

Bracknell Town Council
Strategy and Finance Meeting
3rd September 2019

Present: Cllrs Paul Bidwell, Gill Birch, Jennie Green, Malcolm Tullett, **Chris Turrell**

Apologies: Cllrs Isabel Mattick

Absent: Cllr Sanjeev Prasad

Substitutes: Cllr Roger Meakes

In Attendance: Jackie Burgess – TC, Rachel Gordge – CA

The meeting opened at 7.30pm and closed at 9.00pm

1143 Declarations of Interest

None

1144 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 11th June 2019 were scrutinised. Cllr Gill Birch will be added to the attendance list and the word ‘company’ is to be changed to ‘organisation’ in minute number 1073 – South Hill Park Trust. After the requested changes, the minutes were agreed and accepted as a true record of the meetings and signed by the Chairman.

1145 Matters arising out of the minutes

1065 Financial Regulations – The changes made by NALC will be assessed and brought to the next Strategy and Finance meeting.

1070 Speedwatch – Training has been arranged for 20th September at 6.30pm, at Braybrooke Community Hall. Councillors are to put their name forward if they wish to attend the training. The Town Clerk is to find out if members of the public can attend.

2507 Birch Hill Toilets – The Town Clerk has a meeting booked to discuss Birch Hill toilets and recycling and will bring a report to the next Strategy and Finance meeting.

1146 Health and Safety and Risk Registers

Cllr Malcolm Tullett gave an update on the first meeting of the Working Group. It was a very positive meeting and work was taken away by each attendee to complete. Regular meetings have been booked in to progress the work of the group.

1147 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

No formal CIL requests have been received as yet. Informal requests from Cllr David Roberts and Cllr Gill Birch were discussed and formalised requests are to be sent to the Town Clerk once the relevant research has been completed. These will be discussed at Environmental Services on 15th October.

1148 Budget Monitoring Group

- The Chair of the Budget Monitoring Group gave an update from the meeting held on 30th July 2019. The group are challenging themselves to have paperless meetings in the future and this is being trialled at the next meeting.
- The report on Lily Hill Park contributions was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Chris Turrell that BTC continues contributing to Lily Hill Park. This was seconded by Cllr Malcolm Tullett. **RESOLVED**

1149 Community Events Working Group

1. The committee considered the £5500 budget request in the 2020/21 budget for VE and VJ Day Celebrations. This will be recommended to Full Council on 17th September 2019 for approval.
2. The Chairman of the Community Events Working Group gave an update on the Merchant Navy Day celebrations. BTC made some useful new contacts and thanks were extended to the Officers for their help in the successful event.

1150 Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman gave an update on the Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan. Following the May hearing, some intricate work is being done on the plan which will enable it to be progressed to the next step. The Chairman gave a rough timescale of six to nine months for completion.

1151 Great Hollands

1. Committee discussed the request to give Officers the authority to investigate the costs and take the matter of refurbishing the Tennis courts at Great Hollands forwards. This would include the installation of electronic gates and an online booking system in line with the system at Jocks Lane. **AGREED**
2. Officers are progressing the application for additional natural car parking. Feedback has been requested from Sandhurst Town Council as there were some issues with their natural car park installation.
3. The Town Clerk and RFM met with the new Police Sergeant and his team for Bracknell South Central. As with all the Town Council facilities Great Hollands will be available for the Police to call in when in the area. The Police are keen to use the Speedwatch unit.
4. A request from the Great Hollands Bowls club to hold a car boot sale in their car park on 12th or 19th October to raise funds for the club was discussed. It was **AGREED** that the fund raising car boot sale be allowed as a one off event in the form of a pilot. The Bowls Club will be requested to hold the event in the afternoon so as not to clash with Park Run or football.

1152 The Elms Biodiversity Project

BTC have been lucky to secure S106 monies for work at The Elms. The initial ideas and budget were **NOTED**

1153 Royal British Legion Bracknell and District Branch

1. Committee discussed the Small Grant request for £500 to pay for a piper for the Remembrance Parade in Bracknell Town Centre. The small grant request was **AGREED**
2. It was proposed by Cllr Malcolm Tullett to move the Remembrance Parade Event to the Community Events Working Group and to invite a member of the RBL to attend. This will enable BTC to become more involved in the event and therefore help to fund the Parade to ensure it continues. This was seconded by Cllr Gill Birch. **RESOLVED**

1154 TV Grants

National changes to TV licence funding for over-75s would affect the Council's TV licence grant scheme. An options report was put forward. Following a discussion of the report, the option put forward by Cllr Paul Bidwell and seconded by Cllr Malcolm Tullett to "maintain the TV Grant for all over 65s" was rejected. The option put forward by Cllr Chris Turrell and seconded by Cllr Roger Meakes: "to maintain the grant and to investigate reducing the grant amount and keeping for all over 65s" was agreed in principle. The chairman directed the Town Clerk to bring a report to the next meeting of the Strategy and Finance Committee on 5th November 2019.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that the Town Council are currently not charged by Lloyds for processing cheques. This is set to change. Following a meeting with the Lloyds Relationship Manager, Lloyds have agreed to continue this discount for a further twelve months. This will allow BTC to investigate electronic banking and agree a procedure. Committee **RECOMMEND** this to Full Council with the aim of bringing this into force for 1st April 2020.

1155 May Election 2019

The final costings for the May 2019 elections have now been received from BFC. The final amount is £83,570.85. This covers 42,703 electors in the Bracknell Town area, with all contested elections being charged at £1.957 per elector. **NOTED**

1156 South Hill Park Trust

As per their grant agreement the CEO has made arrangements to meet with the Town Clerk and Cllr Chris Turrell. The next South Hill Park board meeting is scheduled for 30th September 2019. Cllr Malcolm Tullett reiterated his concerns previously discussed in confidential minute number 1073.

1157 Jealotts Hill Landshare

Committee discussed the request to approve the inclusion of £8500 to support the landshare in the 2020/21 budget. Cllr Chris Turrell proposed that BTC should continue to contribute to the Jealotts Hill Landshare in 2020/21 subject to the partners' progress report on 31st December 2019 being received and reviewed. This was seconded by Cllr Malcolm Tullett. **AGREED**

Signed..... Date.....