

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**TRUSTS AND CHARITIES
COMMITTEE
20 JANUARY 2016**

PRESENT: Councillor Phil Davis in the Chair

Committee Members:
Councillor John Alden (JA)
Councillor Paul Tilsley (PT)
Councillor Ansar Ali Khan
Councillor Hendrinna Quinnen
Councillor Matthew Gregson

Officers:
Rajesh Parmar, (RP) Senior Solicitor, Legal & Democratic Services, Rahema Begum (RB), Legal & Democratic Services, Mark Szurminski (MS), Senior Business Analyst, Corporate Finance, Nigel G Oliver (NGO), Property Manager, BPS, Mohammed Majid, Senior Business Analyst, Corporate Finance, Robert Churn, Head of Landscape and Development.

776 **NOTICE OF RECORDING & PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

The Chairman advised the meeting that item 9 of the agenda is to be moved to the private agenda due to the personal information contained within the report.

The Chairman advised the meeting to note that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

777 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of:

Councillor Tilsley

778 **MINUTES**

The public minutes of the meeting of the last meeting of Committee on the 17 December 2015, were confirmed as an accurate record.

MS stated that there were some amends at paragraph 764 and would provide RB with these after the meeting.

The chairman provided an update on paragraph 765, in relation to the storage lagoon at home farm and that he had written to the Parish Council Chairman offering to meet him and was waiting to hear back

779

MATTERS ARISING

None

780

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reminded Members that they must declare all relevant pecuniary interests and/or non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared a Member must leave the room or Chamber where the meeting is being held, unless a dispensation has been obtained from the Authority's Standards Committee. Any declarations or leaving of the room/chamber will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The Chairman declared a non-financial interest in the Youthwise project, which had made an application to BMC at item 8. Councillor Ali Khan (Vice Chair) to chair the meeting for this item.

781

BIRMINGHAM CYCLE REVOLUTION - HIGHBURY PARK PATH IMPROVEMENTS

Robert Churn, Head of Landscape and Development, presented the report, seeking the committees support for the Birmingham Cycle Revolution, affecting the Highbury Park Path improvements. Rob Churn provided details of the consultation and the responses to date.

The committee discussed the proposed plan at some length. The committee noted the need for the proposals to be discussed with the shadow Chamberlain Highbury Trust, to ensure nothing proposed restricted the Trust's future ability to integrate/restore the overall Highbury Estate in partnership with the Council.

RESOLVED:

Committee noted the report and welcomes, in principle, the Birmingham Cycle Revolution investment at Highbury, subject to satisfactory outcomes to the consultation with the Shadow Trust

782

HARRIET LOUISA LOXTON TRUST - DEPOSITS HELD WITH BCC

Mohammed Majid, Senior Business analyst, presented the report. Seeking recommendation from the committee for the reallocation of £170k currently held within BCC into COIF Deposit fund.

Councillor Gregson queried if all of the sum could be transferred rather than just the £170k. Mohammed clarified that the whole balance could be transferred but if the account fell in to deficit then there would be a charge.

Councillor Pears queried whether the valuations were done yearly and if any information was available on the deposit rate. Mohammed clarified that the valuations are done every six months and the last one was in December 2015. Councillor Pears commented that the committee needs more information on the valuation but this doesn't affect the decision in principle.

Councillor Alden commented that it could be done under Chairman's action and dealt with that way. He also queried how much was being paid annually.

Councillor Quinnen commented that she was in favour of the financial transfer, but wanted to know what CCLA's view was. The Chairman advised that it has been arranged that CCLA will attend the committee meeting in April to provide Members with an annual Report on Trust Investments. Mohammed advised that the current interest being earned on trust investments in the Deposit Fund was 0.45%.

RESOLVED:

Committee agreed to the recommendations subject to more recent valuation.

783 **BIRMINGHAM MUNICIPAL CHARITY – AWARD OF GRANT - YOUTHWISE**

Cllr Ansar Ali Khan took the chair for this item.

RESOLVED:

Committee resolved to award £500 to Youthwise.

