

Amenities, Leisure and Community Services
Thursday 12th October 2017
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
7pm

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan – Town Clerk, Becki Leonard, Assistant Town Clerk (Projects and Community Development), Cllr Horrocks as non-voting observer.

There were no members of the public or press present.

23 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Ellis and K Ward

24 Declarations of Interest

None declared

25 Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

26 Matters Arising

Summer Florals

The Clerk advised that she will be submitting a report to the 2 November 2017 Town Council meeting re the process to commission the summer florals.

Community Defibrillators

The Clerk advised that Birmingham City Council has agreed to be the host partner for community defibrillators at Walmley and Wylde Green Community Centres from the current budget allocation.

Community Planning

The Clerk advised that Compass Support will be organising a workshop with Councillors nominated to work on the Community Planning pilot project. Further details of this will be issued in due course.

Festive lights

In response to the question raised at Full Council in relation to a tree for Boldmere as part of the Town Council's Festive Lights Scheme, the Clerk advised that it would not be possible to provide a tree as part of the festive lights programme funded by the Town Council. The Project Manager for

the Festive Lights had advised that a tree pit would be required for a tree on the public highway and that it would not be possible to have a free standing tree or a tree placed in a planter.

Resolved to note the updates.

Councillor Ives arrived 7:10pm

27 Playgrounds

The Assistant Town Clerk updated on the consultation carried out on two playgrounds. Calder Drive received 1 response which was supportive. Princess Alice received 9 responses with 6 supportive and 3 against.

Resolved to agree to move ahead with the playground improvements at Calder Drive and Princess Alice Parks.

The Assistant Clerk discussed with the committee the location of the proposed meeting point at Withy Hill Park, presented at the last meeting. It was agreed that the location was far enough away from residents to continue with the consultation. The consultation will replicate the method used for the other parks, for consistency and no leaflet drop is required.

Resolved to agree to start consultation at Withy Hill Park following the process used for the other parks.

The Assistant Clerk updated the committee on the Trim Trail for New Hall Valley Park. The Landscape Practice Group has added an additional piece of equipment and signage to the original design. The provisional quote is now for £18,557. The equipment will be spread out along the path between the two play areas. The Chairman asked for a further update on timescales for the equipment

Resolved to agree to the additions to the design and increased budget with the additional budget to be funded from the playgrounds budget.

28 Bloom update

The Assistant Clerk informed the committee of progress on the Bloom Project. 40,000 gateway spring bulbs were planted this week which will provide a welcoming view to visitors to the town. A press release has been issued with photos of the planting. There's a planned drive around the town to look at the route next week, to include a school, Sutton Park, New Hall Valley and a number of other key sites. A new bedding scheme has been agreed this week with Birmingham City Council which sits in their grounds maintenance contract. We have agreed a more attractive and interesting scheme this year. Work is under way to finalise the details for the summer florals which includes hanging baskets, barrier planters and containers. The Mayor's Challenge has gone very

well with over 20 schools participating in an environmental improvement grant. A further update will be provided at the next meeting.

Resolved to note the update

29 **Committee Budget 2018/19**

Committee recommended that the following budget headings would more appropriately sit within the Planning and Highways budget:

- Environmental Services
- Cultural and Heritage

It was also recommended that £70,000 from the community grants budget be moved to the Community Planning Contingency budget.

Resolved to recommend to the Finance and General Purposes committee the above changes to the budget for 2018/19.

30 **Community Grant Application**

The Chairman informed the committee that two applications were late and that in future any applications which do not meet the published deadlines will not be considered unless there is an urgent requirement to do so, adding that Councillors should have at least a week in advance of meetings to review the applications.

The Clerk advised that Committee should not recommend funding for any activity/ projects that would be delivered in the new financial year until Full Council approves the budget for 2018/19.

Friends of Hill Hook Local Nature reserve requested £4,000 - £2,000 towards the cost of the Ecologist provided by the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust that the Friends of Hill Hook work in partnership with and £2,000 towards the work to maintain the paths and boardwalks.

The Clerk noted an amendment to the summary table “and to perform specialised work e.g. chain sawing work requiring trained staff.” Committee considered this application and their previous application and agreed that they were unable to fund staffing costs on an ongoing basis. However they were supportive of the improvements to access routes.

Committee recommended to approve a grant of £2,000 towards the pathway improvements.

Our Place Community Hub submitted an application for £11,730 to cover additional staffing hours for the mentoring scheme. The mentoring service provided by the Our Place Community Hub has

been running for six years. Committee considered this application and the previous application for funding.

Committee recommended to reject the application on the grounds that the Community Grant is not designed to meet an organisations on going revenue costs and in particular staffing costs.

The National Service Association (RAF) applied to celebrate the RAF 100th Year via a celebratory lunch with entertainment.

Committee previously considered an application from the Association and recommended that it be deferred. The Association was advised to develop a revised proposal that demonstrated wider community benefits for the funding, e.g. an intergenerational project.

Committee recommended to reject the application as it did not meet the criteria, aims or objectives of the Community Grant scheme.

Boldmere Future Partnership submitted an application for £9,400 for two festivals in Boldmere, a Christmas Festival (Festive Lights Switch on Event) and a Summer Festival. Committee noted that they had supported the 2017 summer festival via a community grant of £4,830. As the summer festival is in the new financial year, Committee considered the Christmas Festival only.

Committee noted that the Boldmere Future Partnership currently has a surplus from which the Christmas Festival could be funded.

Committee recommended to reject the application as the Town Council has already approved £68,780 for festive lights, of which £24,356 is committed for the festive lights in the Vesey Ward, which includes the festive lights for Boldmere.

The next Amenities, Leisure & Community Service Committee meeting has been scheduled for 14th November at Falcon Lodge Methodist Church.

Meeting Closed 20:45pm

Signed as a correct record

Signed.....

Date.....