



Tuesday 28th June 2022

The Trinity Centre

7:00pm

Present

Cllrs Cairns, Allan, Briggs, Cooper, Cummins, Griffin, Hatton, Millichope, Mosson, Parkin, Pears, Perks, Pocock, Puri, Scott, K Ward, S Ward and Wood.

In Attendance

Olive O'Sullivan—Chief Executive Officer, Jan Rowley-Regeneration Programme Director, Keith Neil-Smith-Consultant and Mary Watkins-Finance Manager.

There were 9 members of the public and 1 member of the press present.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that Adeen Irfan had informed her of the intention to film, record or photograph the meeting. Following an objection to this being recorded by another member of the public, the Mayor asked that Adeen ensure that any recordings were limited to exclude this person. The Mayor also asked that recordings not be edited in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule or show a lack of respect towards those being photographed, filmed or recorded.

Five questions had been submitted for public question time.

Adeen Irfan asked what practical steps the Town Council is taking to assist and support young people experiencing poor mental health, social isolation and limited employment opportunities issues in Sutton Coldfield.

Cllr S Ward responded that the Town Council wants to be inclusive and accessible for everyone and is represented on Youth Vision, a network of youth providers in Sutton Coldfield, and that Cllr Pears has worked closely with Clifton Road Youth Centre for many years. The Town Council's website designer is working on creating a dedicated space on the Town Council's Discover Sutton Coldfield website, to help promote service providers and their offer for young people. Cllr Ward stated that he was massively proud of the Community Grant scheme that had awarded over £100,000 in grants to support provision of youth services and activities. This includes grants to Jericho's Wood Shack project that invests in local apprentices aged 16-25, providing employment and helping personal development that includes the offer of Mental Health support; You're Cherished to facilitate workshops for young girls focusing on their mental health and 1:1 mentoring and Birmingham Scouts to help grow their provision across the town. The Town Council's Community Engagement Officer works with grant applicants and has a relationship with many groups across the town. Cllr Ward also said that looking forward, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership will be looking at ways to help people of all ages and that there was much to be proud of and more to be done in the future.

Talu Yildirim asked what the Town Council is doing to inspire a greater level of engagement in young people.

Cllr S Ward responded that there had been a number of practical steps taken to support engagement, including the Mayor's Challenge that had provided £20,000 to primary schools each year to develop and



deliver projects aimed at improving the environment, becoming more active, improving reading and celebrating the Queens Jubilee. During the pandemic over £40k was allocated to schools to provide laptops for pupils during the lockdown as part of the Mayors Challenge Digital Inclusion Project. The Mayor has also worked with BMET College on their industrial work placement, this brief and design work has led to creation of a sculpture based on a students work. The Town Council is looking at ways to improve young people's engagement with the Heritage Trail and Heritage Week and Cllr Ward stated it was great to see so many young people engaged and observing the meeting this evening.

Charlotte Ashley-Higgins asked if the Town Council felt it was successful in facilitating establishment of a youth panel to champion the views of young people in Sutton Coldfield as set out in the Strategic Plan.

Cllr S Ward responded that there was a Youth Council established by Cllr Alex Yip and the Town Council had supported a mental health booklet for secondary schools. There had been delays, due to the pandemic but establishment of a Youth Panel would be something that the Town Council would discuss as it looks to refresh the Strategic Plan in the autumn. It would also need to consult with schools and the local college to look at engagement with a panel and ensure that it doesn't duplicate the work of the Youth Council and Youth Parliament.

Max Mackenzie asked why meetings of the Town Council are not live-streamed, recorded and shared publicly and if a commitment would be given to reconsider this.

The CEO responded in order to Livestream or record meetings in a professional and appropriate way, there are a number of practical and resource considerations. This would include purchase of equipment, software, license, staff and technical support, in addition it would require a stable and high speed internet connection at the meeting venue and more bandwidth on the Town Council's website to broadcast. A business case would have to be prepared before this service could be procured. The CEO gave a commitment that work would start to look at the details of how this could be done and advice sought around the retention of the records, as the approved minutes are the legal recording of the meeting and other copies are to be destroyed.

Charlotte Ashley-Higgins asked if the Town Council would involve a sounding board of young people in Sutton to help develop any celebrations planned to mark the quincentenary of the Royal town.

