

Amenities, Leisure and Community Services

Wednesday 17th January 2018

Sutton Coldfield Town Hall

Present:

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

Cllrs S Ward, Perks and Horrocks (non-voting Councillors)

In Attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan – Town Clerk, Becki Leonard, Assistant Town Clerk (Projects and Community Development)

Public Gallery: There were 10 members of the public present.

There was one member of press present.

Public Questions:

Ian Hendry, District Commissioner outlined his grant application from the Scouts.

Vice Chairman, Councillor Ives of the committee opened the meeting in place of Chairman Cllr Hodivala as she was not present.

41 Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr Bennett and Cllr Ellis.

Committee resolved to note the apologies

42 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Perks although not a committee member declared a non-pecuniary interest in the grant application from Sutton Coldfield Scouts- East District as his children are member of this scout group and would be attend the event for which funding was sought.

Councillor Horrocks although not a committee member advised that although she did not have an interest to declare in the Sea Cadets in order for transparency she would leave the room for this discussion item as she is related to the person that submitted the application.

Councillor Hewett declared a non-pecuniary interest in the grant application from Sutton Coldfield Scouts as her children are members of this group and that she would therefore abstain from voting on this application.

Councillor Passey declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application for services for Autism.

Committee resolved to note the mentioned declarations of interest.

43 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Amenities, Leisure and Community Services held on Tuesday 14th November (previously circulated) be signed as a true record of the meeting.

44 Matters Arising

Defibrillators – Update by the Town Clerk

The Clerk advised that further work is required before locations within BCC Parks can be agreed.

Trim Trail Design and timescales – update by the Assistant Town Clerk

The Assistant Town Clerk updated on the trim trail outlining that construction work would start on site on 12th February and is estimated to take one week to complete.

Playground Enhancements – Update by the Assistant Town Clerk

The contractors start on site on 22nd January at Princess Alice Park (for 2-3 weeks) and then move to Calder Drive on 5th February which will be completed in just under a week.

Withy Hill Park – The initial design has been completed and consultation letters will be delivered to residents in the next few weeks. The consultation should be complete by the end of February.

Mere Green playground – Work has commenced on site and will take five weeks to complete (weather dependent).

Committee resolved to note the updates

45 Changing Places Toilet

Angela Henderson, Manager of the Gracechurch Centre presented the proposal for the changing places toilet at the centre.

Cllr Passey thanked Angela for developing this project adding that the facility would be a real benefit to Sutton Coldfield. Cllr Ward thanked M and G Real Estate for offering to meet the ongoing maintenance costs.

Committee resolved to recommend to Full Council that:

- A) That M&G Real Estate is partnered with to provide a Changing Places Toilet facility at the Gracechurch Centre.
- B) That a one-off grant of £40,000 is made to M and G Real Estate towards the cost of installing the facility
- C) That Financial Regulations 11.1 (d) relating to contracts be waived as it was not possible to identify any alternative partners who could provide an appropriate space within the Town Centre for the installation and ongoing maintenance of this key facility.

46 Destination Play Area in Sutton Park

Bob Churn presented on a proposal on the scope for a destination play area at Town Gate. He outlined 3 possible phases of the works:

- Phase one - £150-£180,000 – Consolidation and improvement - existing DDA traditional play area retained and large new climbing pieces added with ongoing revenue maintenance costed in
- Phase two - £50-60,000 – Environmental and Educational Play - New feature link, footbridge and causeway or stepping stones to take in the natural stream flowing through the area
- Phase three - £40,000 – That something extra... A splash zone, Outdoor Gym

Thought needs to be given to the additional use this would bring to the park and the access issues of more people attending, Bob added.

Cllr Hodivala joined the meeting – 7:30pm and took over the role of Chairman from Cllr Ives.

Councillors were then given the opportunity to ask any questions;

Cllr Hewett asked about the flood risk with phase three and it should be taken in to consideration. Bob confirmed that it is right on the edge of the flood plane but would make sure to minimise risk. Cllr Hewett also asked about the café and that if improvements were being made then this would need to be looked at as part of the improvement plans by BCC, as in its current state its not fit for purpose. Bob confirmed that Town Gate as a whole would need to be examined as part of this process.

Cllr Passey asked about the cost of the sculptures shown in the pictures in phase two. Bob didn't have any confirmed costs but will find out, mentioning that they are quite expensive.

Cllr Ward also mentioned the need for toilet facilities to be improved by BCC if the park was to become a destination park and attract many more people. He agreed that the café would also need modernisation to match the enhancements and offer to the general public. He also suggested that the river would need dredging further up-stream to enhance the flow before completing phase two. BCC would need to look at maintenance of it also. Bob confirmed that the water quality is good in the brook and would take on board the feedback.

Cllr Ward also asked about the commercial element of the park i.e. the splash zone. In other areas this was free (Walsall given as an example). Bob responded that BCC has not yet delivered something like this so more work would need to be conducted.

The Town Clerk, via the Chairman asked about the commercial advert that recently went out advertising for opportunities in the park and when the outcome of this exercise would be made public. Bob hasn't been involved in this project so could not provide any further details.

The Town Clerk also asked about the costs for working up a proposal for phase 1 and 2. Bob confirmed that it would be approx £5,000 for a site survey and working up the options, with a timescale of 4-6 weeks.

If a master plan was drawn up via a feasibility study for 3 phases, Bob confirmed the cost would be £7,000 approx. This would include public consultation which Bob suggested would be on an outline plan rather than going to the general public with nothing to view.

Bob did confirm that it would be more cost effective to do all the work at one stage as contractors would be on site once and bulk materials etc.

A full consultation would cost extra Bob confirmed. However, this could be reviewed as there aren't as many residents in the area and perhaps a single meeting of interested parties could be arranged.

It was agreed that in order to move forward, a detailed proposal for committee would be required.

Committee resolved to recommended:

- a) To approve that Birmingham City Council Landscape Practice Group be commissioned to carry out a feasibility study on the development of a destination play area at Town Gate to the value of £7,000.
- b) To Finance and General Purposed Committee that budget underspend ear marked for play provision from the current financial year be reserved along with the 2018/19 allocation for play towards the cost of a destination play area.

47 Sutton Coldfield in Bloom update

The Assistant Town Clerk provided a report detailing the work programme for the Town Council's entry into Heart of England in Bloom. The Terms of Reference for the working party was presented followed by a summary of locations for the judging route, an outline of projects to be further developed, a summary of the garden competition and information on the floral scheme. A launch event will be planned for March/April and the Town Council will be supporting the Great British Clean Up, a national campaign on 2-4th March 2018.

Cllr Hewett commented that it would be really good if the scouts could get involved in the Clean up/litter picks.

Standing Orders suspended – Ian Hendry confirmed that the scouts were already involved in an event with Cllr Wood and would be happy to get involved in Sutton Coldfield in Bloom.

Standing orders reinstated.

Committee resolved to approve:

- i) The Terms of Reference for the working party
- ii) The locations to be highlighted on the judging route
- iii) The outlined projects to be further developed
- iv) The Sutton Coldfield in Bloom Garden Competition
- v) Detail of the summer floral scheme
- vi) The proposals for the launch event
- vii) Details of the Great British Spring Clean-up Project

The Chairman wished to note the support from the Scouts and give thanks to them.

48 Birmingham Pride 2018

Councillor Ives outlined his report detailing plans for a Sutton Coldfield Town Council float for this year at the Pride event.

Committee resolved to approve the allocation of £1,000 from the Social Inclusion budget towards the cost of the activity from the 2018/19 budget.

49 Performance Update

Committee noted the performance to date against the Amenities, Leisure and Community Services objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan.

50 Community Grant applications

Committee resolved to note the returned funds of £2347.76 from Wylde Green Neighbourhood Forum

Committee considered the following applications:

The Gap – Youth Work

The funding would be used towards the running costs of the organisation who work directly with young people and support them with not only social activity but support those who are NEET (not in employment, education or training). The Gap would like to ensure that the provision of a youth venue in the town centre continues.

Committee approved the grant of £3000 towards the work of The Gap who do much outreach work with young people in the town.

Rectory Amateur Boxing Club

The funding would be used for jigsaw matting on the floor gym to make the surface more suitable for training (none slip and prevent impact injury). The club was set up in 2007 to promote the sport of amateur boxing and offer a healthy lifestyle choice and build up self confidence of young people in the town. The club started off with a grant from West Midlands Police and has gone from strength to strength.

Committee approved the grant of £4780 for improved matting at the boxing club in recognition of the approach and effort they have put into developing the centre. They highlighted the need to signpost more young people to the service and promote the club more. A link to be made between Compass currently working at Falcon Lodge and the club for future referrals.

Sutton Coldfield Scouts – East District

The grant would be used to fund clothing for the International Jamboree and a burner barbeque which will be used for many years to come. The uniform will consist of two t-shirts per scout and two polo shirts per leader plus one hoodie each. This would include the SCTC logo embroidered on the front left chest. Branded clothing is deemed an important part of the kit at the event as everyone wears different uniforms to represent their own group/area.

