

MEETING:
DATE & TIME:
PLACE:

Kingswood Town Council, Town Council Meeting
Tuesday 16th July 2024 7.00pm
The Park Centre, Kingswood

Councillors Present:

Ken Rabone (Chair)
Maria Ingram-Cotton
Sean Rhodes
Alison Evans
Raf Ackbar
Diane Bentham
Jim Corrigan
Alex Massey
Caroline Morrell
Comfort Iyiewuare
Joanne Doyle

Absent:

Liam Davis

In attendance:

Charlotte Littlewood, Town Clerk and RFO
Alice Twinn, Community Engagement Officer

Public:

None

Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

Announcement

As Councillor Forsythe was ill, Councillor Ken Rabone chaired the meeting.

25.07.24 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Stephen Forsythe, Richard Bentham and James Hackett.

26.07.24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in any matters on the agenda.

27.07.24 Christmas Lights 2024

The town clerk presented a report with the costs for the town council to take financial responsibility for the Christmas lights from 2024 onwards. In addition, the town council would arrange a festive event, but this would be considered separately. The town council had a budget of £15,000 for the Christmas lights infrastructure. There are currently twenty lamp posts fitted to hold Christmas decorations, and a quote has been supplied to fit the power supply and brackets to additional lamp posts. This report was to seek authority for the town clerk to enter the necessary contracts for the following:

- a. the provision of brackets and power supply to additional lamp posts
- b. the installation of the Christmas lights on the lamp posts
- c. the hire costs of the Christmas motifs that go on the lamp posts
- d. the installation of an artificial tree or an alternative proposal
- e. delivery costs

As the lamp posts are under the management of South Gloucestershire Council, they would undertake the installation, at a cost of £165 per lamp post. In addition, SGC can also fit additional brackets, and amend the power supply on further lamp posts, at a cost of £200 per lamp post.

Kingswood Town Council would enter into a hire agreement with the same contractor that SGC previously used for the provision of the motifs, as they have a full understanding of the requirements and the delivery schedule. If the council were to enter into a three-year contract, there are economies of scale, and the hire cost reduces per year.

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Resolved:

- a. To instruct South Gloucestershire Council to fit a further four brackets and power supply for new lights - £800
- b. For South Gloucestershire Council to install the Christmas light motifs - £3,960
- c. To enter a three-year rental agreement with The Festive Lighting Company for the supply of appropriate motifs (suitable for the lamp posts) at an approximate cost of approximately £5,000 and additional delivery costs
- d. To try and find an alternative to the artificial tree and consider the hanging of lights in the four trees outside the shopping centre, for the clerk to negotiate favorable terms in a quote, within the overall budget constraint, and get the necessary permissions from South Gloucestershire Council.
- e. For a poll to take place to encourage the public to choose the style of Christmas motif.

28.07.24 Kingswood Park Tennis Courts

The town clerk presented a report, with several options, seeking a decision on whether Kingswood Town Council make a financial contribution towards a sinking fund to assist with future running costs of the two tennis courts in Kingswood Park. South Gloucestershire Council manage the courts and are in receipt of a grant from the Lawn Tennis Association to undertake a full refurbishment of the courts. To meet the criteria of the grant, this sinking fund must be created, receiving approximately £3,711 per year, for a period of 10 years. In addition, the sinking fund would also cover the costs of a programme of tennis-related events.

After a discussion on several points, it was agreed that the investment in the courts would likely extend their life for a further twenty years. There was an opportunity to encourage more use of the courts and to get school children and residents to enjoy free tennis.

It was proposed by Councillor Evans that Kingswood Town Council support the contribution into the sinking fund using Community Infrastructure Funds, to the value of £3,711 per annum for a period of ten years. That the council would also support financially the tennis related activities, but from another council budget (not CIL). Councillor Ingram-Cotton seconded this motion. There were no other proposals. Ten councillors voted in favour of this motion, with one councillor against.

Resolved: That Kingswood Town Council contribute £3,711 per year, for a period of 10 years, from its Community Infrastructure Levy funds, into the South Gloucestershire Council managed tennis court sinking fund for the two tennis courts in Kingswood Park.

a. Date of the next meeting and consideration of items for the agenda

- The next council meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th September 2024. Councillor Ackbar requested that Councillor Walkabouts be considered at this meeting.

Meeting Closed: 2000 hrs

Signed as a True Record..........Date.....10/9/24.....