HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 12 NOVEMBER 2024

Cllrs. Present: Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Tonia Craig, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr Keith House, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr John Shepherd

S29 Apologies

Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Helen Corben, Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr Jane Welsh

S30 Draft Communications & Marketing Strategy

The Clerk provided an update on committee progress with the Communications & Marketing Strategy where it was raised that the logo looks increasingly tired and tatty. Cllrs discussed that the biggest cost would the signage around the area. There would also be a cost for the vehicle liveries. It was felt that maybe a business case outlining what we have and what needs changing and what type of costs it would be to change was needed.
RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to adopt the Communications & Marketing Strategy. Cllrs agreed that a business case for the Logo will go to P&R.

S31 Update on Strategies

Councillors discussed the previously circulated report.

Property Strategy

- It was noted that the 2000 Centre Roof would be fully funded from underspends.
- The aim is to get OSH 1st Floor let by mid 2025.
- The Clerk is awaiting a quote for the works at Drummond. Consideration will need to be given for the timing of works to not inconvenience the nursery too much.
- The public toilets works have not progressed.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed not to lose sight of the public toilets and for the clerk to request the count data.

Play Area Strategy

- Nelsons Gardens consultation has ended, and the consultation report circulated.
- Locke Road consultation will end on the 1 December.
- It is hoped that both will go to tender late December to achieve economies of scale.
- It is expected that these would be delivered in the spring depending on contractor lead time.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the capital programme phasing should be moved on a year to reflect above. That Westward Road should be reduced to £60k. That Barnfield Way and Hedge End Way should be factored into the capital programme.

Sports Strategy

- The sports strategy had been published in the gazette and on social media.

Fleet Strategy

- The Ford Ranger has been collected by Silverlake and £232 received.
- A new vehicle was agreed at P&R, whilst it is not an electric vehicle as desired this was because there was nothing to fulfil the requirements of the functions needed.
- Following discissions there is an opportunity to look at trading in one of the impractical diesel vehicles for an electric vehicle for the litter picker such as a utility vehicle.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed the Fleet Strategy might need revision to reflect this. To be reviewed by P&R.

Biodiversity Strategy

- When making changes to Council assets, conserving and enhancing biodiversity is considered.

RESOLVED: Cllr Ian Corben & Cllr Rupert Kyrle to be invited to the tree planting in Dowds Farm.

Capital Strategy

- The Capital Programme has now been phased over 20 years.

Investment Policy

- The original £85k investment matures on 15/11/24 with £1,499.73 interest and the original investment reinvested until April 2025.

S32 Strategy links to Capital Programme

Cllr House explained how the strategies are the formation of the capital programme for future funding and prioritisation. Cllr House noted that it seems that £130k is required annually to deliver this.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that inflation should be included for subsequent years at 3% to future proof the budget.

S33 Prioritisation and Allocation of Funds

Cllrs discussed the funding options available including raising the precept initially to meet the £130k shortfall which would be a considerable increase in year 1 but not requiring the same increases in future years.

The precept increases could be phased across 3 years, enabling year 4 to have the full £130k allocated to capital projects.

Cllr House proposed that the Berrywood Fields commuted sum be used to bridge the gap in the intervening years whilst the precept increases are applied.

Cllrs were broadly happy with this approach, noting that we don't want to be a in a similar position in years to come with insufficient funds to manage the business.

The Clerk noted that there are some associated maintenance purchases for the management of Berrywood Fields which will come back to P&R.

RESOLVED: That the Berrywood Fields commuted sum be used to bridge the gap in the intervening years whilst the precept increases are applied.

S34 AOB

It was noted that not everyone gets to see the reports that go to Committee and discussion took place as to if this would be useful. **RESOLVED: Its was agreed that all councillors should get all papers except exempt business and personnel committee.**

There was a general discussion about HCC policy on 20mph zones as a request will be going to Highways & Planning from a local school. Overall, it was felt that the Council would want to support these but don't have the resources to fund them.

Cllrs discussed the recent anti-social behaviour around Dowds and Barfoot Close and that the Police are now patrolling this area more recently.

S35 Date of Next Meeting

- **May 2025**

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9:03pm.