



In Attendance

Councillor Jane Mosson – Mayor,
Olive O’Sullivan –Chief Executive Officer,
Mary Watkins-Finance Manager,
Natalia Gorman – Senior Administrator & Projects Officer.

There were 32 members of the public and 2 members of the press present.

1 Welcome Address by Councillor Jane Mosson, Town Mayor

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Reports on the work of Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council during 2020/21

- a) The Mayor reported on Civic Events during 2020/21
- [Report](#)
- b) Councillor Simon Ward reported on the activities of the Strategy and Resources Committee during 2020/21
- [Report](#)
- c) Councillor David Pears reported on the activities of the Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee during 2020/21
- [Report](#)
- d) Councillor Clare Horrocks reported on the activities of the Planning and Highways Committee during 2020/21
- [Report](#)

3 Open Forum

Members of the public were invited to ask questions and make comments.

John Williams raised issues regarding the degraded road surface of Grange Lane from the junction of Cartwright Road through to Homestead Road and asked the Town Council to raise with Birmingham City Council. Cllr Horrocks confirmed that the Town Council had no authority to act on the highways and that she would raise with Birmingham City Council on behalf of the Planning and Highways Committee.

John Heywood asked what steps the Town Council would be taking, alongside local Council colleagues, to assess the risks the new planning bill, as announced in the Queen's speech, poses for the successful and sustainable implementation of the 2020 Town Centre Masterplan. Cllr Horrocks confirmed that she sits as the Town Council representative on the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils and discussions such as the new Planning Bill are discussed in this forum. The aims of the Masterplan are entirely consistent with national and regional planning and transportation policies to support and regenerate town centres and it is not envisaged that these fundamentals will be changed by the new Planning Bill. Full details of the Bill will not be published until a later date.



at which time The Town Council will consider the nature and manner of any further representations which may be appropriate.

Tony Whitehead stated that it was fantastic news that the Masterplan had been adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document and asked about the governance arrangements to take it forward. Cllr S Ward confirmed that part of the delivery of the plan would be looking at appropriate governance arrangements.

Liz Parry asked about the progress made over the last year in the relationship with Birmingham City Council and the Devo Deal approach set out in the Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods. Cllr Simon Ward commented that delivery of the Town Ranger Services had been achieved this year and that it was hugely successful. Work was taking place to progress the Allotments and other Asset Transfers, but the Town Council still came up against bureaucracy making progress slow.

Viv Astling commended the positive and quick responses received from the Leader and Officers to his emails. He welcomed the LUC report on Sutton Park and asked what the future governance arrangements could look like and suggested an approach to influence on the management of the park without the taking on of potential big liabilities was the right way forward. Cllr S Ward stated that the LUC report had given the Town Council a clear picture of Sutton Park and that in reality the park is too big for one authority to fund. The Town Council are hoping to engage with BCC to get to a stage where a governance structure could be formed where all local authorities, national bodies etc would be represented.

The meeting ended at 7:07pm.

Signed as a true record