784 **BIRMINGHAM MUNICIPAL CHARITY – AWARD OF GRANT - JACQUELINE MILLS - SON'S MEDICAL SUPPORT**

Deferred to the private agenda.

RESOLVED:

Private meeting

785 **BIRMINGHAM MUNICIPAL CHARITY – AWARD OF GRANT BRAIN TUMOUR SUPPORT**

This was an application for a grant to support a charity assisting people recovering from brain tumours, including Birmingham residents. Cllrs Alden and Pears commented on the charity's financial costs and wages bill.

RESOLVED:

Committee approved £500 to Brain Tumour Support.

786 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16 - QUARTER 2 (TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2015)**

MS presented the report and informed members that the report identifies the income and expenditure position for the Trusts and Charities as at Quarter 2 and up to 30 September 2015. The Chairman advised that he had asked for

this additional information in relation to the restricted and unrestricted balances.

RESOLVED:

The Report was noted by the Committee.

787 **ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS – 2012/13, 2013/14 AND 2014/15
ALDERSON TRUST (CUSTODIAN TRUST)**

MS presented the report and informed members that the report is for information only as it is a custodian trust and members were to note the annual report and accounts.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

788 **ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS – 2014/15 ACCOUNTS CLARA
MARTINEAU TRUST (CUSTODIAN TRUST)**

Again, MS presented the report and informed members that the report is for information only as it is a custodian trust and members were to note the annual report and accounts.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

789 **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS – CHARLES BAKER TRUST FOR
THE PERIOD 2014/15 (SOLE CORPORATE TRUST)**

MS presented the report and advised that it was a sole corporate trust and was seeking the committee's approval of the annual accounts for compliance with the Charity Commission.

The Chairman informed committee that he was seeking legal advice on the possibility of transferring the trust's assets to the Birmingham Municipal Trust.

Councillor Cruise queried what the age and condition of the property was. Nigel Oliver advised that it was two bungalows for the elderly built as part of a run of three within a general housing estate and managed by Housing on behalf of the trust. He had seen the property some eighteen months ago, it is in general good order, but does have some external mould growth due to shading.

Cllr Alden commented that there was some minor accounting recording clarifications, such as information in brackets constituting a negative (figure) and have some details of the person, i.e. a list of people. MS to ask the Directorate to provide this.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the report.

790 **ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS – L A JONES FOR THE PERIOD 2014/15 (SOLE CORPORATE TRUST)**

MS presented the report and again informed members that the committee's approval is sought to approve the report in order to be compliant with the Charity Commission.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the report.

791 **SCHEDULE OF OUTSTANDING MINUTES**

Minute 395 - Sole and Custodian Trustee Trusts and Charities: Officers to report on a sixth monthly basis on the activities undertaken by Sole and Custodian Trusts and Charities.

Committee agreed that this was a rolling item and committee to be advised of progress as and when.

Cllr Gregson asked when the proposed Committee 'Annual Report' to Full Council was likely. The Chairman said he hoped to time this around tangible progress in creating a more accessible grant-aid scheme, linked to better use of the charitable funds available across the Sole Custodian Trusts and using the Birmingham Municipal Charity as the main vehicle for grant-giving. He was taking advice on these matters, but hoped an information report could go Council this year.

792 **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Councillor Alden had privately purchased 2 copies of a booklet produced by the Council in 1927 detailing all the charities of Birmingham. He kindly lent Cllr Davis a copy, who said he welcomed any historic information about the development of City charities and the Council's work with them, which, of course, continues. He is to provide a copy of this page for officers to look in to.

793 **AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Chairman to move:-

"That the Chairman is hereby authorised to act until the next meeting of the Committee except that, in respect of the exercise of the Council's non-Executive functions, the appropriate Chief Officers are hereby authorised to act in consultation with the Chairman and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services is authorised to affix the Corporate Seal to any

794

That in view of the nature of the business to be transacted which includes exempt information of the category indicated, the public be now excluded from the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting

Exempt information paragraph 3

Page 6