



Thursday 13th December 2017

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

7pm

Present

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

In Attendance

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

There were 13 members of the public and one member of the press present.

Members of the public were invited to ask questions and make comments. These included:

A suggestion that the Town Council take an innovative approach to budgeting by carrying out a community budgeting exercise and let residents decide where their money should be spent.

A request that the Town Council support the public consultation planned by Transport West Midlands in the new year.

Cllr Pears confirmed that Sutton Park Advisory Committee had discussed the proposed car parking charges with Birmingham City Council (BCC) last week and reported that BCC are keen to consult with residents and were looking at other commercial options to generate funds. The Town Clerk agreed to contact BCC to obtain planned dates for the consultation.

In response to a question about the Summer in Sutton budget for 2018 being better utilised on a more tangible and long lasting project, Cllr S Ward confirmed that the budget for next year was significantly lower than last year and a full proposal would be presented to Council to consider in due course.

Cllr D Allan responded to a question on why Four Oaks Road had been identified for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). He reported that the road had been subject to lots of complaints and that a TRO had been identified by BCC engineers as a possible solution. The Town Clerk confirmed the process will include a full business case being presented to the relevant transport bodies by the BCC Highways following an informal consultation. If approved there will then be a 21 day statutory consultation to review the proposed scheme.

The Town Clerk confirmed that a customer services policy would be presented to Finance and General Purposes Committee in February that will include set timescales for responses from all correspondence.

Zoe Toft reported that FOLIO Sutton Coldfield had submitted paperwork to apply for CIC status for its trading arm and that once completed they would be able to sign the lease with Birmingham City Council.

100 Apologies For Absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllr Hodivala, Griffin and Mosson.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.



101 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor updated Council on his attendance at the Cancer Support Centre's Christmas Fayre, the opening Hortons Motorcycle shop and Friends of Jones Wood Christmas Fayre. The Mayor is looking forward to presenting certificates at John Wilmot school next week.

102 Declarations of Interest

Cllr S Ward declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 106a as a resident of a road subject to a traffic measure approved by the Planning and Highways Committee.

103 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved to exclude the press and public during discussion of agenda item 115.

104 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council held on Tuesday 28th November 2017.

105 Matters Arising

None reported

106 Minutes of Committees

a) Planning and Highways

Resolved to note the minutes of the Planning and Highway committee held on 5th December 2017.

b) Finance and General Purposes

The Town Clerk confirmed that projects not identified in the Public Realm Improvements report could be put forward to the appropriate committee and, subject to approval, added to the scheme.

Resolved to approve the Public Realm Improvements report as a basis for funding and seek to progress works over the next year to secure improvements to the public realm in the various centers mentioned as outlined in the report.

Resolved to approve that the report be sent to the City Council formally seeking their consent to the implementation of a phased programme of works to be agreed between the respective authorities at the earliest opportunity.

Resolved to approve that future reports on overall progress be presented to Finance and General Purposes Committee with individual projects being reported to the relevant service Committee as appropriate.

Cllr Long raised some concerns around overhead costs, budgets for WiFi across Sutton Coldfield, and Summer in Sutton. Cllr Pocock declared that he would not support the budget as it was too centralised.

Resolved that the budget for 2018/19 be approved.



- 107 Partnership Working Between Birmingham City Council (BCC) and Parish/Town Councils**
Resolved to note the report.

108 Notice of Motion

Submitted by Cllr Pocock on 7th December 2017. Seconded by Cllr Mackey.

Resolved that Council welcomes the recommendations of the BCC Scrutiny Report on Town and Parish Councils agreed by Full Council on 5th December 2017, which aim to develop better working relationships between BCC and RSCTC. We also welcome the fact that the report received unanimous support from across all three political parties represented on BCC, as a cross party agreement gives much greater confidence of success. This Council resolves to respond positively to the report in a similar vein, and will establish a cross-party negotiating team to take forward the offer from BCC to develop more constructive and effective working relationships.

109 Declaration of Precept 2018/19

Resolved that the Town Clerk be authorised to sign and serve a precept on Birmingham City Council in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Local Government act 1972 requiring the City Council to pay the Town Council the sum of £1,850,868 in respect of Council Tax for the Town during the financial year 2018/19.

110 Sutton Coldfield Town Centre

The report was presented by Andrew Tucker, consultant. After questions, Andrew confirmed that:

- the report would be shared with BCC, as they are a major stakeholder;
- it is a niche area of consultancy, as well as local circumstances regional and national retail trends must be considered.

Resolved to note the report.

111 Strategic Plan Progress Report

Resolved to note the report.

112 Accounts for Payment

Cllr Bennett raised questions around Bondfield Marketing. The Town Clerk confirmed that Bondfield Marketing work with associates and provide value for money. The Staffing Committee receive full reports on the work completed by consultants. Cllr Long asked for an update on their work to be shared with all Councillors and asked what steps had taken to ensure that residents that had not received the Observer last week had the opportunity to see the wrap around. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Observer was not routinely delivered to Falcon Lodge, so an additional £195 had been spent to get copies to the estate. The wrap has been shared on the website, social media and a copy would be provided by the Town Council on request.

Resolved that Council approve the payments as per the schedule.



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

Resolved that Council note the payments using delegated power since the last Full Council meeting.

113 Delegated Powers

None reported.

114 Date of Next Meeting

24th January 2017 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, 7pm.

The public session ended at 8:13pm and Councillors took a short comfort break.

The meeting resumed at 8:22pm.

115 Exclusion of the Press and Public

a) Confidential Report

Council to consider the commission of an authoritative retail study to influence future engagement on work linked to a new vision for the town centre.

Resolved to approve, subject to satisfactory interview, that Peter Shearman Associates be engaged to carry out a market review of the town centre at a cost of £6,600 from the Town Centre Plan budget.

The meeting ended at 8:45pm.