



Bracknell Town Council

Strategy & Finance Committee

Tuesday 28th January 2025

Date	Tuesday 28 th January 2025
Time	19:30 – 20.13
Location	Council Chamber, Brooke House
Present	Councillors: Kathryn Neil, Anna Keen, Roy Bailey, Kwabena Adu-Quaye, Graham Firth, Megan Wright
Apologies	Councillor Guy Gillbe
Co-opted	Councillor Simon Carter
Officers	Jackie Burgess and Rachel Gordge

Minutes

SF112/25 ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Guy Gillbe. Councillor Simon Carter was co-opted to take part in the whole meeting, which was approved by the members present.

SF113/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SF114/25 MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 26th November 2024 were reviewed. No amendments were suggested, and the minutes were accepted as an accurate record. This was proposed by Councillor Anna Keen and seconded by Councillor Roy Bailey and unanimously approved.

SF115/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The matters arising from the previous minutes were discussed:

- **Mayoral Chain:** The meeting with South Hill Park was rescheduled to 1st April.
- **Financial Regulations and Standing Orders:** The model documents will be adapted and brought to Council later in the year.
- **Pump Track:** The pre-application report has been received, and a few more details are required before submitting the formal application. This includes information showing the consultation results and positive comments from residents.
- **Play Equipment Update:** The Mill Park ship is completed, and additional accessible platforms will be installed to help less mobile older children access the climbing areas. Jocks Lane play area is being finalised.
- **Website Update:** The website is being updated by Officers, and a preview will be brought to the Full Council meeting.
- **Bracknell Matters:** This has been delayed due to the workloads of Officers.
- **Local Council Award Scheme:** Working on a list of policies from Bright HR to adopt. Once this list has been through Council, the other work towards the qualification can progress.

- **Biodiversity Audit Reports:** The reports have been received and reviewed. The actions will be added to the five-year plan.

SF116/25 BUDGET MONITORING WORKING GROUP

The Budget Monitoring Working Group met on 15th January 2025. The group reviewed the BTC accounts. The meeting was productive, and no significant issues were reported.

SF117/25 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

The interim internal auditor's report, following visits on 22nd January, was discussed. The report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. However, not all members had reviewed it, leading to a decision to defer the discussion to the next meeting to ensure thorough review and consideration. This will be deferred to the next Budget Monitoring Working Group meeting and will be brought to the next Strategy and Finance Committee Meeting.

SF118/25 BUDGET 2025-26

The proposed budget for 2025-26 was reviewed. The internal auditor had previously examined the budget and was satisfied with the principles applied, including a 4.99% raise. Discussions highlighted the ongoing work with buildings and the transition to leasing new equipment, which includes servicing, to manage costs effectively. Questions were raised about the movement of funds from the Great Hollands car park project, which had been reallocated due to planning application denials. The budget was generally well-received, with no major concerns. It was unanimously approved to recommend the budget is approved at the next Full Council meeting.

SF119/25 BRACKNELL HISTORY WORKING GROUP

Councillor Graham Firth provided an update on the Bracknell History Working Group meetings. Current projects include adding local buildings and structures to Bracknell Forest Council's local heritage list, corresponding with English Heritage about listing historical sites or buildings, and working on five information panels. The group is also considering adding QR codes to link to the new BTC website to share more information. The group's work is progressing well, with plans to ensure the preservation and recognition of local heritage. Councillor Graham Firth thanked Councillor Ellen Mac Hale for her work on chairing the group and for the external members who are adding a wealth of knowledge to the sites being reviewed. The first of the five information panels is being fact-checked and then will be sent to the designers. It will be brought to the Committee for approval when drafted.

SF120/25 STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

This agenda item was deferred as the chairs of the committees had not yet met to review the strategic plan.

SF121/25 MILL PARK

McDonalds have proposed planting trees on Bracknell Town Council land as part of their planning conditions. Concerns were raised about the proposed density of the proposed tree planting, Cllrs Carter and Ian Evans have a proposal to put forward for McDonalds to consider. The council emphasised the need for a robust legal agreement to ensure McDonald's meets their obligations. including tree maintenance and replacement should any fail. It is recommended that the tree strategy needs to be more inclusive of Bracknell Town Council's expertise. Committee recommends to Full

Council that Officers are authorised to continue the conversations with McDonald's to decide on a tree planting strategy and working on a robust legal agreement with the BTC solicitors.

SF122/25 EVENTS

The upcoming events were noted.

SF123/25 CIL

The CIL report was reviewed, and new ideas for CIL funding from the Environmental Services Committee were discussed. Proposals included:

1. Installing bird boxes with cameras at Jocks Lane and Great Hollands
2. Planting a tree for World Mental Health Day
3. Creating a COVID Reflection Garden at Braybrooke
4. Adding pickleball court lines to a tennis court

The feasibility and funding for these projects were considered, with plans to move forward on those deemed viable. Ideas 1-3 were on the wish list, and the Committee approved for these to be moved into the approved list. Idea number 4 will be researched for costings.

Date of the next Meeting: 29th April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at Brooke House

Sign:

Date: