



Bracknell Town Council

Strategy and Finance Committee Tuesday 6th February 2024

Date	Tuesday 6th February 2024
Time	19:30 – 20.16
Location	Council Chamber, Brooke House
Present	Councillors: Anna Keen, Guy Gillbe , Kwabena Adu-Quaye, Graham Firth, Megan Wright, Jodie Watts (Substitute), Kathryn Neil, Mary Temperton (co-opted).
Apologies	Councillors: Roy Bailey
Officers	Jackie Burgess, Rachel Gordge

Minutes

SF1/24 ATTENDANCE

Apologies received from Councillor Roy Bailey

Substitutes: Councillor Jodie Watts

Councillor Mary Temperton was co-opted for all items of the agenda

SF2/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

SF3/24 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2023 were discussed and proposed as a correct record for approval by Councillor Guy Gillbe. This was seconded by Councillor Jodie Watts APPROVED

The minutes of the additional meeting on 4th December 2023 were discussed and proposed as a correct record for approval by Councillor Guy Gillbe. This was seconded by Councillor Kwabena Adu-Quaye APPROVED

SF4/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes

SF5/24 CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk gave an update on the following items:

- Birch Hill Toilets - Repair of the door is due to be completed this week
- Visit from the Police Crime Commissioner – Councillors are encouraged to attend the visit on the 16th of February, 2 - 4 pm at Great Hollands Rec
- TV Grants Working Group - To be created at the next Full Council meeting - noted
- Bracknell Matters - Officers are working on the next electronic version of the Bracknell Matters - noted

- Brooke House Leases - Foster Harrington Solicitors are taking over the Kite Griffin lease at Brooke House, this matter is currently with the BTC Solicitor. BTC has 18 years left on the lease of Brooke House. It was proposed to add the BTC lease to the next S&F agenda to discuss potential ideas.
- Audit visit - The Internal Auditor attended Brooke House to complete the Interim Audit. The Final Audit will take place in May. The finalised interim audit will be brought to the next Strategy and Finance Committee Meeting.
- Website Providers - Officers are still researching website providers ready for the end of the annual contract currently in place
- King's Portrait - The application for a copy of the portrait has been accepted
- Local Council Award Scheme - Officers will bring the current documents held that meet the Quality Award to the Full Council meeting in February and the remaining documents to the AGM for approval and to confirm the application

Thanks to the Officers for all their hard work

SF6/24 GRANT APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Look In Café – the grant application has been clarified and the funds are to help with the salary of the chef, the purchase of a new refrigerator and a percentage of the utility bills. This is an acceptable use of the grant and it was APPROVED to pay in full
- 4th Bracknell Sea Scouts – The 2022 BTC grant awarded for £3000 for an adventure play area has not been spent and is ringfenced until suitable quotes have been obtained. It was agreed that rather than award more funding at this stage, the 2022 grant is confirmed for a change of use to spend on the garage issues. The 4th Bracknell Sea Scouts will be invited to reapply for the adventure play area grant when suitable quotes have been received, which BTC can assist with due to the extensive play area contacts held APPROVED
- It will be recommended to Full Council to pay the Look In Café grant request in full and to decline the 4th Bracknell Sea Scouts grant request with a change of use permitted for the 2022 grant of £3000.

SF7/24 FINANCES

The reports from the Town Clerk on the current financial position of Bracknell Town Council were discussed. The Committee NOTED the actual spend against budget and confirmed the cash and investment reconciliation matched the bank and investment statements as at 31st December 2023.

SF8/24 BUDGET

It was noted that the budget for 2024-25 was approved for recommendation to Full Council (13th of February 2024) at the additional meeting of the Strategy and Finance Committee meeting on the 4th of December 2023 and included a recommendation of:

- £142,000 grant to South Hill Park Arts Centre
- £10,000 grant to Jealotts Hill Community Landshare
- 2% precept increase

It was proposed by Councillor Guy Gillbe to recommend the budget to Full Council for approval, adjusted to include the grant application recommendation at minute number SF6/24. This was seconded by Councillor Anna Keen, unanimously APPROVED

SF9/24 BIRCH HILL LEASE

The proposal from the Birch Hill Hockey Club sub-lease tenant, Storyy, was discussed. Following an in-depth discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Guy Gillbe that a Lease Company assess the Birch Hill building to establish the lease value, and the lease would then be advertised for all enquiries for transparency. This was seconded by Councillor Graham Firth, unanimously APPROVED

SF10/24 MEETING SCHEDULE 2024 - 25

The draft BTC Meeting Schedule for 2024 - 25 was reviewed and recommended for approval to Full Council for approval by Councillor Guy Gillbe. This was seconded by Councillor Jodie Watts, unanimously APPROVED

SF11/24 COMMUNITY EVENTS WORKING GROUP

The following completed and upcoming events were NOTED

Completed Events since the last meeting:

- 29th September McMillan Coffee Morning
- 1st October Silver Sunday
- 12th November Remembrance Parade

Upcoming Events:

- 12th April Skateboarding competition and Pump Track Consultation
- 23rd June 2024 Community and Culture Event celebrating 75 years of Bracknell New Town
- 19th June 2024 Teddy Bears' Picnic GH
- 29th June 2024 Armed Forces Day
- 13/20th 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

It was proposed by Councillor Megan Wright that BTC contribute £1000 to the D-Day event and £1500 to the SHP event, £500 to stock a BTC stall at the SHP event, all from the current budget (2023/24) and use the remaining funds for an archway/flags/banners/merchandise for BTC events. This was seconded by Councillor Jodie Watts, unanimously APPROVED

SF12/24 CIL

- The CIL report including the Wishlist was reviewed. Following a discussion the revised Wishlist will be recommended to Full Council for approval:
 - Harmans Water pathway item was reviewed – remove these two items from the Wishlist at this time
 - Jocks Lane recreation ground item for ball courts - to be removed as it has been funded by section 106 funds
 - Higher seating - £5000 to be moved into the approved list to install higher seating at BTC sites
- It is recommended to Full Council to approve the CIL report with the revised Wishlist and the higher seating being moved into the approved list

Date of the next Meeting: 30th April 2024 7.30 pm Council Chamber Brooke House

Sign:

Date: