



Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Meeting
Tuesday 25 April 2017
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
7pm

Present

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

In Attendance

Olive O'Sullivan – Acting Town Clerk, Andrew Tucker – Consultant and Mary Watkins – Finance Assistant.

There were 20 members of the public and one member of the press present.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed all that the meeting would be recorded. Members of the public were then invited to ask questions.

Two members of the Library Lobby urged the Town Council to publicly commit to releasing the remaining £120,000 previously approved to support the Town Centre Library and to consider a long term solution for the Library. The Mayor confirmed that this would be considered under Item 207.

Two members of the Boldmere Neighbourhood Forum asked Council to reconsider the Summer Floral allocation for Boldmere. The Mayor confirmed that all previous funding from Birmingham City Council had been withdrawn and that the Town Council had already allocated more money to the Vesey Ward for the summer florals than any of the other wards.

Other questions included the procedures for the Annual Meeting and a request that the Town be referred to at the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield as opposed to Royal Sutton Coldfield.

200 Apologies for Absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllrs Horrocks and Okello.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.

201 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Parry and Puri declared a non-pecuniary interest as supporters of the Library Lobby. Cllr Ives declared an interest in Item 208 as if the motion were passed, a company he is involved with will be making a donation to the event.

202 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor updated the group on her visit to St Jones Wood, the Empire Cinema screening of Beauty and the Beast Sing-Along and congratulated the YMCA and the Gracechurch Centre on the successful Sleep Easy Event.



203 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the business of item 215 under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s3, it is likely a motion will be proposed to exclude members of the public and press during discussion of this item.

Resolved to exclude members of the public and press during item 215.

204 Minutes of the Last Meeting

It was confirmed that all meetings would now be audio recorded.

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council ([attached](#)) held on Tuesday 28th March 2017.

205 Matters Arising

None reported.

206 Minutes of Committees

Council to receive the minutes and approve the recommendations from the committees.

a) Planning and Highways held on 5th April 2017 ([attached](#)).

Resolved to note the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee.

b) Finance and General Purposes held on 18th April 2017 ([attached](#)).

Cllr Pears informed Council that two Policies for approval would be considered under Item 210.

Resolved to note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

207 Sutton Coldfield Library

Cllr Pears updated Council on the meetings with Birmingham City Council and confirmed that the next meeting was due to take place with Ian Ward on 11th May 2017.

It was reported that good progress had been made towards agreeing a use for the under utilised space and to required repairs.

Resolved that an immediate allocation of £30,000 be approved to enable continuation of the work to deliver a sustainable solution for the library service in the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield.

Resolved that a further allocated of £45,000 be released once a property strategy is agreed for the under utilised space.

Resolved that a final allocation of the remaining £45,000 be released once the necessary repairs are completed.

Resolved that the Town Council continues to work with Birmingham City Council towards the development of a business plan for the sustainable operation of the Sutton Coldfield library service.

208 Notice of Motion

Cllr Ives read out his motion and informed Councillors that he had already received informal pledges of support from local businesses. He shared further details from a report ([attached](#)), distributed at the meeting. Cllr Bennett seconded the motion and suggested that any surplus of funds could be redirected after the event into other initiatives that counteract homophobic bullying.

Resolved that this Town Council demonstrates its commitment to diversity and inclusiveness to all in the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield and beyond by actively supporting the Birmingham Pride Parade and leading on the presence of the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield at the event with a £1,000 contribution from the Town Council's social inclusion budget.

209 Strategy Document

Andrew Tucker presented the draft strategy document ([attached](#)). He informed Council that the document had not been finalised and urged residents to help shape the final version. He reported that the strategy document would be presented at the Annual Meeting and feedback could be submitted until the end of May 2017. A final plan would be brought back to Full Council later in the summer.

Resolved to note the report.

210 Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Policies

a) [Corporate Governance](#)

Resolved to approve the Corporate Governance policy.

b) [Staff Appraisals](#)

Resolved to approve the Staff Appraisal policy.

211 Nominations to attend Peddimore and Langley Sustainable Urban Environment (SUE) Meetings

Cllr Pears declared that he and Cllr Mackey already attend these meetings in their capacity as Birmingham City Councillors.

Resolved that Cllrs Allan and Bennett would represent Trinity Ward and Cllrs Wood and Perks would represent New Hall Ward.

212 Accounts for Payment

Resolved to approve the payments as per the schedule.

Resolved to appoint Cllr S Ward and Cllr E Mackey to approve the online payments and any other further payments required before the next Town Council meeting.

213 Use of Town Clerk's Delegated Powers

The Acting Town Clerk reported that she had increased the Town Council Fidelity Guarantee Insurance after consultation with the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

214 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 27th April – Annual Town Meeting at The Trinity Centre.

Wednesday 24th May – Annual Meeting of the Town Council at The Trinity Centre.

The press and public left the meeting at 7:52pm.

215 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The following agenda items, subject to agenda item 203 were heard with the Public and Press excluded.

Commercial in Confidence

- c) Update on discussions regarding office accommodation and lease.

Resolved that the Acting Town Clerk look at alternative office accommodation options and report back to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Meeting closed at 8:03pm.