

Minutes of the Land and Property Committee Meeting held in the Community Office, Bruton on Tuesday 19th June 2018 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Brownlow, Hall, Jones, Robinson and Sida
In the Chair: Councillor Jones
In Attendance: The Clerk and two representatives of Bruton Unionist Club

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Hood and Pickering.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

It was proposed and seconded that item 6. Station Road Car Park be taken under Confidential Business.

Resolved 5-0-0

3. Unionist Hall

a) Unionist Club EGM 1st June 2018

Councillor Jones reported on the positive atmosphere at the EGM. Once Councillors had withdrawn from the meeting, the Club members discussed the matter further and a vote was taken. An e-mail of the outcome was then sent to Councillors. Unionist Club members agreed in principal to the Charity set-up with 37 members in favour and 2 abstentions.

It was reported that the Club members wish to be involved at all times during the consultation process. The Town Council wishes to move forward together with the Club on this, but at the same time does not wish to risk public money if the Club should eventually decide to withdraw from the transfer.

Mike Sanders, a UC Committee Member, confirmed the positive atmosphere, and stated that he had not been happy with the communications from the Town Council at times, and felt that members required more respect. The question of whether the freehold should be passed to the Town Council or a Charitable Trust was discussed and legal advice will be taken.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Town Council and Unionist Club will be distributed to Councillors for discussion at the next full Council meeting. An amended letter of engagement from Rosie Parr will also be put to full Council for approval.

Committee wish to recommend to full Council that legal advice be sought from Rosie Parr, at a cost of £500, as to the best way forward for the transfer of the Freehold.

Committee wish to recommend to Full Council that Council move forward to Stage 2 of the Programme Plan.

b) Surveys

Discussion took place.

Committee wish to recommend to full Council that the Property Condition Report and the Asbestos Survey be forwarded to the Unionist Club.

c) Recommended Town Council Appointments to Charitable Incorporated Organisation

The numbers required from each body to serve on the Charitable Incorporated Organisation was discussed. Seven members have been recommended, one from the Council, two from the Unionist Club (but not employees) and four from the Community, although this number can be increased once the Charity has been set up.

It was agreed that the appointment of a Town Council representative be deferred until the full Council meeting on 26th June 2018.

At this point Councillor Hall left the meeting.

The two members of the Unionist Club were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

4. Land Holdings at Dropping Lane

No further information has been received at this time. Uncertainty was expressed about the date of the next Governors meeting.

5. SSDC Asset Transfers

Councillors Jones and Pickering are to meet again on 22nd June with Pam Williams from SSDC Economic Development to discuss three parcels of land/property which may be available. Further information will be available after this meeting.

6. Terms of Reference

This item will be discussed at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting.

7. Confidential Business– Motion to Exclude the Public

There were no members of the public present.

8. Station Road Car Park

The car park situation was discussed with Pam Williams from SSDC Economic Development and Pam stated that she wished to target the December Community Grants Applications, although a minimum lease of 15 years will be needed in order to qualify. Due to the probable high cost involved in resurfacing the car park, a lease document will need to be ready to be signed at the point when any funding is granted.

Committee wish to recommend to full Council that Councillors Jones and Pickering continue discussions with the owner of the land and approach companies for quotations for surfacing.

Committee also wish to recommend that a Business Improvement District be investigated.

Members of Committee are advised that they should consider these matters in the exercise of their functions: Equal opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability): Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights. Copies of plans reports and correspondence mentioned above may be inspected at the Council Office during opening hours or by appointment.