

**SUTTON COLDFIELD  
DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MONDAY 3 JULY 2017**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUTTON  
COLDFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON  
MONDAY 3 JULY 2017 AT 1600 HOURS AT THE  
CRUSH HALL, SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN HALL,  
UPPER CLIFTON ROAD, SUTTON COLDFIELD,  
B73 6AB**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Lyn Collin; Maureen Cornish, Andrew Hardie, Meirion Jenkins, Ewan Mackey, David Pears, Robert Pocock, Alex Yip and Margaret Waddington.

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:** Eric Shipton – Housing Liaison Board  
Lorna Steers – Housing Liaison Board

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Mike Davis – Interim District Head  
John Porter – Parks Manager  
Sarah Chinnock – Library Services  
Anne Phillips – Library Services  
Matt Hageney – Project Officer, Car Parks  
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager

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**ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND VICE CHAIR FOR SUTTON  
COLDFIELD DISTRICT**

On the receipt of nominations, it was:-

**RESOLVED: -**

- a) That Councillor Margaret Waddington be elected Chairman (Executive Member) for the Sutton Coldfield District Committee for the Municipal Year 2017/2018, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year;
- b) That Councillor Ewan Mackey be elected Vice-Chairman for the Sutton Coldfield District Committee for the Municipal Year 2017/2018, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

(Councillor Margaret Waddington in the Chair and Councillor Ewan Mackey as Vice-Chair).

**APOLOGIES**

- 120 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors David Barrie and Ken Wood for their inability to attend the meeting.
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**MINUTES**

- 121 The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2017, having previously been circulated to Members, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

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**MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUTTON COLDFIELD DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

- 122 The Membership of the Committee was noted as follows:-
- Councillors Maureen Cornish, Meirion Jenkins and Anne Underwood (Sutton Four Oaks Ward)
- Councillors David Barrie, Ken Wood and Alex Yip (Sutton New Hall Ward)
- Councillors Ewan Mackey, David Pears and Margaret Waddington (Sutton Trinity Ward)
- Councillors Lyn Collin, Andrew Hardie and Rob Pocock (Sutton Vesey Ward)

**Co-opted Members:-**

Supt Brandon Langley – West Midlands Police  
Steve Horsley – Station Commander, West Midlands Fire Service  
Eric Shipton – Housing Liaison Board Representative  
Lorna Steers – Housing Liaison Board Representative

Andrew Mitchell, MP was also invited to all meetings.

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**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- 123 **RESOLVED:-**

Members were reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared, a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations would be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

No declarations of interests were declared.

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**CODE OF CONDUCT**

124 Members noted the Code of Conduct for District Committees:

(See Document No. 1)

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**DISTRICT COMMITTEES FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES**

125 Members noted the Executive Powers, Rules of Governance and Functions for District Committees:

(See Document No. 2)

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**DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS FOR 2016/17**

The following District Member appointments were made for the Municipal Year 2017 – 2018:-

Young People's Champion – Councillor Alex Yip  
Section 33 Visits Champion – Councillor Maureen Cornish  
District Housing Panel Champion – Councillor Ken Wood  
Economic Development and Enterprise Group Champion – Councillor Alex Yipp  
Jobs and Skills Champion – Councillor Meirion Jenkins  
Health and Wellbeing Champion – Councillor Andrew Hardie  
Heritage and Culture Champion – Councillor Maureen Cornish.

The following District Members were appointed to serve as Board Representatives on the following Community Organisation:

- Falcon Lodge Advisory Board – Councillor Margaret Waddington.

The following two District Members were appointed to serve as Board Representatives on the following:

- Clifton Road Youth Centre – Councillors David Pears and Andrew Hardie

The following three District Members were appointed to serve as representatives on the following Outside Body:

- Sutton Park Advisory Committee – Councillors David Pears, Andrew Hardie and Ewan Mackey.

The following two District Members were appointed to serve as representatives on the following Outside Body:

- Sutton Coldfield Business Improvement District Board (BID) – Councillors David Barrie and Margaret Waddington.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:-**

That the above Sutton Coldfield District Committee Member Appointments for the Municipal Year 2017 – 2018 be noted.

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**UPDATE ON SUTTON COLDFIELD LIBRARY**

Sarah Chinnock and Anne Phillips were in attendance at the meeting and made the following points:

- A 3 month consultation on the future of Birmingham's community libraries commenced in October 2016 and the responses helped shape the model that was subsequently agreed by Cabinet in February 2017.
- The original proposals included the planned closure of Sutton Coldfield Library, but strong representation plus the emergence of a potential model for retaining library services at the Red Rose site enabled Cabinet to take the decision to see if a sustainable business model could be put together by the end of August 2017.
- Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council has taken a decision to fund the day to day operations of the library from April to August (subject to certain conditions being met, up to £150,000) whilst it is concluded whether or not a sustainable business plan can be achieved.
- In order to reduce running costs to circa £360,000 per annum the library moved to a 35 hour per week operation. It should be noted that this is a considerable reduction on the 2016/17 running costs of over £550,000 but still significantly greater than the average running costs proposed in the new model of £107,000 for a Tier 1 library.
- Running costs for a sustainable library therefore need to reduce further than the £360,000 p.a. currently projected.

**The focus of the sustainable business plan has included:**

1. Securing a home for the Local History and Archive collection within Sutton Coldfield.
  2. Repairs to the building to ensure it is watertight.
  3. Internal decorations/reparations.
  4. Negotiations with Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council to secure a financial solution.
  5. Letting of floor 2.
  6. Sharing of floor 1 so that it forms two thirds library and one third let for a complimentary usage by another party.
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1. All Archive material was returned from storage and the inventory was checked.
  - Purchased additional bespoke shelving for the area known as the flat and for both Stacks – one on floor 1 and the other on floor 2, as well as getting the rolling shelving in the Stacks repaired.
  - The Local History and archive collection is now totally contained within the library and remains accessible to library users and residents via requests to library staff.
  2. The City Council has invested significantly in works to make the building water tight including:
    - Following a detailed Inspection a number of repairs have been made to the roof
    - Glass canopy removal and reinstatement.

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- Inspection and repairs to internal downpipes which caused the leaks in the Reference and Children's areas.
- 3. Internal refurbishment and repairs:
  - Internal leaks have been repaired.
  - Stained ceiling tiles have been repaired/placed throughout the building.
  - The heating is now fully working and connected to and controlled by Lancaster Circus, this will ensure the building is a comfortable temperature throughout.
- 4. Joint working on delivering a sustainable business plan:
  - The City Council and the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council have undertaken significant dialogue regarding the financial requirements to a) fund the period required to explore/develop a sustainable business plan for a library in the Red Rose Centre b) review the financial requirements that would fall on both parties as part of a sustainable business plan going forward.
  - As a result funding has been made available by Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council until the end of August by which time a sustainable solution will be needed or the library will close.
  - During this time the city council has demonstrated its commitment to maximising the opportunities for a solution to be reached by investing more than £50,000 in internal repairs and making the building water tight.
- 5. Currently in final discussions with a prospective tenant for the whole of floor 2.
  - It is a fundamental part of the sustainable business plan for the second floor to be let. It is the resources raised through letting this space that allow the City Council to invest the average costs of running a Tier 1 library into the Sustainable Business Plan for Sutton Library.
- 6. Sharing of floor 1:
  - The sustainable business plan is based upon one reducing the library running costs incurred at floor 1 by having a partner utilise one third of the space and consequentially cover one third of the costs of utilities, business rates, rent, etc.

There has been considerable dialogue with a number of stakeholder and partners to identify a service offering that could occupy one third of the current library space, generate significant income (to cover an appropriate share of the running costs of the building) but also be complementary to the library offer. As a result a Market Sounding exercise was commenced at the start of June seeking organisations who may want to be interested in delivering café, play, office or other complimentary services. Following the Market Sounding exercise and appropriate procurement route will be decided upon to secure the best possible solution/contribution to the sustainable business plan.

Members welcomed the verbal update report and stated that the repairs to the library had been carried out to an excellent standard. Congratulations and gratitude was expressed to all officers involved in the work undertaken in saving Sutton Coldfield Library and it was -

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### **RESOLVED:-**

That verbal report on the update of Sutton Coldfield be noted.

**UPDATE ON PROPOSAL FOR PARKING CHARGES WITHIN SUTTON PARK**

Matt Hageney was in attendance at the meeting and gave the following verbal information:

- An initial report was submitted to the Trusts and Charities Committee in March 2017 which covered both Cannon Hill Park and Sutton Park. Since the submission of the report officers have been advised that Sutton Park is not held in trust.
- Improvement works are being undertaken in the current car parking at the Nature Centre end as overtime they had been neglected and were in need of resurfacing works. All proceeds from the car parking charges will be ring fenced and the finance will put back into park maintenance and services available in the park.
- Consultation exercises have taken place in order to determine what impact, if any, car parking charges will have on the local area and local roads. An experimental traffic regulation order is currently under investigation to ensure the flow of traffic.
- Public respondents to the public exercise included 50 online, 160 on site and 90 from residents responding to advertisements in the local press.
- The consultation period on surrounding roads will end when the experimental traffic regulation order has been deemed efficient and working well in the locality.
- Consultation will include the range of options available including charging visitors but not charging Sutton residents.

