

Amenities, Leisure and Community Services
Tuesday 14th November 2017
Falcon Lodge Methodist Church
7pm

Present:

Cllrs Hodivala (Chairman), Bennett, Hewett, Ives, Mosson, Passey, Ward, Ellis.

In Attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan – Town Clerk, Becki Leonard, Assistant Town Clerk (Projects and Community Development), Cllrs S Ward, Allan and Pocock as non-voting observers.

Members of Eco Sutton and Junior Rotary were present in the public gallery. There was not press present.

Public Questions:

John Haywood from Eco Sutton shared a report on the work conducted with the grant money given to them to purchase air monitors and their findings on the air quality in Sutton Coldfield. Cllr S Ward confirmed that he would be working with Eco Sutton. He will submit the report to BCC and forward it to the Planning and Highways Committee for review.

30 Apologies for Absence

All present

31 Declarations of Interest

None declared

32 Exclusions of the Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the business of item 40 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 agree to exclude members of the public and press during discussions of this item

33 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Amenities, Leisure and Community Services held on Thurs 12th October (previously circulated) be signed as a true record of the meeting.

34 Matters Arising

A verbal update on:

Defibrillators

Installation will take place at Walmley Library and Wylde Green Community Centre early next week. This is possible because BCC has agreed to be host partner for the electricity as they own the property at these locations.

The Clerk has reviewed the request for a defib at Banners Gate Playground, however this is difficult as electricity needs to be taken from a fourth, unknown party. Therefore Banners Gate Community Hall were approached and are delighted to be a host. The hall is owned by BCC so makes the contract for electricity easier and more reliable. This will be the first defib secured for the next round of funding.

Cllr Ward provided a list of locations for defibs in Sutton Coldfield and it was considered that this could be added to the website for public information. Community Heartbeat Trust who administer the defibs should also have a list which is kept up to date on a regular basis for the Town Council use.

Community Planning

A workshop is taking place next Tuesday to kick start the community planning process.

Festive Lights

The Clerk confirmed that the new festive lighting schemes for the local centres are due to be installed this week and switch-on is on the 18th November for all locations including the town centre.

Trim Trail Design and timescales

The Assistant Clerk presented on the updated design for the trim trail from the Landscape Practice Group. She advised that an issue with drainage has been raised by the Parks Manager and it had therefore been agreed that remedial work funded by Birmingham City Council can be carried out at the same time as installation.

Committee asked for the timeframe on this project for the next meeting.

Playground Enhancements

Orders have been placed for the equipment which should be delivered late January. The contractors are proposing to start on site on 22nd January at Princess Alice Park and then move to Calder Drive on 5th February which will be completed in just under a week.

Withy Hill Park – agreed that a consultation and a door drop will be carried out to residents in the vicinity of the playground.

Mere Green playground – There are some issues with the location of a compound for the materials/equipment for the work to start. The suggested location is the carpark of Sainsbury's. The LPG are in discussions with Sainsbury's on this. Expected start date after Christmas.

Committee resolved to note the updates

35 Bloom update

The Assistant Town Clerk provided an update on progress to date on Sutton Coldfield in Bloom:

- The group has developed a Terms of Reference which will be shared shortly
- The winter bedding has been successfully planted by BCC's contractors
- Agreed a linear route for the judging and timing of the route was carried out last week. A first draft is being prepared to show the working party next week. The proposed route will include a start at Harvest Fields / Moor Hall and wind its way down through Sutton Park, along the High Street to Coleshill Road Nursery, Deanery School, Jones Wood, Boulevard Allotments and along Boldmere High Street finishing at the Town Hall
- A decision is yet to be made on the finish point reception for the judges
- A number of projects are currently being worked on and will be presented in early 2018
- Looking at a number of islands for improvement
- Would like to identify sites for bulb planting
- Planning a spring clean for early 2018

36 Floral Enhancements 2018

The Assistant Town Clerk presented the report outlining the process for ordering the 2018 floral scheme and the proposals to use the underspend from the 2017 scheme for enhancements in 2018.

