

**Minutes of the Strategy Committee Meeting of the Town Council held on  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 6.00pm**

**Present**

**St Michael's Ward**

**St Paul's Ward**

Cllr N Ingham (Chairman)  
Cllr J Brown  
Cllr J Fotheringham  
Cllr T McCollum  
Cllr R Sexton  
Cllr Wakefield

**In attendance**

Heloise Marlow Deputy Town Clerk

**23/46/SC Apologies for absence**

None received.

**23/47/SC Declarations of Interests**

Personal interest Cllr R Sexton re item no. 23/51/SC.

Personal interest Cllr J Brown re items no 23/51/SC and 23/52/SC

Personal Interest Cllr T McCollum re item 23/52/SC.

**23/48/SC Dispensations**

None

**23/49/SC Public Question Time for items on the agenda**

There were no public questions.

**23/50/SC Strategy Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve for accuracy the minutes of the Strategy Committee Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr McCollum

**23/51/SC Progress Against Current Work Programme**

The Committee discussed the following:

- Whilst attached to the agenda, the document was not yet a “public” document and should be watermarked “draft”. The document should be dated.
- Various changes and updates were made to the Current Work Programme (see attached).

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve the changes and updates to the Current Work Programme.**

Proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr McCollum.

**23/52/SC Community Strategy**

Committee discussed the Away Day process and the following:

- Not all Cllrs had submitted ideas
- Not all Cllrs had attended the Away Day although Cllrs Thorne, Brown and R Sexton had submitted ideas separately.
- Not all Cllrs had voted on the submissions after the Away Day.
- Some Cllrs had done none of the above.
- Most of the ideas were unbudgeted.
- The “gold star” voting system could lead to duplicate votes.
- The original documentation with the gold stars were with Officers should any Cllr wish to view it.
- The purpose of the Away Day had been to collect ideas especially from new Councillors and assist in reviewing the Council structure.
- Proposed next steps could be a public consultation, committees’ assessment of the process and feeding into the 2025/26 budget.

Cllr R Sexton expressed his concern that the gold star voting system could have led to a specific project apparently having a lot of support when in reality that support could have come from a small number of Councillors rather than a majority of Councillors. He suggested that the list of project ideas be reissued to Cllrs with those ideas which were essentially the same being combined and Cllrs voting on a scale of 5-1 (5 being a priority) for each idea as this would provide a better indication as to what Councillors felt was important.

Cllr Ingham noted that Council was not legally bound by the results of the Community Strategy and that it would be for Committees to decide on which priorities to put forward.

Cllr R Sexton was worried that the Strategy mislead the Council into what ideas were priorities and that Committees needed a better indication of how Full Council felt.

Cllr Wakefield noted that notwithstanding the Strategy, Committees were considering all ideas put forward and suggested that the gold star column be removed from the Strategy.

Cllr McCollum agreed that the gold star voting was irrelevant as Committees were discussing all the ideas.

Cllr Fotheringham advised that the gold stars were a visual indication of Cllrs views on the day as only about 50% of Cllrs voted in this way.

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to remove the gold start column from V11 of the Community Strategy.**

Proposed by Cllr Ingham and seconded by Cllr McCollum

**23/53/SC Community Strategy Public Consultation**

Members discussed the timing of a public consultation following the recent consultation on the Budget. Members were of the view that the data from the Chamber of Commerce and the results of the Budget survey should be published.

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to defer the Community Strategy Public Consultation to a later date.**

Proposed by Cllr Ingham and seconded by Cllr Fotheringham.

**23/54/SC To close the meeting**

The meeting was closed at 19:40pm.