



Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Meeting

Tuesday 28th November 2017

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

7pm

Present

Cllrs Pears, Allan, Allen, Bennett, Cairns, Griffin, Hodivala, Hewett, Horrocks, Jenkins, Ives, Long, Okello, Mackey, Mosson, Parry, Passey, Perks, Pocock, S Ward and Wood.

In Attendance

Olive O'Sullivan –Town Clerk and Mary Watkins – Finance Assistant.

There were 10 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:

One resident had questions around the spend to Birmingham City Council and also questioned the need to engage a treasury management company. Cllr S Ward stated that the Fund Management company had expertise in the Local Authority sector and the Town Council has responsibility to safeguard public money.

A question was asked about the viability of purchasing Brassington Avenue site, so the Town Council could influence future development in the Town Centre regeneration. Cllr S Ward stated that the Town Council is a consultee and will actively engage via consultants.

The Mode Shift Stars scheme for schools was raised and the Town Clerk confirmed that a workshop with senior school and emergency service personnel was being arranged.

Zoe Toft reported that Friends Of Libraries In Our Sutton Coldfield (FOLIO) had officially been granted charity status and would be holding an event to make a Christmas wreath between 10am-2pm on Saturday 9th December.

Cllr Ives talked about World Aids Day on the 1st December and encouraged all to attend the Vigil in Birmingham Cathedral Square at 7pm.

87 Apologies For Absence

The Clerk had received apologies from Cllrs Ellis, Puri and K Ward.

Resolved to accept the apologies received.

88 Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor acknowledged the royal engagement announced yesterday and asked the Town Clerk to write a letter to Prince Harry and Meghan Markle to offer the Town Council's congratulations. The Mayor updated Council on his recent attendances to the Remembrance Sunday parade, tree planting in Sutton Park and the Volunteers Evening on 3rd November, an event that celebrated the contribution of local volunteers with speakers from the Lord Lieutenant's office and the Cancer Support Centre. The Deputy Mayor reported his visits to the topping out ceremony at Care Home UK's new home on Lichfield Road, John Willmott Schools remembrance service, Remembrance



Parade at Walmley, opening a new Lee Longlands warehouse in Minworth and Carers Day and the United Reform Church.

89 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Pears declared a pecuniary interest item 97 ii as his wife works at Highclare School. Cllrs Allan and Long both declared non-pecuniary interests in item 92 a, details of these interests are listed within the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee.

90 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council held on Thursday 2nd November 2017.

91 Matters Arising

None reported

92 Minutes of Committees

a) Planning and Highways

Resolved to note the minutes of the Planning and Highway committee held on 7th November 2017.

b) Amenities, Leisure and Community Services

Resolved to approve that Birmingham City Council be commissioned for the supply, install and maintenance of the floral features for 2018.

93 Sutton Coldfield Library

The Town Clerk advised that in July, Council had approved funding of £80,000 to Birmingham City Council (BCC) to keep Sutton Coldfield's town centre library open September 2017 and March 2018. BCC have confirmed that the lease for the 2nd floor is due to be signed in the next week and the library will need to close to allow building works to be completed. BCC have advised that the length of the closure is currently unknown and the Town Council will be informed once it has been confirmed.

94 Notice of Motion

Submitted by Cllr Long on 2nd November 2017.

Cllr Long outlined details around his motion:

- Not intended to replace the minutes as this is a signed record and summary of the proceedings.
- Not intended as live streaming, as this may not be suitable at this stage
- Intended as a public record so that everyone can access details of the full discussions that take place.
- Issues identified were: sourcing and purchase of good quality mic, identification of individual Councillors may not be clear, private and confidential agenda items will need to be excluded, technical challenges around the upload to website should be minimal.



- Benefits identified were: Councillors will be held accountable for their comments and more transparency.

The Town Clerk confirmed that Standing Orders Section 12 (e) would need amendment if this motion was approved.

Cllr Bennett seconded the motion and stated that anything that could improve communication and make meetings more open and accessible would be a positive move for the Council.

Cllr S Ward proposed an amendment to the motion to address some of the practicalities, this was seconded by Cllr Hodivala.

Resolved that the Town Council will publish audio recordings of all Full Council and Committee meetings on the Town Council website in order to promote transparency and accountability in the decision making process. It is recognised that this will raise Data Protection issues and require an amendment to the Council's Standing Orders. The Clerk is asked to ensure compliance with all policies and procedures and investigate technical requirements and costs before audio recordings are published on the web site.

95 **Notice of Motion**

Submitted by Cllr Wood on 14th November 2017.

Cllr Wood stated that the town's Royal status had recently been reaffirmed by the Government. The motion was seconded by Cllr Griffin.

It was confirmed that if approved the process would be a letter from the Town Clerk to the Boundary Commission.

Resolved that this Council urges the Boundary Commission to include " Royal " in the name of this Parliamentary constituency. We note that Royal Tunbridge Wells had the Royal prefix as part of its Parliamentary constituency name until the Parliamentary boundary was no longer contiguous with the ancient Royal Town. The boundary of Royal Sutton Coldfield exactly matches the ancient boundary of the Royal Town. We request that the same logic which previously led the Boundary Commission to grant the title " Royal " in the case of Tunbridge Wells should now apply in respect of the Royal Sutton Coldfield constituency.

96 **National Association of Local Council (NALC) Larger Councils Committee**

Resolved that Cllr Horrocks be nominated to stand for the NALC larger council committee elections.

97 **Accounts for Payment**

- i) Members to approve payments as per the schedule and to appoint two members to complete online banking authorisation for these and any further payments throughout the month.

Resolved that Council approve the payments as per the schedule.

Resolved that Cllrs Allan and Ives 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.

98 Delegated Powers

None reported.

99 Date of Next Meeting

13th December 2017 at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, 7pm.

The meeting ended at 7:48pm.

DRAFT