

PRESENT: Cllrs: D Collins (Chair), K Briffett, A. Doyle, A Kenyon, A Monk, I Scott, E Seymour, R Taylor, A Tink, J Tucker, J Ward (Vice Chair)

ALSO PRESENT: Lesley Reuben (Town Clerk), Naomi Bibi (Town Council Support Officer - *Minutes*)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs: B Mead, A Tink

1583. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were noted.

1584. EVACUATION PROCEDURE: The Chair highlighted the emergency exits for the council and the public.

1585. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Monk made the declaration that his father is a Director for North Bristol Advice – mentioned within the budget.

1586. FILTON BEAT TEAM: PCSO Georgia Bush reported that burglaries were low for this time of year, but shop thefts were higher than usual. Two people had been arrested at a residential scene for a high value gold burglary. There had been 11 reports of criminal damage across the Filton area in the last month, and 15 reported bicycles stolen.

1587. PRESENTATION OF BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENT 2018/19 – DEREK KEMP ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS: Derek Kemp presented the preliminary budget for Filton Town Council for 2018/2019, but stated that Filton had not yet received the information from South Glos Council regarding how much the precept support grant would be. This information should be provided to Filton from South Glos by the end of December.

It was predicted that the year 17/18 would exceed income budgets by £20k (due to the expansion of the Swim School).

Expenditure would also be £2k above budget, but again due to the Swim School expansion.

There should be a surplus of £53,700, which if achieved, would eradicate the Council's deficit a year earlier than planned.

Some budgets remain lean. Capital set at £25k is still less than desirable for example. Maintenance remains quite tight.

The provisional budget has been increased by 2.95% (still below the rate of inflation).

A motion was put forward by Cllr Scott, and seconded by Cllr Monk, that thanks should be relayed to the staff for their hard work and contributing to getting the reserves back to a minimum within a three-year period.

ACTION: *Letters of thanks from the Chair to be circulated to staff.*

1588. SUBMISSIONS FROM PUBLIC: The issue was raised regarding the problem of litter being dropped in the Filton area. It was queried whether fines could be imposed for littering, as is the case in Bristol.

A councillor commented that it was the students responsible for dropping the litter. Other councillors strongly objected to this and commented that this was based on anecdotal evidence only.

The councillor then made a comment about the ethnicity of the people dropping litter. He was again challenged as he was racially profiling people, which was totally unacceptable.

The Chair asked the councillor to apologise and withdraw his remark. He withdrew the remark, but did not apologise.

Through the Chair, the Clerk reminded Council that all Councillors had attended Equalities and Diversity Training, and that following the outburst the Town Clerk would source a refresher course.

1589. CO-OPTION – INTERESTED PARTIES TO PRESENT:

Mubashar Chaudhry introduced himself to Council saying he has been a Filton resident since 2008. He is a chartered accountant, with good connections in the Filton area. He said he appreciated the hard work the people in the room did for Filton and said that he would like to be a part of that, believing that Filton is the best place to live.

He said he would like to help create a small business plan for Filton, incorporating sponsorship deals with local businesses, especially seeing how popular Filton is becoming.

He said he would like to see more green spaces for Filton, particularly having seen the policies adversely affecting Elm Park.

He summarised by saying that as he has accounting experience, he would be glad to help with the budget.

Andrew Robinson introduced himself saying he has been a Filton resident for ten years. He is a graduate engineer, employed locally, and is an active member of the community.

He said he would not just represent his views, but those wanted by the whole community.

Councillors voted in favour of Mr Chaudhry 8:2 with one abstention.

1590. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 31ST OCTOBER 2017: Minutes approved.

1591. MATTERS TO REPORT ARISING FROM MINUTES NOT ON AGENDA: The Chair reminded those present that there would be a stakeholder meeting for the Community Plan on 7th December at 10am.

1592. SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPORTS: The reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors were noted.

1593. SUBMISSION FROM MEMBERS: Motion from Cllr Monk proposed (was seconded by Cllr Kenyon) "That this council resolve to amend standing orders and instruct the Town Clerk to resurrect the planning committee so that it meets every 2 weeks potentially before Full Council and Finance Committee starting at 6pm." The motion fell 7:3.

Cllr Ward proposed the motion (seconded) to resurrect the separate Planning Committee that would meet on a different Tuesday. The motion fell 6:4.

Cllr Seymour proposed the motion (seconded) to incorporate Planning (with a half hour limit) to the end of Full Council and Finance. The motion was approved 8:2.

1594. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND TOWN CLERK: Noted. The Clerk was thanked for the information provided on the Notice Boards.

1595. OTHER REPORTS / CONSULTATIONS:

For information.

Policies, Sites and Places Plan is in the appeals process. Council decided **not** to appeal the PSP.

The Chair reiterated the remark from the previous month's meeting that these consultations are not be discussed on the night, but are to give councillors the opportunity to bring submissions to the meeting which could then be approved at the meeting and then duly submitted on behalf of Council.

ACTION: *The Food Plan to be added to the December meeting with a hyperlink.*

1596. PAYMENTS FOR INFORMATION: Payments noted.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:20pm.