Cllr S Ward reported that an amendment to a Motion on the agenda regarding celebrations for the quincentenary, that addressed this specific question, had been received and he would await the debate on this Motion and amendment during the meeting in order to not pre-empt the outcome of the discussion.

The Mayor provided an update on her engagements since her election to Town Mayor in May 2022. She had attended Lighting of the Beacon to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, met with Ukraine refugee sponsors, opened a new beauty business in Mere Green, attended the one year anniversary of Hope Food North Birmingham, met with residents who have discovered a love for arts and crafts with the help of UP Creative and attended a flower show hosted by Wylde Green United Reformed Church.

21 Apologies for Absence

The CEO reported apologies from Cllrs Allen, Mackey, Parmar, Raut, Roberts and Yip.

Resolved to accept the apologies



22 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Pears declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 25 as a member of Friends of Rectory Park.

23 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26th April 2022 be signed as a true record.

24 Matters Arising

Cllr Pocock stated that the Town Council had at one time discussed if there should be a panel of Councillors to look at the editorial content of Newsletters and asked if this would happen to ensure that Town Council Newsletters are a fair representation of all Councillors and to avoid any concerns around content. The CEO responded that she would check previous minutes around any discussions about an editorial board and report back to a future meeting.

25 Questions from Members

A question had been received from Cllr Parkin.

Councillor Parkin stated that the Friends of Rectory Park volunteers had recently surveyed its members and individuals who care for and look after the park and they had unanimously backed the principle of transferring the management of Rectory Park from Birmingham City Council to the Town Council, subject to suitable funding arrangements. Cllr Parkin asked if Rectory Park could be considered as a priority for transfer and what the Town Council's general strategy was for negotiating the transfer of the assets.

Cllr S Ward replied that it was hugely positive that the Friends of Rectory Park would like the Town Council to look after this greenspace and give it the care and attention it deserves. Cllr S Ward advised that Full Council would need to approve assets for transfer as part of the devolution deal with Birmingham City Council and that the request for Rectory Park to be transferred could be considered by the Town Council alongside a review of the Town Council's strategic plan.

26 Minutes of Committees

a) Planning and Highways held on 7th June 2022

Cllr Pocock stated that the minutes included that the Town Council would ask the City Council for further information on their Telecommunications policy. He stated that this should be read in conjunction with the national policy guidance, which had recently changed, as part of a package. He asked that the national policy and how it is interpreted by BCC also be included with the Telecommunications Policy so the whole picture in the national context could be seen.

Resolved to note the minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee that took place on 7th June 2022.

b) Amenities, Leisure and Community Services held on 16th June 2022

Resolved to approve a community grant of £15,000 to Walmley Tennis Club from the Sports Engagement Budget.



Resolved to approve a community grant of £19,390 to Banners Gate Community Minibus from the Devolved Grant Budget.

c) Strategy and Resources held on 21st June 2022

Resolved to approve that payment of members allowances for 2022/23 be based on the rate previously approved and that the rate be reviewed for the current municipal cycle.

Resolved to approve that ASkills Ltd provide consultancy services for the Town Council, as needed, for the next 12 months.

27 Sutton Coldfield Town Centre Masterplan

The Mayor welcomed Jan Rowley and Keith Neil-Smith to the meeting and invited them to present an update on the regeneration plans relating to Sutton Coldfield's Town Centre Masterplan.

Jan Rowley provided a brief update on progress relating to the Sutton Gateway following the announcement of £25 million from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) and the recent announcement on BCC's purchase of Newhall Walk and M&G (owners of the Gracechurch Shopping Centre) promoting a development and investment opportunity for the northern block of the Gracechurch Shopping Centre which includes the BHS store. Work is also progressing to seek opportunities for short term uses for vacant units and land, working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Improvement District.

The presentation also made reference to the Town Centre Masterplan, adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) by the planning authority, Birmingham City Council (BCC). This is now used as a benchmark and template when planning applications are received by BCC to guide and influence future developments in the town centre. However, it is important to ensure that these developments are coordinated across the sites and that there is a recognition that there needs to be linkages across the key sites. As part of the regeneration, the Town Council team has started important work on developing more detail for each segment of the Masterplan starting with the Station Quarter. Keith Neil-Smith outlined the current challenges with the Station Quarter and as a key gateway into the Town Centre gave examples of interim improvements that could be implemented in the area that would leave a positive impression of the town as the first and last place people see as the travel to and from the town. Improvements suggested focused on landscaping and better planting to make the area more attractive and make it more biodiverse and reshaping the area to give more space over to the public, widen pavements and screen off car parking to create a more attractive vista. Jan said that work would be done to put together an environmental improvement programme that would focus and work through measures that could be delivered working with landowners, residents and the local community to improve the area. Jan also introduced a new dedicated webpage and information boards that would be launched which simplify the technical and professional language of the Masterplan and make it more accessible. The webpage would be available toward the end of July 2022 and the information boards during August 2022.

Jan Rowley took questions from Councillors.

- Cllr Wood fully applauded the proposed green measures that would make the town centre a place where people could walk and enjoy. In response to a question about Network Rail, she confirmed that she would be liaising with Network Rail to ensure the improvements were delivered.



- Cllr Pears thanked Keith and Jan for the encouraging update. In response to a question on ensuring the Masterplan was used by BCC planning, Jan confirmed that discussions were taking place with senior BCC Planning colleagues to make sure the SPD is being used in the appropriate way as a key policy document which will guide the determination of Planning applications.
- Cllr Cooper stated the proposals were wonderful and exciting. He asked if there was an update on the indicative timeline for the Transport Hub. Jan confirmed that one of the challenges and subsequent delays on allocation for the West Midlands and other regions was how the funding had been allocated by the Department of Transport (DoT). There had been significant changes as DoT had taken a much direct approach in interrogating projects to ensure that they delivered national priorities. A further update on the revised timeline would be available later on in the year.
- Cllr Scott asked about improvements also increasing accessibility for people with disabilities. Jan confirmed that communities would be working with the Town Council to ensure that designs were fully tested out.
- Cllr Puri raised issues around dominance of vehicles in the town centre and robust resistance to reducing access for traffic. Jan replied that she was conscious of the need to work with residents and communities around the plans for alternative modes of travel that would, in time, reduce cars and vehicles. She added that cars would not be excluded but travel should be more inclusive for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Cllr Pocock asked what practical ways would be used to engage people to actively co-design and if social media campaigns would be used. Jan replied that there would be lots of opportunities for all residents to engage and best practice from other Councils would be looked at.

28 Notice of Motion

Cllr Wood read his Motion submitted on 16th June 2022, this was seconded by Cllr K Ward.

The attached amendment to the Motion had been received by Cllr Hatton, this was seconded by Cllr Puri ([attached](#)).

Cllr Hatton stated that it was fantastic that the Town Council were looking to celebrate the quincentenary and noted that the original Motion included engaging with education establishments. Cllr Hatton asked that Council consider extending this to forming a representative forum for children and young adults up to 25 years old, which would include a young workforce not necessarily in education.

Several Councillors all spoke in favour of the Motion and proposed amendment.

Resolved to accept the amendment to the Motion as proposed by Cllr Hatton.

Resolved that in this historic Jubilee year, I would like to remind Council that we have an important historic milestone on the horizon for our Royal Town. In 1528, Bishop Vesey obtained a charter from King Henry VIII which referred to Sutton Coldfield as 'the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield'. As the Quincentenary of the Royal Town approaches, I believe that the Town Council should begin to plan the celebrations to properly mark and celebrate our history and heritage. I propose that the Town Council establishes a working group to lead on the planning and engages with local residents, community groups, education establishments and businesses on the delivery of a full and proper celebration. Furthermore, to ensure young people in Sutton are actively engaged in developing



ideas for the celebration, this Council resolves to create a representative forum of children and young people, to liaise with the Town Council Working Group and develop a 'young Sutton' angle to this celebration.

29 Corporate Governance

Resolved to approve Standing Orders.

8:21pm Cllr Millichope left the meeting.

30 Use of Chief Executive Officer's Delegated Powers

No use of delegated powers was reported.

31 Accounts for Payment

Resolved to note the delegated payments, approve the accounts for payment and appoint Cllrs Pears and S Ward to complete authorisation.

32 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 19th July 2022 at the Trinity Centre.

8:23pm Cllr Millichope returned to the meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:24pm.