



Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Meeting
Tuesday 27th June 2017
Town Hall
7pm

Present

Cllrs Hodivala, Pears, Allen, Cairns, Hewett, Horrocks, Ives, Jenkins, Long, Mosson, Okello, Parry, Passey, Perks, Pocock, Puri, K Ward, S Ward and Wood.

In Attendance

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

There were 12 members of the public and one member of the press present.

The Mayor asked all to observe a minutes silence for the victim of the terror attack at Finsbury Park Mosque on 19th June and to remember the victims and all people affected by the Grenfell Tower fire on 14th June.

Members of the public were invited to ask questions.

Pat Brown from Newhall Ward asked when we could expect to see the floral displays around the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield. The Mayor confirmed that they were due to be installed next week.

Zoe Toft spoke to inform Council that a new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was being formed called Folio Sutton Coldfield. Folio Sutton Coldfield would be embarking on a joint venture partnership with a local company to create a business proposal to lease space in Sutton Coldfield library. Zoe announced that there would be an opportunity to become a member of Folio Sutton Coldfield and encouraged Councillors to become members.

There were concerns raised around the discontinuation of some planned maternity procedures at Good Hope hospital. Patient safety and the potential future closure of all maternity services were discussed. The Mayor confirmed that whilst the Town Council had no remit to impact on the Hospital's decision, it does fully support the retention of maternity services in Sutton Coldfield for the benefit of its residents. The Town Clerk will draft a letter of support to this effect.

19 Apologies For Absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllrs Allan, Bennett, Ellis, Griffin and Mackey.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.

20 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor offered his congratulations to Cllr Waddington on her MBE (Member of the British Empire) before updating Council on his engagements at the Civic Society's 60th Anniversary celebration, Cancer Support Centre, Highclare School's Enterprise Day, Sutton Fun Run and the



Scouts of Sutton Park. He reminded members that the CBSO concerts were taking part this weekend and the Community Games on 8th and 9th of July.

21 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Parry declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 26 as she has been working with Folio Sutton Coldfield.

22 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the business of item 34 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 34.

23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council ([attached](#)) held on Wednesday 24th May 2017.

24 Matters Arising

None reported.

25 Minutes of Committees

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

a) **Planning and Highways** held on 6th June 2017 ([attached](#)).

Resolved to note the minutes of the Planning and Highway committee held on 6th June 2017.

b) **Finance and General Purposes** held on 20th June 2017 ([attached](#)).

Resolved to approve that the Town Council's Asset Register only record items valued at £500 or more.

Resolved that the Investment Strategy be approved.

26 Sutton Coldfield Library

Cllr S Ward informed Council that a meeting had taken place with Ian Ward, the deputy leader of Birmingham City Council to further discuss the building repairs and a sustainable plan for the future of Sutton Coldfield library. It was confirmed that the next meeting was planned for 7th July.

27 Internal Audit 2016/17

Resolved to note the Internal Audit final report ([attached](#)).

The Town Clerk informed Council that part of the Annual Return for 2016/17 is the Annual Internal Audit Report. This has been completed by our Internal Auditor.

Resolved to note the Annual Internal Audit section of the Annual Return for 2016/17 ([attached](#)).



28 Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

The Town Clerk read out the statements on the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 and asked Council to confirm that they agree with each statement.

Resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return) and that this be signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk on behalf of the Council.

29 Annual Accounts 2016/17

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Accounting Statement provided headline figures for the Council's accounts in 2016/17. Further details have been provided in the Statement of Accounts reported to Finance and General Purposes Committee in April.

Resolved to approve the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return) and this be signed by the Mayor on behalf of the Council.

30 Notice of Motion

Submitted by Cllr P Long on 5th June 2017.

"This Town Council will support and abide by the overwhelming majority vote at the Annual Town Meeting in favour of the motion from a member of the public that in the interest of less adversarial, more co-operative meetings, the Town Council should make a general ruling excluding gratuitous reference to party politics by Town Councillors in their speeches and comments at meetings of the Town Council (phrases like 'Conservative Government' and 'Labour-Led Birmingham Council'). It is sufficient just to say 'The Government' or 'Birmingham City Council'"

Cllr Long informed Council that he had brought this motion to Council, following the motion presented at the Annual Town Meeting by Mrs Frances Heywood. He urged Councillors to avoid blaming political parties and focus on the matters in hand.

Cllr Jenkins proposed an amendment to the motion. "This Town Council will support and abide by the majority vote at the Annual Town Meeting in favour of the motion that in the interest of less adversarial, more co-operative meetings, the Town Councillors (whilst noting that all members of the Town Council are actually elected members of political parties) should, where appropriate, exclude reference to national party politics in their speeches. Furthermore Councillors will treat all officers and members with respect and decency in their dealings with one another. This will apply not only to speeches but also to comments in the press and to the use of social media".

Several Councillors spoke in support of the motion and amendment.

When asked how this could be enforced, the Town Clerk advised that Councillors were responsible for their behavior and that Party Leaders had a responsibility to address breaches of conduct.

Resolved that this Town Council will support and abide by the majority vote at the Annual Town Meeting in favour of the motion that in the interest of less adversarial, more co-operative meetings, the Town Councillors (whilst noting that all members of the Town Council are actually elected members of political parties) should where appropriate, exclude reference to national party politics in their speeches. Furthermore councillors will treat all officers and members with respect and decency in their dealings with one another. This will apply not only to speeches but also to comments in the press and to the use of social media.



31 Accounts for Payment

Cllr Passey asked for more detail around the payment to PJ Entertainments. The Town Clerk confirmed that the payment was for five face painters to provide free face painting at the family fun day on Sunday 2nd July.

Resolved to approve the payments as per the schedule.

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

32 Use of Town Clerk's Delegated Powers

None to report.

33 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved to approve the change of date for the next Full Council to now take place on Thursday 20th July 2017.

The public session ended at 8pm and the Councillors took a short comfort break.

The meeting resumed at 8:10pm.

34 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The following agenda items, subject to agenda item 22 will most likely be heard with the Public and Press excluded.

a) Office Accommodation

Council were informed that an approach had been made by a local organisation who is interested in purchasing accommodation that the Town Council could potentially use in the future.

Resolved that this Council is committed to continue to have discussion and dialogue around the possibility of the proposal in terms of the future accommodation for the Council.

Meeting closed at 8:18pm.

Signed as a true record:

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Cllr D Pears

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Date