



Bracknell Town Council

Rescheduled Strategy and Finance Committee Tuesday, 7th May 2024

Date	Tuesday, 7 th May 2024
Time	19:30 - 21:30
Location	Council Chamber, Brooke House
Present	Kathryn Neil, Roy Bailey, Guy Gillbe , Megan Wright, Jodie Watts (Sub).
Apologies	Anna Keen, Kwabena Adu-Quaye, Graham firth
Officers	Jackie Burgess – Town Clerk

Minutes

SF46/24 ATTENDANCE To receive apologies, substitutions and requests for co-option
Apologies were received from Councillors Anna Keen, Graham Firth and Kwabena Aduwum-Quaye.

SF47/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda
 - 2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)
 - 2.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate
- There were no declarations of interest .

SF48/24 MINUTES To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held 6th of February 2024

The minutes were proposed by Councillor Gillbe and seconded by Councillor Watts. Councillor Gillbe passed on his thanks to the Councillors who had responded at short notice and also a thank you to Councillor Aduwum-Quaye who was prepared to come in when he was unwell.

SF49/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES To discuss any matters arising from the minutes not discussed elsewhere on the agenda

- Birch Hill Toilets - the door is repaired and the toilets are open on the timer system – there has been some misuse of the changing room/disabled toilet area so Council might have to consider moving this unit onto a timer as well as a radar key.
- Visit from the Police Crime Commissioner - The visit was a massive success with over 90 children attending the football event organised by The Wayz
- Bracknell Matters - The next edition will be published after the AGM to enable the new Mayor to be announced
- Brooke House Leases – The Changes to the Brooke House lease progressing with the Solicitors now Mr Kite has retired.

- King's Portrait - The portrait has been received and displayed in the Council Chamber

SF50/24 CLERK'S REPORT To receive an update from the Town Clerk on the following items:

- Website Providers - Officers are still researching website providers and the contract currently in place is now rolling on a monthly basis. The Town Clerk was asked to move this forward as a priority once the submission dates for LCAS has been reviewed.
- AGM on 14th May at Great Hollands Recreation Ground – Committee approved the purchase of refreshments for after the AGM meeting.
- The Biodiversity Statement was checked against the BTNP and has been published on the BTC website
- SHP Food Festival – The plans to use North Lake for parking for the South Hill Park Festival are progressing and the RFM is working with Staff at SHP
- Arson at Jocks Lane – replacement equipment is now in place and the Town Clerk is looking for a suitable location at Jocks Lane to install more equipment for the older children.
- Break in at Mill Park Boat House – Repairs to the shutters has been completed
- LCAS Quality Award - Officers are still working on the policies and documents required for the LCAS Quality Award. The policies and documents to be adopted and approved will be taken through the committee system and to Full Council meeting as they all need to be approved at one meeting. The Town Clerk to send an update to Cllrs G Gillbe and G Firth on progress so that it can be agreed when to submit and whether to prioritise this or the website review

SF51/24 FINANCES Committee reviewed the reports from the Town Clerk on the current financial position of Bracknell Town Council. The Town Clerk gave thanks to the Finance Officer for preparing all of the reports and this was seconded by the Committee. The committee reviewed all the reports and NOTED the areas where funds would be carried forward. Councillor K Neil asked if the Budget Monitoring Group could be reformed as this gave another level of scrutiny of the Accounts. The request will be taken to the Leader of the Council.

SF52/24 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT The interim audit report from Claire Connell, the internal auditor was NOTED and Officers were congratulated on an excellent interim review.

SF53/24 STANDING ORDER REQUEST To review a request from the Town Clerk to suspend the Standing Orders in regard to appointing a preferred supplier this matter was deferred to the June meeting. AGREED

SF54/24 PUMP TRACK CONSULTATION AND FUNDING The first stage of the consultation for the Pump Track at Mill Park has been rolled out. This included an in person consultation at the Skate Competition and also a soft roll out of the online consultation form. Once the final budget and contractors are confirmed, the preliminary courses for Pump Track options at Mill Park can be designed and this can form the second stage of the consultation.

