



Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Meeting

Thursday 2nd November 2017

Bishop Vesey School

7pm

Present

Cllrs Pears, Allan, Allen, Bennett, Ellis, Griffin, Hewett, Horrocks, Ives, Long, Okello, Mosson, Parry, Passey, Perks, Pocock, Puri, K Ward, S Ward and Wood.

In Attendance

Olive O'Sullivan –Town Clerk, Mary Watkins – Finance Assistant, Andrew Tucker – Consultant and Jenny Proctor – PR and Communications.

There were 15 members of the public and one member of the press present.

Members of the public were invited to ask questions. The following points were raised:

Concerns about growing traffic issues around Bishop Vesey school. Cllr D Allan confirmed that all planning applications considered by the Planning and Highways Committee were considered in an impartial way.

Details around the number of items in the strategic plan that had been delivered and if the plan would be updated to include each items status and details of their expenditure. A full written formal response was requested.

Questions around the structure of the Council and whether budgets should be devolved down the each Ward and controlled by local Councillors.

One resident expressed his extreme disappointment at the cancellation of Boldmere's annual lights celebration and asked Council to reconsider the Amenities Committees decision to reject Boldmere Futures Partnerships Community Grant application. The Town Clerk confirmed the procedure to be followed for Council to reconsider a decision made by a Committee and advised that the decision had not been called in. It was confirmed that following the Committee meeting the Town Clerk met with the Chairman of the Boldmere Futures Partnership and Boldmeres Trading Association to discuss the application. During that meeting it was acknowledged that the event had a significant shortfall in funding (around £10,000 - £12,000) that could not be raised in time for the event.

Clarification was sought around the existing traffic enforcement provision around schools in Sutton Coldfield. The Town Clerk agreed to seek clarification from Birmingham City Council so that the additional 10 hours a week funded by Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council can be measured as additional provision.

Zoe Toft from FOLIO reported that their next event 'a very prickly history of Sutton Park' was due to take place at 2:15pm on Tuesday 28th November.

Another resident asked Council to consider a permanent central venue for Council meetings to make it easier for residents to plan their attendance.

The Town Clerk read out two questions that had been sent to her prior to the meeting by residents that were unable to attend.

- The first asked why Councilor Hodivala had stated that all appropriate options and processes were followed when procuring 2017 florals when the Town Clerk acknowledges an error was made and for confirmation that Council Members are now fully aware of the financial regulations.



The Town Clerk confirmed that she will address these questions during agenda item 81.

- The second raised issues around crime in Boldmere, a lack of general maintenance of green areas and disappointment at the cancellation of Boldmere lights event. The resident asked where his tax contribution has been spent.

The Town Clerk advised that Boldmere and the whole of Sutton Coldfield has benefitted from summer florals, festive lights and play equipment amongst other things.

71 Apologies For Absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllrs Cairns, Hodivala, Jenkins and Mackey.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.

72 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor updated Council on his recent attendances to the Business Investment District (BID) Expo on Saturday the 30th September, En-Pointe dance academy prize giving, Artlands Projects awards, Wylde Green Rotary club, Sweet the dessert shop birthday celebrations and CLOC's musical Carousel. It was also reported that the Mayor's Challenge had received a good response with 22 schools successfully applying for grants. The Deputy Mayor reported his visits to YMCA K-Kat Youth Club, Jones Wood and bulb planting around Sutton Coldfield.

73 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Long, Pocock and Puri all declared non-pecuniary interests as members of the Boldmere Futures Partnership.

74 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved to exclude members of the public and press during discussion of item 86.

75 Minutes of the Last Meeting

It was acknowledged that the date on the footer of the circulated minutes was incorrect, this has now been amended.

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council held on Tuesday 26th September 2017.

76 Matters Arising

None reported

77 Minutes of Committees

a) Planning and Highways

Resolved to note the minutes of the Planning and Highway committee held on 3rd October 2017.

b) Amenities, Leisure and Community Services

Cllr Parry advised that further information has now been provided about Boldmere Future Partnership's surplus (item 30) which identified them as earmarked for other purposes. She asked if the minutes could be updated with information to reflect this. Cllr Pocock asked that the minutes include the full criteria that community grants are assessed against and the grounds for the decision made. The Town Clerk advised that the minutes could be amended and recirculated to the Amenities Committee for approval at their next meeting.

Cllr Long asked why the festive lights budget allocation had been discussed when considering Boldmere Future Partnerships Community Grant application and why the Committee hadn't considered the grant be allocated from Vesey funds rather than all four wards, if more appropriate. The Town Clerk replied that the Committee could only consider the information that had been supplied on the application. No representatives from Boldmere Future Partnership had contacted the office to discuss their application or attended the Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee meeting. The festive lights budget had been discussed as part of the application was for funding of a Christmas tree, decorations and lights.

Resolved to note the minutes of Amenities, Leisure and Community Services committee held on 12th October 2017.

c) Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr S Ward presented the minutes from the Committee.

Resolved to propose to the remuneration panel that Councillor allowances are increased in line with inflation.

In response to a question by Cllr Pocock, Cllr S Ward confirmed that any approved Key Performance Indicators would be reviewed and evolve and adapt over time.

Resolved to approve the Key Performance Indicators.

78 Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

The Town Clerk reported that Birmingham City Council had advised that repair work had now been completed and they are now looking at options to transfer the Town Hall to a trust. The Town Council working party have met with SCART, who have successfully managed the Town Hall over the last year and had expressed their support for them to develop a longer term strategy for the future of the Town Hall.

79 Sutton Coldfield Library

No update.

80 Sutton Coldfield Town Centre

Andrew Tucker asked council to consider the need for specialist advice and support for the Town Council in relation to major planned changes in the Town Centre.

Resolved to note the report.



The Mayor advised that as per standing orders 1a, agenda item 81 would be considered after agenda item 82.

82 Document Review

The Town Clerk advised an incorrect version of the Media Communications Protocol had been circulated with the agenda. The protocol was amended following discussions by the Finance and General Purposes committee.

Resolved to approve the Corporate Governance Policy and Code.

Resolved to approve the Media Communications Protocol with amendments (attached).

Resolved to approve the Code of Conduct.

Resolved to approve the Granting of Dispensations by the Town Clerk.

81 Procurement of Summer Florals 2017

The Town Clerk addressed the questions raised during public question time.

It was acknowledged that an administrative oversight had been made when considering the 2017 floral scheme. This resulted in Birmingham City Council being engaged without a resolution waiving the financial regulations. The Town Clerk reported that this was a technical oversight that did not affect the outcome as the reasons behind the appointment were discussed by Committee but not minuted. When the error was brought to the Town Clerk's attention, sometime after the discussions, the Council's internal auditor confirmed that retrospective approval would be the most appropriate way to correct it.

The Town Clerk confirmed that there was no requirement to go to tender as the value of the contract was under that of the European procurement threshold and that as waiving of the financial regulations had taken place several times since the florals that Councillors are now fully aware of the process.

Resolved to retrospectively approve that the procurement process for three quotes, as set out in the Financial regulations, be waived due to the partnership approach with Birmingham City Council on their property, in respect of the 2017 summer florals.

83 Accounts for Payment

- i) In response to Councillor questions further clarification was given around several payments; £35,853.91 was for resurfacing of Rectory Park entrance and car park, £3,752.65 was for 2 additional PC's as well as printer consumables and £2,100 for Bondfield Marketing was for various aspects of Marketing, Communication and Social Media support. The Town Clerk confirmed that she would provide further details of this to members.

Resolved that Council approve the payments as per the schedule.

Resolved that Cllrs C Ives and S Ward to complete the online banking authorisation for payments throughout the month.



- li) Members to note payments made since the last Full Council meeting using delegated powers.

Resolved that Council note the payments.

84 Use of Town Clerk's Delegated Powers

The Town Clerk informed Council that she had approved:

- Financial support for the British Legion to ensure that Remembrance Sunday events could take place. The Town Clerk advised that this was no longer needed as Birmingham City Council will now fund the traffic regulation order.
- Costs for a wraparound Newsletter due to be published in December 2017.

85 Date of Next Meeting

28th November 2017 – Town Hall. Due to a training requirement, this meeting may start at 6pm.

13th December 2017 – Town Hall, 7pm.

The public section of the meeting ended at 8:32pm and the Councillors took a short rest break.

The meeting resumed at 8:42pm.

86 Exclusion of the Press and Public

a) Confidential Report

Council to consider the appointment of consultants to provide dedicated Urban Design Advice in relation to key emerging regeneration / redevelopment opportunities in the town centre. Regular progress reports will be made to Finance and General Purposes Committee and the appointment reviewed after six months.

Councillors Hewett and Perks left during this item.

Resolved that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to make an appointment subject to a satisfactory interview by the Staffing Working Group.

The meeting ended at 9:10pm.