charity	Erdington Gymnastics Club are seeking funding to purchase safety matting in their new gymnastics centre in Reddicap Heath. With the new equipment, the club would be able to offer a fully inclusive service to children and young people with a disability and to provide a	£4745 To be shared across all four wards.	

		service to all abilities and disabilities that they can benefit from the pursuit of an active lifestyle through gymnastics. Erdington Gymnastics Club are currently in the process of moving venue. The new centre will be fully adaptable for users with disabilities including a hoist system, changing and toilet facilities. Staff are also being trained as specialist disability coaches. The club has expanded to over 300 members in the last two years and there is currently 360 children on a waiting list. The club has links with the gymnastics community throughout West Midlands and is aware that the gymnastics provision for children and young people with disabilities within the region is scarce.	Approve. Supporting the health & wellbeing of the community.
--	--	--	---

Organisation	Status	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommendation
Sutton Coldfield Branch National Service (R.A.F) Association	Voluntary Organisation	Sutton Coldfield RAF Branch are seeking funding for up to 75 members to visit Newark Air Museum in Nottinghamshire. This museum is a place of interest for ex R.A.F & Military personnel. The funding will contribute to hire of a coach and admission charges.	Vesey Ward £500	Defer.

The Committee Recommends that the Council should **RESOLVE**, in accordance with its powers under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19, to approve funding for the purchase of equipment at the Gymnastics Club.

Cllr Hodivala advised committee that it had now been over six months since the first round of payments and that the Town Council is in the process of contacting those organisations that have received community grant funding as part of the grant monitoring process. to review how the grant has been spent the effective. Based on the success of the projects funded Cllr Hodivala recommended that Committee will revisit the rules and regulations and until then no more applications will be accepted. A report on the community grant process will be presented at the September Amenities, Leisure & Community Services meeting.

Meeting Closed 8.40pm

Signed as a correct record

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT