Strategy and Resources Meeting
Tuesday 18th September 2018
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
7pm

Present:
Cllrs Cairns, Cooper, Mackey, Parmar, Pocock, Raut, S Ward and Wood.

In Attendance:
Olive O'Sullivan –Town Clerk, Mary Watkins – Finance Assistant and Jenny Procter - Consultant.

There were 2 members of the public and no press present.

Zoe Toft chair of FOLIO Sutton Coldfield urged Councillors to participate in the consultation (item 37) and noted that several of the key priorities of the Council aligned with FOLIO's aims and objectives.

In response to a comment around Sprint, Cllr Ward advised that an official Town Council response would be discussed at the meeting scheduled for 25th September 2018.

32 Apologies for Absence

None reported.

33 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cooper declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 37 as a trustee of FOLIO.

34 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved that due to the confidential nature of the business of item 47 under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s3, members of the public and press will be excluded during discussion of this item.

35 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Under item 25, Steve Hollingworth had stated that the Sutton Park car park income made a profit of £20,000 annually. Cllr Cooper stated that this differed from the figures stated at Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee meeting by Cllr Pears. It was agreed that the Town Clerk ask Mr Hollingworth for clarification on the income and running costs of parking at Sutton Park along with further detail of how the Town Ranger costs could be apportioned to Sutton Park.

Resolved to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee held on Wednesday 11th July 2018.

36 Matters Arising

The Town Clerk updated committee on:

WiFi across Sutton

Since the town centre public Wifi scheme has gone live there has been 1,400 sign ups and 400 of those sign ups had subscribed to the Town Council e-newsletter.

Sutton Park

The Town Clerk has written to the Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council (BCC) regarding the Sutton Park motion approved by Council in June 2018. The letter has been acknowledged but there has been no further correspondence.

Town Centre Partnership

Letters were sent to partners on the 25th July 2018.

Sprint Buses

Full Council will consider a response to the proposals at Full Council on 25th September 2018.

Working Together In Birmingham Neighbourhood

A response to BCC's draft policy statement will be considered at Full Council on 25th September 2018.

Transport Study Model

All Councillors have been Invited to a workshop on Thursday for discussion of the Transport Study Model.

37 Library Consultation

Councillors thanked FOLIO for being actively involved and engaged with the community. Councillors had some questions for Zoe Toft around the current use of the library.

Resolved to suspend standing orders to allow Zoe Toft to respond.

Zoe Toft confirmed that the library ran digital inclusion sessions for older people and that FOLIO met BCC officers and fed back any responses about the service that falls outside of FOLIOs remit.

Standing orders were reinstated.

The Town Clerk confirmed that a formal response from Council would be considered by Full Council next week and urged all Councillors to forward their comments on the consultation to the Town Clerk who would compile a summary report.

38 Conclusion of Audit 2017/18

Resolved to note the completed 2017/18 external audit.

39 Internal Auditor 2018/19

Resolved to appoint Auditing Solutions Ltd to complete the 2018/19 Internal Audit.

40 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Town Clerk confirmed that all CIL money would need to be spent within five years of the transfer of the monies from Birmingham City Council.

Resolved to create an earmarked reserve for Community Infrastructure Levy receipts.

41 Budget Consultation

Cllr Ward asked committee to approve the start of the process of reviewing the strategic priorities of the Town Council as set out in the Strategic Report 2017-19. The Town Clerk confirmed that consultation would continue in the spring of 2019 and that the Strategic Plan could be a key agenda item at the Annual Town Meeting could in May 2019.

Cllr Pocock asked if the public would be offered a draft budget to feedback on; the Town Clerk confirmed that a full participatory budgeting exercise would not be achievable before November and that a survey asking for feedback on the broad headlines in the Strategic Plan, would help inform the budget setting for 2019-20, which Is due to start in November.

Resolved to give the Town Clerk delegated authority to carry out a consultation on the future strategic priorities of the Town Council.

42 Concerts in The Park

Cllr Mackey asked if attendees that had visited the events In 2017 but not 2018 could be consulted to see why they had not returned. The Town Clerk confirmed that due to GDPR, some data was lost and year one attendees could not be identified.

Cllr Pocock stated that he agreed that the Town Council should contribute and facilitate Concerts in the Park but should not be leading the event as it leaves the Council responsible for any gaps between projected income and actual expenditure.

Cllr Ward stated that the income and expenditure budget was based on the best information available at that time and Cllr Mackey urged Committee to see that Concerts in the Park Is not a commercial event but a community event offering something for the community to enjoy.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council approval of a virement of £20,000 from Something for everyone events to Concerts in the Park.

43 Risk Register Review

Cllr Mackey asked for safety at meetings to be added to the register.

Resolved to note the risk register review.

44 Strategic Plan Progress Report

Cllr Wood asked for further training for councillors will regards to auditing and financial planning to be arranged.

Resolved to note the strategic plan progress report.

45 Bank Reconciliations

Resolved to note the bank reconciliations for July and August 2018.

46 Date of Next Meeting

20th November 2018.

The public section of the meeting ended at 8:24pm.

31 Exclusion of the Press and Public

a) Office Accommodation

Committee were informed that an approach had been made by a local organisation who is interested in purchasing accommodation that the Town Council could potentially use in the future.

Resolved that Committee delegate authority to the Town Clerk to continue discussions and dialogue around the possibility of the proposal in terms of the future accommodation for the Council and to proceed with any negotiations on a future lease should the opportunity arise.

The meeting ended at 8:36pm