

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

12 JANUARY 2016 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: MR RG ALLEN – DEPUTY MAYOR

Mr DC Bill MBE, Mr CW Boothby, Mr SL Bray, Mrs R Camamile, Mr MB Cartwright, Mrs MA Cook, Mr DS Cope, Mrs GAW Cope, Mr WJ Crooks, Mr MA Hall, Mrs L Hodgkins, Mr E Hollick, Mrs J Kirby, Mr C Ladkin, Mr MR Lay, Mr KWP Lynch, Mr K Morrell, Mr M Nickerson, Mr RB Roberts, Mr SL Rooney, Mrs H Smith, Mrs MJ Surtees, Mr BE Sutton, Miss DM Taylor, Mr P Wallace, Mr R Ward, Ms BM Witherford and Ms AV Wright

Officers in attendance: Steve Atkinson, Bill Cullen, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen and Rob Parkinson

330 DEPUTY MAYOR IN THE CHAIR

In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor took the chair for this meeting.

331 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Nichols, O'Shea, Richards and Williams.

332 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

On the motion of Councillor Camamile, seconded by Councillor Hall, it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2015 be approved and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

333 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

334 QUESTIONS

The following question was received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1:

Question from Councillor WJ Crooks

“In relation to the recent survey supposedly delivered to residents of the Borough asking whether they would wish to choose to pay extra for the Brown Bin collection, or pay for a rate rise to cover this service, and did not get delivered! - Were the company contracted to deliver the survey paid any monies at all by this Council?”

Response from Councillor M Hall, Council Leader

“Officers contracted a company in good faith to deliver a printed survey to every household in the borough. The company was selected following the submission of informal prices as it has significant experience of delivering for national companies and for other councils, it could deliver within the short timescale required and the price quoted was competitive.

Unfortunately, although a number of surveys were delivered and some 500 were returned, officers were not satisfied the delivery company completed the delivery to every household in the borough as required. This dissatisfaction was based on the council's own delivery back checks and a significant number of complaints of non-delivery from households.

In order to ensure that every household had the opportunity to take part, the deadline was extended and the survey was repeated in the winter 2015 edition of the Borough Bulletin. This ensured every household had the opportunity to take part by either clipping out the coupon and posting it back using the freepost address or by completing the survey online. As Members may be aware, the council directly employs its own deliverers to deliver the Bulletin. There was no additional cost to the council for including the survey in the Bulletin.

The survey attracted 2150 responses and attracted views from residents living in every ward of the borough, around 40% of which were submitted online.

I can confirm the delivery contractor has not been paid for the delivery. Officers notified the contractor of the council's dissatisfaction, informing them that the council does not intend to pay their invoice in November. The contractor has disputed the council's decision, citing delivery back checks completed by an independent company on the contractor's behalf. However, the council's position has not changed and we remain dissatisfied and unwilling to pay their invoice."

As a supplementary question, Cllr Crooks referred to the very recent press release which had stated that there would now be no requirement to either hold a referendum for a council tax increase or impose a charge for garden waste during 2016/17 and asked if the consultation had, therefore, been a needless exercise. In response, the Leader highlighted that, at the time, they had been very likely options and would have been relevant, had the finance settlement been less positive for the council.

335 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT

In his position statement, the Leader referred to the achievements of 2015, including the Crescent development, the successful first Annual Rural Conference and the adoption of Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan. Looking forward, he spoke about the CCG Community Health review, the opening of the new leisure centre, and the emerging Leicester & Leicestershire Combined Authority. Reference was also made to the Strategic Growth Plan for Leicestershire and that the presentation to the cross-party planning working group was the first to be convened in Leicestershire, and the Developer Forum which was being convened at the end of January.

336 MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission presented the minutes of the meetings held on 29 October and 10 December 2015.

337 MICROCHIPPING POLICY & CHARGES

Council received a report which informed members of the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015 and proposed enforcement of the regulations. Members requested that the requirements and the ability of the authority to offer microchipping be well communicated, including through the Borough Bulletin. It was moved by Councillor Morrell, seconded by Councillor Hall and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The enforcement proposal of the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015 as contained within the report be approved;
- (ii) The necessary amendments be made to the Constitution to allow the enforcement of the regulations.

338 REQUEST CAPITAL BUDGET FOR INCENTIVES TO ATTRACT APPROPRIATE TENANTS TO BLOCK C, THE CRESCENT

Members received a report requesting a supplementary budget to attract suitable tenants to the units of Block C, The Crescent. It was moved by Councillor Surtees, seconded by Councillor Hall and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The request for a supplementary capital budget for the current 2015/16 year of £550,000 to attract suitable tenants to retail/restaurant units, financed from the Masterplan Reserve, be approved;
- (ii) The inclusion of the remaining tenant incentive of £650,000 in the 2016/17 capital budget, financed from the Masterplan Reserve, be approved;
- (iii) The Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) and the Executive Member for Finance be granted delegated authority to agree these incentives to a total level of £1.2m.

339 LOCAL AUTHORITIES (STANDING ORDERS) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2015

It was moved by Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Wright and

RESOLVED – Councillors Bray, Hall, Lay, Nickerson and Sutton be appointed to the Statutory Officer Employment Panel in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

(The Meeting closed at 7.02 pm)

MAYOR