



Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Meeting

Thursday 20th July 2017

Harvest Fields Centre

7pm

Present

Cllrs Hodivala, Pears, Allan, Allen, Bennett, Cairns, Griffin, 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, Andrew Tucker – Consultant, Becki Leonard – Assistant Town Clerk and Mary Watkins – Finance Assistant.

There were 19 members of the public and one member of the press present.

Members of the public were invited to ask questions.

Cllr Marje Bridle welcomed the report on the Local Community Plan and urged Councillors to engage with and listen to the views of residents. John Heywood also welcomed the Community Plan report and asked the Town Council to consider the boundaries to ensure that no areas were omitted.

Zoe Toft spoke on behalf of Friends Of Libraries in Our Sutton Coldfield (FOLIO) to thank Councillors for their efforts in securing a future for the library. An invitation to attend FOLIO Sutton Coldfield's engagement evenings was extended to all. Meetings are taking place on 14th August and 12th September 2017.

Viv Astling from Four Oaks thanked Council for the Community Grant awarded to the Sutton Coldfield Art Trail and asked Council to confirm dates of any concerts planned for summer 2018 so the artists could plan their input into the events.

Helen Murphy from Newhall Ward asked Council to consider funding a Traffic Enforcement Officer to work across Sutton Coldfield and assist Schools to enforce safe parking.

Pat Brown from Newhall Ward spoke about the delayed collection of household waste by Birmingham City Council and Terry Johnson asked Council to consider developing their own facilities, over time, to grow plants and provide the Town's floral displays.

The Mayor introduced and welcomed the new Assistant Town Clerk to the Council.

35 Apologies For Absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllrs Ellis and Mackey.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.

36 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor updated Council on his attendance to the Scouts Raft Race, opening of Falcon Lodge Community Centre, Whitehouse Common summer fayre, opening of Highclare School sports field and the CBSO Concerts in the Park.



The Deputy Mayor updated Committee on his attendance to functions over the last two months; Park Court fete, Highclare School Africa project, the Rotary junior awards, Boot Inn opening, Buggy Malone at the Highbury Theatre and the Boldmere Bear reception.

37 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Parry declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 42 as she has been working with Folio Sutton Coldfield, Cllr S Ward declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee for City of Birmingham Symphony Hall and Cllr Long declared a non-pecuniary interest as an executive member of the Boldmere Futures Partnership.

38 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the business of item 52 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 52.

39 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council ([attached](#)) held on Tuesday 27th June 2017.

40 Matters Arising

None reported.

41 Minutes of Committees

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

a) **Planning and Highways** held on 4th July 2017 ([attached](#)).

Resolved to note the minutes of the Planning and Highway committee held on 4th July 2017.

b) **Amenities, Leisure and Community Services** held on 11th July 2017 ([attached](#))

Cllr Hodivala presented the recommendations from the Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee and asked Council to note that the circulated minutes incorrectly stated that item 9 would be funded from the parks and enhancement budget, it should have stated the play equipment in open spaces budget.

The Town Clerk reported that in March, Council had decided that the Trim Trail recommendation from the Mayor's Challenge 2016 be reported to Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Town Clerk asked Council to consider changing to the Amenities, Leisure and General Purposes Committee.

Resolved that Council approve £25,000 in accordance with powers under the 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 Birmingham City Council (BCC).

Resolved that Council approve £75,000 in accordance with powers under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19, from the play equipment in open spaces



budget to make improvements to Calder Drive Playing fields, Withy Hill Recreation Ground and Princess Alice Park.

Resolved that Council approve that Autism West Midlands be commissioned to deliver autism advice sessions as 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 a new service provider in a specialist, sensitive area of work.

Resolved that Council approve that in accordance with powers under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19, Community Grant funding of £4,745 for the purchase of equipment at the Gymnastics Club.

Resolved that further details around the implementation of the Trim Trail recommendation from the Mayor's Challenge 2016 be reported to Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee.

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

Cllr S Ward asked for Standing Orders to be suspended to allow a short video of the CBSO concerts to be shown.

Resolved that standing orders be suspended.

Standing orders were reinstated after the showing of the video.

Cllr S Ward presented the recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Cllr Long asked for confirmation that events planned by the Town Council for 2018 would involve more than one weekend in one location. Cllr S Ward confirmed that a different event model would be proposed for Concerts in the Park 2018 to enable the budget to include other events across the Town.

Resolved to approve expenditure of £3,500 from the Summer in Sutton budget to begin working with Caroline Davis and JA Productions to work up a new model and propose a plan for events in 2018.

Resolved that the amended Financial Regulations be approved.

Resolved that the amended Scheme of Delegation be approved.

Resolved that the Statement of Internal Control be approved.

Resolved that Clockwork City be engaged to carry out an audit as set out in their proposal at a cost of £9,000 from the Cleaning and Improvement budget.

42 Sutton Coldfield Library

Cllr S Ward updated Council on the progress of discussions with Birmingham City Council to seek a sustainable solution for the library service in the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield.

Resolved that £80,000 be approved to Birmingham City Council for a continued Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Centre library service in accordance with powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 and payments are made as laid out in the report ([attached](#)).



43 Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Cllr S Ward updated Council that there was nothing to report as a meeting scheduled with John Clancy from Birmingham City Council had been postponed.

44 Strategic Plan

Andrew Tucker presented the proposed changes listed in his report ([attached](#)). He reported that the responses were largely positive and that some detail changes to the plan were necessary. Cllr Bennett noted that the Community Awards had been a great success in 2017 and urged Council to find a way to engage with all areas of Sutton Coldfield when seeking nominations as not all areas receive The Observer newspaper.

Resolved to approve the proposed changes and approve the Town Council Strategic Plan 2017-2019.

45 Community Planning

Andrew Tucker presented his Community Planning report ([attached](#)).

Cllr Pocock asked that Andrew consider, when completing a further report of the implementation of this approach, addressing Birmingham City Council reforms; including amended Ward plans and the potential for neighbourhood planning in the future.

Cllr Long stated that the only way to have control over planning is to adopt a neighbourhood plan and asked Council to consider progressing this in parallel to Community Planning. The benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan would not only be more control but access to central government funding.

Cllr L Parry asked for clarification around boundaries to ensure that partial communities are not left out and how the plan would be implemented.

Andrew confirmed that further thought would be given to boundaries and that meetings would be held with Councillors in the pilot areas to look at the processes. Andrew offered to support the Neighbourhood Planning working group to look at Neighbourhood Planning separately.

Resolved that the Council agree an approach to community plans on the basis outlined in the report.

Resolved that a budget allocation of £10,000 to support communities, where necessary, in carrying out the work to prepare a community plan.

Resolved that a new budget be created for a Community Plan with £10,000 being allocated from the contingency budget.

46 Notice of Motion

Cllr S Ward presented his motion submitted on 12th July 2017.

Resolved that this Council reaffirms its long term commitment to Sutton Park (as contained in its recently adopted Strategic Plan) and to its preservation as a key local amenity for residents of our Royal Town. The council will represent the interests of the Town alongside the many other stakeholders in the Park to ensure that the views of residents are heard in all future developments regarding the Park.



47 Accounts for Payment

The Town Clerk confirmed that the payment listed as £30,009.11 incorrectly had the narrative Mayors Allowance 2017/18. It was confirmed that the invoice contained three lines; £10,793.17 for salaries, £6978.83 for Mayor's allowance and £12,237.11 for Councillor allowances.

Resolved to approve the payments as per the schedule.

Resolved to appoint Cllr D Allan and Cllr R Pocock to approve the online payments and any other further payments required before the next Town Council meeting.

48 Reoccurring Expenditure Payments 2017/18

Resolved that Council approve payment of reoccurring expenditure ([attached](#)) for 2017/18, as per Financial Regulation 5.6.

49 Bank Mandate Review

Resolved to approve Cllrs Pears, Pocock, Allan, Mackey, S Ward, Griffin and Ives to act as authorisers for Council payments.

Resolved to approve Olive, Mary and Natalia to submit payments for approval, on behalf of the Council.

50 Use of Town Clerk's Delegated Powers

The Town Clerk reported that the Deputy Mayors chains had been ordered from Fattorinis and would hopefully be received by September.

51 Date of Next Meeting

26th September 2017.

The public session ended at 8:33pm and the Councillors took a short comfort break.

Councillor Long left the meeting.

The meeting resumed at 8:47pm.

52 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The following agenda items, subject to agenda item 38 will most likely be heard with the Public and Press excluded.

- a) Council to consider the admission of a newly appointed member of staff to the Local Government Pension Scheme.



Resolved that Becki Leonard be designated to be a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme with effect from 11th July 2017.

- b) Council to consider membership of a newly appointed member of staff to the Society of Local Clerks.

Resolved that Becki Leonard join the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Meeting closed at 8:50pm.

DRAFT