

BRACKNELL TOWN COUNCIL
STRATEGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
10th November 2015

Present: Chairman Cllr: Chris Turrell.
Cllrs: Paul Bidwell, Gill Birch, Sanjeev Prasad, Marc Brunel-Walker
Isabel Mattick, Iain McCracken (from agenda item 14), Malcolm Tullett.
Apologies: Cllrs: Peter Heydon, Mark Phillips.
Co-opted Cllrs: Diana Henfrey, Peter Hill (until minute no 1185), Mary Temperton
In Attendance J Burgess (OSM), R Reeve (TC).

1173 Declarations of Interest.

Agenda item 7, 2016/17 grant awards – Cllrs Mattick, Temperton and Tullett.

1174 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September were accepted as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman, with an amendment to minute 1119 to clarify that the H&S champion would only be commenting on, and not providing advice on, H&S matters.

1175 Matters arising out of the minutes not to be discussed elsewhere

There were no matters arising.

1176 Budget Monitoring Group Report.

The Committee NOTED the minutes of the BMG of 3rd November and the report of income and expenditure for months 1 to 7. A proposal from Cllr Henfrey asking for a separate Bracknell in Bloom bank account to be additionally set up was referred back to BMG to consider.

1177 Fees and Charges 2016/17 year: The committee AGREED to recommend that proposals outlined for fees and charges increases across the Council's services be submitted to Environmental Services committee, based on a baseline increase of around 2% with some exceptions suggested for hall hire and netball, and for the Fairs to be charged at £2,500.

1178 Grants 2016/17 year.

The Committee RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council for grants for the 2016/17 year of:

Organisation	Amount
St Pauls Child Contact Centre	£1,000
WJSV	£1,000
Vitalise	£354
Bracknell Voluntary Car Service	£2,500
CAB	£6,500
Bracknell Executive Job Club	£981
The Ark Trust	£1,100
Youthline	£4,500
Bracknell & District Parkinson's Branch	£500
TVACAA (Air Ambulance)	£1,000
Berkshire Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre	£750

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Berkshire Vision	£500
Home Start	£2,750
Bracknell Forest Natural history Society	£200
Cruse	£750
Berkshire Autistic Society	£1,000
The Look In Community Café	£2,000
Age Concern	£400
Keep Mobile Country Tours	£500
South East District Scout Council	£200
Bracknell Forest Lions	£400
4 th Bracknell Sea Scout Group	£900
Samaritans	£2,000
Total Recommended	£31,785

The grant for Sebastian's Action Trust was deferred to be considered at a later date.

1179 Risk management and Health and Safety.

The updated terms of reference for the Health and Safety Champion were AGREED, subject to the role being to comment on, and not to provide advice on, H&S matters. The good progress made to date since the last Health and Safety arrangements review on matters raised was NOTED. Some H&S liaison meetings would be arranged in the new year to re-inforce messages in the H&S policy document that had been shared with staff. Safeguarding courses are currently being undertaken by pavilion staff.

1180 Power of Competence.

Councillors RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the BTC remain eligible to use the General Power of Competence, and adopt this as a power of first resort, following the May elections.

1181 Quality Council

Councillors RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that the BTC submit itself for assessment for benchmarking against the Local Council Quality Standard at 'Foundation Level'.

1182 Business Plan

Councillors RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that BTC adopt the business plan as presented, with this to be developed further with Councillor input as a framework within which the Council would operate in future years.

1183 Small Grant

The Committee declined a request of a £200 payment towards parking/ access provision at a scout campsite, in Earleywood, Berkshire.

1184 Great Hollands Pavilion (GHP).

Councillors AGREED business plan proposals and also to proceed to securing professional services to assist with the next stages of the project, following the next meeting of the GHP working group, which will be working to ensure the right design is now secured, at the right cost and within a reasonable timescale.

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1185 IT plans

Councillors AGREED proposed upgrading to the Windows 10 operating system, alongside replacement of the two office PCs current used by the Town Clerk and Office Services Manager. Councillors also NOTED the steps being taken towards achieving a higher broadband speed for the office.

1186 Brooke House

Councillors reviewed BRP correspondence received and considered possible acceptance of a BRP offer of a contribution towards improvement works planned at Brooke House. Councillors AGREED that BTC should aim to achieve an outcome which secured provision of both new front and rear doors, replacement of all windows at the front of Brooke House, and installation of a lift. This would help ensure Bracknell Town Council had a suitable presence in the new Town Centre.

The Council had also received notice of the stopping up of the footpath alongside Brooke House and Councillors AGREED the Town Council would not object to this proposal, but that BTC councillors were keen to see adequate toilet provision maintained within a short distance nearby.

1187 Internal Audit – 2015/16

It was AGREED that Internal Audit plans be agreed by officers for the 2015/16 financial year, with no particular areas of Internal Audit coverage required.

1188 Town Guide

Councillors AGREED proposals received for the provision of a new Town Guide early in 2016, followed by a next edition of Bracknell Matters at the end of May 2016.

1189 Staff Christmas Lunch

Permission was granted to fund a Christmas lunch for staff from the budget which already exists for this event.

The meeting finished at 9.25pm.

Next Meeting 2nd February 2016 2015 at 7.30pm

SignedDated