

Bracknell Town Council
Full Council Meeting
23rd February 2016

Present: Cllr Ash Merry - Deputy Town Mayor – Chairman
Cllrs: Gareth Barnard, Paul Bidwell, Gill Birch, Graham Birch, Marc Brunel-Walker, Alvin Finch, Clive Harrison, Diana Henfrey, Peter Heydon, Peter Hill, Sandra Ingham, Isabel Mattick, Tina McKenzie-Boyle, Iain McCracken, Jennie McCracken, Sanjeev Prasad, Paula-Elizabeth Pooler, Roger Meakes, Michael Skinner, Mary Temperton, Malcolm Tullett, Chris Turrell, Jo Woodcock.

Apologies: Cllrs: Diane Finch, Denise Hamilton, Mark Phillips.

In attendance: R Reeve - Town Clerk (TC), J Burgess - Office Services Manager (OSM).

The Meeting opened at 7.30m and closed at 9.00pm

The Deputy Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the guest speakers.

Bracknell In Bloom – Allan Moffat (BTC), Margaret Corridan (BHA) and Wendy Smith (BFA) provided a brief outline of the plans for 2016. The Deputy Town Mayor passed on congratulations from the Council to all those involved in making ‘Bracknell In Bloom’ happen, especially the three presenters who have worked so hard in bring the partnership together.

Bracknell Forest Homes – Linda Wells (Housing and Community Services Director) gave a short presentation on the future plans of BFH. The Deputy Town Mayor thanked Linda for a very informative presentation.

A short recess was held following a question and answer session and the meeting resumed at 8.30pm

1271 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

1272 Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Ash Merry and seconded by Cllr Tina McKenzie-Boyle, and unanimously RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 1st December 2015 be confirmed and signed.

1273 Matters Arising

None.

1274 Mayors Announcements

The Deputy Town Mayor informed the Council that all invitations since the last Council meeting had been attended either by herself or the Town Mayor. The Town Mayor is organising a quiz night for 8th April at the Hilton Bracknell. All monies raised will be going to Home Start.

The Town Council is also supporting the ‘Clean for the Queen’ campaign. Litter picks are being arranged around Bracknell on 12th March 2016 starting at 10am from various locations and finishing at South Hill Park for a photo shoot.

1275 Planning Committee

Cllr A Finch proposed the adoption of the reports of the meetings held on 1st December, 15th December, 12th January, 2nd February and this was seconded by Cllr C Harrison. Councillor Finch asked Councillors to please let members of the Committee know if they were aware of any pertinent information regarding any planning applications that are listed on the Agenda.

RESOLVED that the reports be adopted.

1276 Staffing Committee

Cllr C Turrell proposed the adoption of the report of the meeting held on 26th January 2016 and this was seconded by Cllr Gill Birch.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

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1277 Environmental Services Committee

Cllr C Harrison proposed the adoption of the report of the meeting held on 26th January and this was seconded by Cllr S Ingram.

Minute Number 1241: It was agreed that the Mayor would have a collection bucket at the Easter Egg hunt organised by McDonalds for his Charity.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

1278 Strategy and Finance Committee

Cllr C Turrell proposed the adoption of the report of the meetings held on 2nd February and this was seconded by Cllr Gill Birch.

Minute Number 1260: Cllr Paul Bidwell recalled that he had also asked about the operational impact of the deletion of two unfilled posts in the budgeted establishment but this had not been minuted.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

1279 Received Income Transactions

The Council NOTED the received income transactions from the 1st November 2015 to 31st December 2015.

1280 Paid Expenditure Transactions.

The Council considered the paid expenditure transactions from 1st November 2015 to 31st December 2015 inclusive.

The reports had earlier been scrutinised by the Strategy and Finance Committee. Cllr C Turrell proposed the adoption of the reports and this was seconded by Cllr Gill Birch. It was RESOLVED that the transactions be confirmed and the Mayor was authorised to sign these as a correct record.

1281 Fees/ Charges and Budget for the 2016/17 financial year.

Following the loss of the CTRS grant, which was a significant proportion of the Councils income, the budget has been reworked. The Council would still be maintaining its service standards but would also be reducing its spend on new playground equipment and vehicles.

With this in mind the following motion was put to Council to:-

- 1) Increase the fees and charges by 2% apart from maintaining the hall hire charges and a slightly larger increase for the use of North Lake.
- 2) To increase the Precept by 3.99%.

This proposal would ensure that BTC can continue to support BIB, the Summer of Fun days, Woodland Event and the Teddy Bears Picnic as well as maintain the grant to SHP and continuing with the Annual Grants and the TV Licensing scheme. This would be the first increase for 3 years and would increase the band D from £75.64 to £78.66 (and proportionally to all other bands).

A number of questions were asked and answered before a vote was taken.

This included asking whether we would we look at taking on extra staff/ an apprentice if more income/outside work was secured - this would be considered.

Also, whether more information could be provided at this point on devolved services to BTC - at this point there were no clear decisions but this will be fully discussed and reported with full transparency later.

Councillors thanked everyone involved in the budget for their hard work and clear and precise reports.

The vote to on the two part motion was carried unanimously APPROVED.

1282 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The changes to the Standing Orders were proposed by Cllr C Turrell and seconded by Cllr Tina McKenzie-Boyle. The Financial Regulations were reviewed with no changes made. An opportunity to review other key BTC policy documents will be brought to future meetings on a phased basis.

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1283 Events

BTC would support a June event to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday and will be discussing the matter further with South Hill Park. NOTED

1284 Complaints and Compliments Registers

The registers were NOTED. Councillors were pleased to see the compliments outnumbered the complaints. Cllrs commended the Officers on the success of the Park Run at Great Hollands, especially with the wet weather this winter. Cllrs accepted that due to the drainage issues this event might have to be cancelled occasionally in the future.

Next Meeting 10th May 2016 7.30pm

Town Meeting / Annual General Meeting

Braybrooke Hall Braybrooke Recreation Ground

The meeting was closed at 9.00pm

SignedDated