

**LOUGHBOROUGH AREA COMMITTEE  
20TH JUNE 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor Hamilton (Chair)  
Councillor Campsall (Vice-chair)  
Councillors Bradshaw, Draycott, Forrest, Hachem, Hamilton,  
C. Harris, K. Harris, Hayes, Huddleston, Mercer, Miah,  
Morgan, Parsons, Parton, Smidowicz, Smith and Tillotson

Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing  
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces  
Head of Finance and Property Services  
Head of Leisure and Culture  
Head of Strategic Support  
Democratic Services Manager

APOLOGIES: Councillor Jukes.

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing reminded members of the public and the Committee that the meeting was being recorded and that the recording would be made available on the Council's website. She also advised that, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from the meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Hamilton be appointed as Chair of the Committee for the 2018/19 Council year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Campsall be appointed as Vice-chair of the Committee for the 2018/19 Council year.

3. QUESTIONS UNDER COMMITTEE PROCEDURE 12.8

No questions had been submitted.

4. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

None.

## 5. ROLE AND OPERATION OF THE COMMITTEE

A report of the Head of Strategic Support, providing guidance on the role and operation of the Committee, was submitted (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Morgan arrived at 6.15 pm

In considering this item the Head of Strategic Support advised that the Committee had an advisory and consultative role in relation to the following matters:

- Budgetary and financial issues which either solely or predominantly affect the Loughborough town area;
- Matters of policy and strategic direction which relate to or affect the Loughborough town area.

Members' raised concern that two meetings a year was insufficient and following discussion agreed that the Committee meet on a quarterly basis.

### **RESOLVED**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That Committee meetings be set on a quarterly basis.

### Reasons

1. To ensure that members of the Committee are aware of its role and operational procedures.
2. To consider budgetary, financial or matters of policy and strategic direction in a timely manner.

## 6. LOUGHBOROUGH ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT 2018

A report of the Heads of Finance & Property, Leisure & Culture, and Cleansing & Open Spaces, providing information and updates on significant matters relating to the town of Loughborough, was submitted (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Heads of Finance & Property, Leisure & Culture, and Cleansing & Open Spaces assisted with consideration of the item and provided the following responses to issues raised:

- (i) Funding requests for tree thinning in parks can be put forward for consideration within available resources as part of the normal budgetary process.
- (ii) The underspends identified as a result of lower re-charges are dependent on works undertaken in a financial year.
- (iii) The majority of open spaces are in Loughborough and therefore they are charged as a special expense. The amount of landholdings outside of Loughborough are very small with the majority managed and/or funded by the relevant Town/Parish Council.
- (iv) Car parks in Loughborough are paid for from the Councils General Fund and not from Loughborough Special Expenses.
- (v) Market traders will be consulted on the development of a new layout for the market, including the food quarter within the market place.
- (vi) The market scheme aims to improve the layout, attractiveness of entrances, and encourage a wider diversity of traders which in turn will see a reduction in the number of vacant stalls.
- (vii) Marketing materials and methods to increase footfall of new demographics are always being reviewed including leaflets on stalls and use of social media.
- (viii) Brand identity for the market is being reviewed and developed with emphasis on the 'Charter Market'.
- (ix) Decisions to close the market at short notice are often as a result of bad weather forecasts as it is important to ensure the health and safety of the traders and members of the public.
- (x) A project is underway to replace the towns festive lights and improve the infrastructure to support an annual town centre dressing programme.
- (xi) In respect of the Carillon Tower restoration, whilst internal decoration cost were not included in the grant funding, the Council has committed funding so that internal decoration can take place whilst the property is vacant.
- (xii) In respect of cemetery provision, Southfields Park was not identified in previous reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny but did form the original shortlist of potential sites and was discounted at a very early stage.
- (xiii) A further report about cemetery provision to be considered by Cabinet in September/October 2018. The reasons for the delay in reporting back included the need to review potential sites, the complexity of the Tier 2 Environmental Assessment, capital and other costs of the sites, scale of infrastructure, accessibility and the requirement to undertake public consultation. Poor weather conditions also delayed matters because ground environmental assessments are weather dependent.
- (xiv) Pricing for burials has been reviewed and a new three tier pricing system has been implemented following views expressed by Members'.
- (xv) In Southfields Park the rugby posts are being removed and replaced with football posts.

- (xvi) In respect of Southfields Park, costing information about key deliverables as set out in paragraph 54 of the report to be emailed to ward members.
- (xvii) Safety improvements for individuals visiting Southfields Park is a matter being looked at in conjunction with the Police.
- (xviii) In respect of Sidings Park, anti-social behaviour needs to be reported to the Police or Community Safety Team at Charnwood Council. Allocation of CCTV is dependent on location/sight view but also the availability of partnership funding (Community Safety Partnership/Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) funding).

## **RESOLVED**

1. That the report be noted.

### Reasons

1. To acknowledge the information received.

## 7. WORK PROGRAMME

The Head of Strategic Support advised that in view of the resolution to have four meetings a year that it was advisable for the Chairman to meet informally with officers to map out dates for future meetings and to develop a work programme based on the consultative role of the Committee, and policy matters referred from Cabinet.

## **RESOLVED**

1. That the Chairman hold an informal meeting with officers to agree future dates and a work programme.

### Reasons

To map out dates for future meetings and to develop a work programme based on the consultative role of the Committee, and policy matters referred from Cabinet.

### NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 3rd September 2018 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of these minutes
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Committee.