

MEETING: Kingswood Town Council, Full Council Meeting
DATE & TIME: Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 7.00pm
PLACE: Holy Trinity Church Hall, Kingswood

Councillors Present: Stephen Forsythe (Chair)
 Vicky Robinson (to item 19)
 Richard Bentham
 Maria Ingram-Cotton
 Diane Bentham
 Sean Rhodes
 Alex Massey
 Alison Evans
 Jim Corrigan (from item 17)
 Raf Ackbar
 Ken Rabone
 Leigh Ingham

Also Present: Charlotte Littlewood, Interim Clerk

In Attendance: No members of the public attended.

14.11.23	<p><u>Apologies for absence were received from the Councillors below:</u></p> <p>Sandie Davis</p> <p>Resolved: To note the apologies.</p>
15.11.23	<p><u>Declarations of interest</u></p> <p>Cllr Ingham declared an interest in item 19 below, in relation to the request to provide funding for the resurface of the tennis courts.</p> <p>Cllr Robinson declared an interest, should any matter be related We Are BS15.</p>
16.11.23	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes were amended, in relation to the sum needed for Greening the High Street (item 5), from £20,000 to £12,000. <i>Summer floral display SF</i></p> <p>Members resolved to approve the minutes of the Kingswood Town Council Meeting held on 8th November 2023 as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Resolved: To amend the minutes as above and sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting.</p>
17.11.23	<p><u>Budget and Precept 2024/25</u></p> <p>Having considered the current year's budget councillors discussed priorities for the town, and projects that they would like to deliver, to meet those priorities.</p>

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Library Services:

It was identified that financial support for the library would ensure more outreach work in schools, greater access for the elderly and schools, as well as continue to offer the service as a Warm Space. It was suggested that a contribution of £30,000 per annum for a period of 3 years would make a big difference.

(Councillor Corrigan joined the meeting)

Youth Services:

It was agreed that in order to ensure that the children and young people of Kingswood had a greater opportunity to become good citizens, an investment be made into offering extensive youth provision in a variety of ways: youth centre based activities, youth workers supporting schools, additional youth leadership to support those with learning disabilities, and those who are vulnerable, to cover school holiday periods, and develop a youth café space.

There was a discussion on how this could be delivered: by entering into a partnership with a local youth support provider and expanding the current offering and being innovative with other opportunities. It was proposed and considered that a considerable sum would be needed to have the biggest impact, and it was proposed that £360,000 be added to the draft budget, for projects to be developed with other local stakeholders. A pilot scheme would be trailed to ensure that there would be tangible benefits and positive outcomes.

Community Grants Scheme

It was proposed that supporting local organisations who support local residents would have a great impact on the community. It was proposed that a scheme would be developed and that a sum of £50,000 be put into the budget.

Events

There was a general discussion about the need for a greater number of community events in the town, with a Christmas Market, family fun days, car boot sales and parades. It was agreed that the town council would support the Remembrance Day event. It was proposed that a budget of £55,000 be provided for all events.

Christmas Lights

As South Glos Council would no longer be funding the infrastructure in the future, it was proposed that an initial budget of £15,000 per annum be provided to cover Christmas lights.

Resources

It was identified that a full time Events Officer would be needed to manage an events programme. It was also proposed that the town council employ a town warden (or similar) who would have the responsibility of keeping the area litter free.

Operating Costs

The clerk informed councillors that an increased precept and the projects identified above would have an impact on the operating costs, and so these would be

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	<p>calculated based on employing additional staff to meet the needs of a developing council.</p> <p>Reserves Councillors recognised their responsibility for building up general and earmarked reserves, as a new council, to ensure that funds will be available in the future when the council is given the opportunity to acquire assets, or to meet its aspiration of owning a community building. In addition, councillors recognised that they would be a need to generate an income, and this would likely be from owning a building.</p> <p>Impact on the local council tax Councillors recognised that many improvements would be made to Kingswood via the SGC led Regeneration Programme, but that in the meantime it would do what it could to support the residents and improve opportunities for those who lived in Kingswood. Councillors were very aware that the above proposals would have a significant impact on the level of council tax to charge the individual but believed that the proposed projects met the demand from residents for improvements in the town.</p> <p>It was agreed that when a draft budget and precept was approved councillors would need to engage with, and respond to, the public about the increases to the individual's council tax and the impact these projects would have on the wider community.</p> <p>Resolved: To delegate authority to the town clerk to provide a draft budget, incorporating the above projects and reworked overheads, to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>For Councillors to consider the best method of engaging with the public and press on the proposed council tax increases.</p>
18.11.23	<p><u>S106 Contributions</u> Councillors agreed that any S106 funds that might become available from developments to invest in improved community open spaces, should be invested into Outdoor Sports Facilities.</p> <p>Resolved: For the Clerk to inform SGC that the priority for the council was to invest in Outdoor Sports Facilities</p>
19.11.23	<p><u>Community Infrastructure Levy Spending</u></p> <p><i>Cllr Ingram declared an interest in this item.</i></p> <p>Councillors discussed the merits of the request, of making a financial contribution of £46,113 for the resurfacing of the tennis courts and the installation of electronic gates in Kingswood Park. However, councillors were against the new bookings</p>

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	<p>system, which would charge people to play. They would prefer that people can play tennis for free.</p> <p>Resolved: That the council does not support the request to fund the above and delegate responsibility to the clerk to inform SGC.</p> <p><i>(Councillor Robinson left the meeting)</i></p>
21.11.23	<p><u>Planning Applications</u></p> <p>Members considered planning applications received for the Parish of Kingswood.</p> <p>REFERENCE NO: P23/03217/HH LOCATION: 51 Tenniscourt Road Kingswood Bristol South Gloucestershire BS15 4LB DESCRIPTION: Erection of second storey side extension to form additional living accommodation.</p> <p>Resolved: to support this application.</p> <p>It was agreed that the other planning applications would be deferred at the next meeting.</p>
22.11.23	<p><u>Date of Next meeting and to consider items for the next agenda</u></p> <p>The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 12th December. Councillors requested that an alternative venue be found, as the venue was too cold and did not offer good acoustics.</p>

Meeting Closed: 2119 hrs

Signed as a True Record.....

Date.....12/12/23