A further confidential report details the value for money review conducted.

Committee resolved to note the report and agree to recommend to the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the underspend of £24,201 from the 2017/18 financial year is carried forward to fund enhancements to the 2018 floral scheme.

37 Committee Budget 2018/19

Committee reviewed the amended 2018/19 Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Budget.

Committee Resolved to note the revised 2018/19 budget which will be recommended by Finance and General Purposes Committee to Full Council.

38 Performance update

The Town Clerk presented the format of the reporting framework discussed at Full Council. The table outlines the amenities projects and progress to date. It was proposed to present this at each meeting to provide an update.

It was also suggested that these reports could be added to the new website and sit under the committee section with the budget for these.

Committee resolved to note the performance reporting arrangements.

39 Community Grant Application

Committee considered the following applications:

Place of Welcome at Ark Community Church

The Community Church have applied for a grant of £100 towards a festive lunch for the people that use a volunteer run coffee morning at the Church. The group has expanded, with people interacting and making new friends within the community as well as getting people out of their homes to socialise more.

The committee are keen to support the group but would need to fund either equipment or services to support the good work that is being carried out at the Church. The Committee agreed to ask Councillor Mosson to speak to the group and ask Town Council Officers to give them support to work on a revised proposal.

Committee resolved to defer the grant application so that a more long term project can be delivered to support the group with their aims.

Banners Gate Neighbourhood Forums Newsletter “Gatepost”

The Forum applied for a grant to fund the increasing cost of the local newsletter which goes out to 2,450 homes, community halls and other venues in the area. Volunteers deliver the newsletter and it provides information from local ward Councillors directly to residents.

Committee agreed to approve the grant to Banners Gate Neighbourhood Forum in recognition of the hard work and commitment the group make in delivering this newsletter on a regular basis.

The Friends of Mossy Bank

The Friends of Mossy Bank applied for a grant to help set up the group whose aims are to enhance Mossy Bank for the benefit of the whole community who use it. The grant will be used on gardening equipment, notice board, printer, stationary and gardening gloves, high vis vests and litter pickers.

The Friends of Jones Wood have offered to mentor this young group and provide advice on best practices they followed when establishing themselves. It was also suggested that the group come back to the Town Council following discussions with Jones Wood and revise their application where required. Costs for some equipment for example, provided in the grant application appeared to be quite high and there might be more cost effective solutions. Town Council Officers can also help with reviewing costs where required.

Committee resolved to award £600 to the Friends of Mossy Bank with the outstanding balance being deferred until a later date to be reconsidered once advice and support has been given.

40 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The following agenda item, subject to agenda item 32 will was heard with the Public and Press excluded.

a) Floral Scheme 2018

In order to ensure that the floral scheme for 2018 is value for money, the Town Council conducted a review and benchmarking examination of best practice in the area by other local authorities and Business Improvement Districts in the city. Three providers (who supply to other local authorities and councils) were contacted with details of our specification and quantities so that comparisons to the current cost of the scheme and service could be made and assessed.

The final decision on the supplier was based on best value for money taking into consideration the price, the all-inclusive service provision, that there were no additional infrastructure or hardware costs and that the plants are grown locally in Sutton Coldfield.

Committee resolved to recommend to Full Council that Birmingham City Council be commissioned for the supply, install and maintenance of the floral features for 2018.

Committee resolved to approve that the Assistant Town Clerk be given delegated authority to work up a scheme for the additional enhancements around the town within budget, in consultation with the Sutton Coldfield in Bloom working party.

The next Amenities, Leisure & Community Service Committee meeting has been scheduled for 17th January 2018 at the Town Hall, Royal Sutton Coldfield

Meeting Closed 20:45pm

Signed as a correct record

Signed.....

Date.....