Councillor Meirion Jenkins stated that he opposed all charges for car parking in Sutton Park.

The Chairman thanked the officer for his verbal report and requested that District Members be kept informed of the outcome.

It was -

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**RESOLVED:-**

That verbal report on car parking charges in Sutton Park be noted.

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**PRESENTATION FROM THE PARKS MANAGER ON GROUNDS  
MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND OTHER GREEN ISSUES**

**UPDATE ON GREEN ISSUES AND GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

The following report of the District Parks Manager was circulated at the meeting:-

(See Document No. 3)

John Porter, District Parks Manager introduced the report and gave the following verbal presentation:

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- As part of the consultation process, Parks Division was requested to put forward savings at both 20% and 10% of existing budgets.
- As part of the consultation exercise that took place members of the public expressed huge support and gratitude to park rangers and park keepers and had requested that the service be retained and strengthened with reduction in current staff numbers.
- The ranger service had previously operated out of 6 hubs but as part of the Council's reduction in staff levels it was now reduced to 5 hubs.
- The park keeper's service across the City was now under scrutiny and further reductions were likely. There were currently 30 park keeper posts across the City. All park keeper posts will undergo an assessment and score exercise to ascertain their value. It was suspected that 1/3 of park keeper posts will be lost.
- The third tranche of savings is to come from the Grounds Maintenance Programme. It will result in a 20% reduction in the cut of amenity grass and ornamental areas across the City which equated to 1/5 of all the grass mown Citywide. The reduction will have a severe impact in every Ward and District. Removing flower beds and shrubs so that maintenance will not be required. Will no longer maintain grass verges and shrubs that edge onto footway paths in park areas. Will no longer provide a budget provision for baskets and planters throughout the City.
- Considerable changes will have to be made in order to achieve the savings in the forthcoming budget.

Councillor David Pears stated that it was imperative for Rectory Park to retain a park keeper in order to keep the public toilet facilities open and free from vandalism. He asked whether the Town Council could assist and if sponsorship was an option how could Members be assured that available finance will be utilised in local parks and for the local community.

Councillor Maureen Cornish expressed concern that long and overgrown grass had grown around the bus stop on Streetly Lane which was creating a problem for pedestrians.

John Porter said that he would investigate both issues mentioned and report back to Members at a later meeting.

The Chairman thanked the District Parks Manager for his verbal update and requested that he be invited to attend the next meeting to give a further update.

It was -

### **RESOLVED:-**

That the report and verbal update on Green Issues and the Ground Maintenance contract be noted.

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### **DETAILS OF BE ACTIVE / ACTIVE PARKS PROGRAMME FOR NORTH BIRMINGHAM**

Mike Davis, District Head advised that the officer presenting this report was not in attendance at the meeting.

- 130 The following Spring/Summer 2017 Programme of events taking place in parks in North Birmingham was circulated at the meeting:-

(See Document No. 4)

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**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2017/2018**

- 131 **RESOLVED: -**

That the District Committee note the schedule of meetings for 2017/18: -

**2017**

9 October

**2018**

22 January  
19 March

All meetings will be held on Monday's at 1600 hours.  
Venue to be determined.

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**OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)**

**A. Early Years Consultation**

Mike Davis, District Head advised that a number of Early Years Consultation exercises were taking place Citywide and he urged Members to attend the session to be held at Mere Green Library on 1 August 2017 at 1030 hours and submit their thoughts. Consultation commenced on 19 June and would expire on 17 August 2017.

A copy of the Early Years consultation document was circulated to each Member at the meeting:-

(See Document No. 5)

Members expressed disappointment that the officer from the Early Years team was not in attendance at the meeting and requested that an officer attend the next meeting of the Sutton Four Oaks Ward Committee to be held on 17 July 2017 to discuss the proposals further with Members.

Councillor Lyn Collin agreed to discuss the issue at length with the appropriate officer in order to relay Members concerns and take the issue further.

It was -

- 132 **RESOLVED: -**

The Chairman agreed that Councillor Lyn Collin take the lead in discussions concerning the Early Years Consultation exercise that was currently being undertaken by the Department.



**AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Chairman to move:-

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"In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

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The meeting closed at 1800 hours.

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CHAIRMAN