Suspended standing orders.

Ian Hendry provided information on the frequency of the Jamboree.

Reinstated standing orders.

Cllr Hewett abstained from voting.

The Chairman asked that the Scouts come back and present to the committee on the jamboree later in the year.

Committee approved the grant of £3380 for the attendance of Sutton Coldfield Scouts at the International Jamboree this year in recognition of the town's involvement in the scouting movement over time and the civic pride created as a result of representing the town.

Somewhere over the Spectrum

The grant would support girls with Autism and their families. The group meet on a monthly basis at Duke Street Church and aim to allow girls to socialise with each other and participate in fun activities. The group would like to enhance their regular craft activities and create a library of sensory equipment for the girls to use and trial before buying themselves.

The Chairman outlined that two-thirds of the girls come from Sutton Coldfield.

Cllr Passey discussed whether the Autism (social inclusion) budget would be better placed to fund this type of work and link in to the good work being carried out by Autism West Midlands. She added that there is an opportunity for partnership working to help the group move forward and benefit the community.

Standing orders suspended – to ask the group whether they wanted to continue with the application or explore other options with the Town Council. They confirmed that they would have to ask their own committee first before looking at other pathways, so would like to continue with the application.

The Clerk advised that the application could be considered and that a longer term strategy could be developed once the group is established.

Standing Orders reinstated.

Committee approved a grant of two thirds of the grant applied for as some children come from areas outside of Sutton Coldfield. £537.28 was approved and split between all wards.

The Trinity Trefoil Guild

The grant would be used to develop the quality of the speakers at this ex girl guiding movement for adults. This in turn will hopefully encourage more people to join. There are currently 18 members who pay a yearly fee of £26.

Committee approved the grant of £240 to be split amongst all four wards.

En Pointe Dance Academy

The grant would fund costs associated with the organisation of a dance show and the investment needed in costumes.

Standing orders suspended.

The chairman clarified with the applicant what status the Academy held. It currently isn't set up as a charity / voluntary organisation. However, all funds are ploughed back into the Academy. They plan fundraising events and regularly do dance displays in the local hospital and care homes. They have had some successes also with children gaining places in the Royal Ballet and scholarships.

Standing orders reinstated

Councillors suggested the group might want to consider an alternative form of governance to a sole trader. In the current form they would not be able to support the grant. It was therefore agreed that Councillors were willing to work with the Academy and review the setup and potentially get the applicant to reapply for a grant in the near future. As the group is not currently constituted they are not eligible for community grant funding.

Committee resolved to defer the application and arrange a meeting to discuss possible ways forward for the Academy.

Councillor Horrocks left the meeting.

Sutton Coldfield Sea Cadets Roof Repair

The grant would fund much needed repairs to their equipment store.

Cllr Perks left the meeting at 8:45pm

Standing orders were suspended to ask the Sea cadets further questions. They confirmed that 90% of their attendance is from Sutton Coldfield.

Standing orders reinstated.

Committee recommended to approve to Full Council the grant of £16,200 to support the application from the available funds left within the grant pot, and is to be apportioned between the four wards.

Councillor Horrocks re-entered the meeting.

Boldmere Neighbourhood Forum

The grant would fund a new community digital sign located in the Age Concern Communittea café hub on Boldmere High Street.

Standing order suspended.

Ray Beech from Boldmere Neighbourhood Forum confirmed that the board would be available for the whole community to use including the Police and Town Council if they had special messages, news and event details to get out to the community. Liaison with many groups has already identified the need.

Standing orders reinstated.

Committee approved the grant of £4,063.20 for the community digital notice board which will increase communication between residents and local groups, in a location which is already well utilised by community.

Communita Hub

Funding would be used to create a more accessible door to the Communita café hub in Boldmere and create a new outside space for various community groups.

Committee approved the grant of £5,02.97 for enhancements to this community hub.

A summary of the remaining budget

Ward	2017-18 Budget	Budget available	Remaining budget (after January round)
Four Oaks	25,000	£15,489.75	£9,406
New Hall	25,000	£10,997.51	£6,014
Trinity	25,000	£5,739.75	£1,965
Vesey	25,000	£24,959.75	£0

51 Future Meeting Dates

Committee resolved to agree to schedule an additional meeting on 12th June 2018.

The next Amenities, Leisure & Community Service Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday 14th March 2018 at the Town Hall, Royal Sutton Coldfield

Meeting Closed 21:00pm

Signed as a correct record

Signed.....

Date.....