HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 22 MAY 2024

Cllrs. Present: Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Tonia Craig, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr Keith House, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Dave Kinloch, Cllr John Shepherd, Cllr Jane Welsh

S23 Apologies

Cllr Helen Corben, Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Lucy Jurd, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Ron Nichols, Cllr Derek Pretty

S24 Chairs Introduction to the Committee

Cllr House reminded everyone of the purpose of the meeting, outlining that it is an opportunity to look at the bigger picture away from the regular business of the committees.

S25 Draft Strategies

Property Strategy

The Clerk provided an update on committee progress with the Property Strategy. The Clerk ran through the items that have already been to Policy & Resources including:

- 2000 Roof – seeking quotes from a surveyor
- OSH 1st Floor – quotes obtained from an architect
- Drummond Refurbishment – quotes being obtained with a view to obtaining a PWLB.

The Chair noted that everything above was already in hand.

The Chair asked about the future for the public toilets and if the Council felt that these were still a requirement. There was an overwhelming opinion that the toilets were a much-needed facility. The Chair noted that we would need to revisit Greta Park and Turnpike. The Chair asked about the potential for using the archive room for rent. The Clerk outlined that quotes had been sought and are in the region of £25k. If the opportunity arises this could be let. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to adopt the Property Strategy, noting the existing works in progress. The Clerk to explore options for replacement or refurbishment of the existing public toilets facility.**

Vehicle Strategy

Cllr House provided an update on committee progress with the Vehicle Strategy. There was a discussion about if another vehicle was needed and after hearing from the Clerk it was agreed another vehicle is required to replace the ranger. Cllrs were keen that the strategy saw a move towards electric solutions where it is feasible to do so in terms of the requirements of the usage of the vehicle. Cllrs recommended taking advice from EBC to see if there are opportunities to purchase through them as they are purchasing vehicles more frequently than the Town Council. Cllrs asked about the longer term funding the strategy for replacement vehicles. A question was raised about making sure that the capacity of the depot would be suitable for electric vehicles. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed a replacement vehicle, ideally not diesel. That the paper be updated to a strategy which could be adopted at P&R.**

Play Area Strategy

Cllr House provided an update on committee progress with the Play Area Strategy in that it had been to R&A a few times now and feedback has been sought although only 2 councillors responded. Hedge End North Councillors had been asking that Nelsons Gardens was replaced. Cllrs asked if there were any grounds in trying to get sponsorship for a play area. Cllr Jane Welsh noted that the budgets did not support the works required for maintenance let alone new pieces of equipment. Cllr Dave Kinloch asked if it would be prudent to refurbish Locke Road ahead of Nelsons Gardens as the Council will be in the same position with Locke Road in a years' time and the money spent on Nelsons could have been used on a busier park at Locke Road. Cllrs discussed that not all play areas would need a full refurbishment and some items could be replaced. The Clerk advised that Locke Road might need a full replacement due to the timber structure and the failing surface and it might not be worth completing one without the other. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to adopt the Play Area Strategy subject that Nelsons Gardens will be reinstated and then Locke Road would be the next priority. Cllrs agreed the Dowds, Greta, Rodaway and Locke Road are core provision. Beattie Rise, St Johns, Turnpike and Nelsons are the next tier down and then Drummond, Westward and Aspen below that.**

Sports Strategy

The Clerk provided an update on committee progress with the Sports Strategy, noting that across Hedge End there is plenty of provision across different providers. Cllrs noted that there is an excellent sports offering and

we should be promoting this more widely. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to adopt the Sports Strategy for the purposes of consultation and then review and to promote the breadth of sporting opportunities available.**

RESOLVED: That the strategies would be published and feedback invited.

S26 Strategy links to Capital Programme

Cllr House explained how the strategies are the formation of the capital programme for future funding and prioritisation. There is some work to phase the play areas strategy and vehicle strategy over a longer period of time e.g. the expected lifespan of the asset such as 25-30 years for a metal play area.

Historically the Council has used Developer Contributions for capital purchases and then increased the precept for any additional revenue costs. There are developer contributions available from the transfer of Berrywood Fields and some earmarked reserves we have received already. This money can be used for one off repair/replacement now and then this can be built into the budget to build up the reserves to maintain the provision.

S27 Prioritisation and Allocation of Funds

4 Year Plan including future projects

Whilst most of the strategies have a date of four years to coincide with elections, the capital programme would need to extend beyond this time frame. Cllrs spoke about the requirement to have sinking funds for each of the areas that would need to be taken into consideration and then this could be managed through precepting.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed using the capital developer contributions for:

- **2000 Centre roof**
- **Drummond**
- **Vehicle**
- **Nelsons Gardens**
- **Locke Road**
- **Public Toilet**

HEWEB Community Investment Programme

There are some developer contributions available including £11,889 specific

to Hedge End and a share of £113k for HEWEB.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to bid for Nelsons Gardens and Locke Road.

S28 Date of Next Meeting

- **October 2024**

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.55pm.