- There is currently an approved budget of £80,000 ringfenced for the Pump Track from CIL funds, the Town Clerk would like to request additional funding of £70,000 from CIL funding to enable the pump track to be enhanced so that it is suitable for multi-wheel use e.g. BMX, bicycles, scooters, skateboards, inline skates and wheelchairs. Following a discussion this was APPROVED and a further amount of £70,000 will be earmarked for the works at Mill Park.

SF55/24 BTC LEASE There are 18 years left on the lease of Brooke House where the office and Council Chamber is located. Councillors discussed the issue and a recommendation to elect a working group next year was AGREED

SF56/24 BIODIVERSITY AUDIT To review a request from the Environmental Services Committee for funding of £4795 for biodiversity audits for Jocks Lane, Mill Park, Great Hollands Rec and Braybrooke Recreation Ground. There are funds available in the Environmental Improvement fund that can cover this expense. The Committee reviewed the request and APPROVED these funds to be spent from the Environmental Improvement EMR fund. Proposed by Councillor Gillbe seconded by Councillor Bailey.

SF57/24 BIRCH HILL LEASE following a review of the report received from Simmons and Sons it was proposed by Councillor Gillbe to offer a lease to the current sub tenant at Birch Hill for five years. This was seconded by Councillor Wright and all were in favour – Cllr Watts abstained from the vote. If Full Council agree to the recommendation the Town Clerk will instruct the Bracknell Town Solicitor to compile a lease which will be brought back to this Committee for approval. AGREED

SF58/24 COMMUNITY EVENTS WORKING GROUP

To receive an update on the Working Group
Completed Events since the last meeting:

- 12th April 2024 Skate Competition and Pump Track Consultation
- 21st April 2024 Mayor's Marathon Day

Upcoming Events:

- 6th June 2024 80th Anniversary of D-Day - to discuss releasing remaining event budget from 2023/24 to support this event
- 8th & 9th June 2024 SHP Food Festival - to discuss releasing remaining event budget from 2023/24 to support this event
- 23rd June 2024 Community and Culture Event celebrating 75 years of Bracknell New Town
- 3rd July 2024 Teddy Bears' Picnic GH
- 29th June 2024 Armed Forces Day
- 20th July Pride Event
- 7th August 2024 Summer of Fun
- 28th August 2024 Summer of Fun
- 3rd September 2024 Merchant Navy Day

- 27th/28th/29th September 2024 MacMillan Coffee Morning
- 6th October 2024 Silver Sunday
- 25th October 2024 100 years of the War Memorial
- 10th November 2024 Remembrance Parade

The Events were NOTED The Town Clerk was requested to send out invitations to all Councillors informing them of times and locations for these events.

SF59/24 TV GRANTS WORKING GROUP The TV Grants Working Group met and have agreed to do an advertising push for the current TV Licence Grant to establish if more people will claim and also to ask for the residents' ideas on how to improve the grant. Officers are working on a leaflet explaining the grant clearly and this will be delivered to all 22,000 homes in Bracknell by Councillors. Approximately 6 weeks after the leaflets have been delivered, the Working Group will meet again to discuss the feedback and uptake and will then discuss ways to move forward with the grant. Committee discussed the proposal and AGREED to the production of a poster, Councillor Gillbe to liaise with the Town Clerk on dates so that the poster can be delivered with the Annual newsletter that Councillors will be delivering

SF60/24 CIL

- The CIL report was NOTED
- The amount allocated for the Pump Track is increased to £150,000
- The Town Clerk was requested to get quotations for the ideas put forward by the Environmental Services Committee and check these are not already budgeted for.
- Councillors training on CIL has not yet taken place

Date of the next Meeting: 11th June 2024 7.30 pm Council Chamber Brooke House

Sign:

Date: