

Public Document Pack
**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

A Borough to be proud of

TO BE HELD ON

MONDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2015

at 6.30 pm

Fire Evacuation Procedures

Council Chamber (De Montfort Suite)

- On hearing the fire alarm, leave the building **at once** quickly and calmly by the nearest escape route (indicated by green signs).
- *There are two escape routes from the Council Chamber – at the side and rear. Leave via the door closest to you.*
- Proceed to **Willowbank Road car park**, accessed from Rugby Road then Willowbank Road.
- **Do not** use the lifts.
- **Do not** stop to collect belongings.

Recording of meetings

In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, the press and public are permitted to film and report the proceedings of public meetings. If you wish to film the meeting or any part of it, please contact Democratic Services on 01455 255879 or email rebecca.owen@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk to make arrangements so we can ensure you are seated in a suitable position.

Members of the public, members of the press and Councillors are hereby informed that by attending the meeting you may be captured on film. If you have a particular problem with this, please contact us using the above contact details so we can discuss how we may accommodate you at the meeting.



Date: 02 October 2015

Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

Dear Sir/Madam

I hereby summon you to attend a meeting of the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council in the Council Chamber at these offices on **MONDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2015 at 6.30 pm**

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RK Owen'.

Miss RK Owen
Democratic Services Officer

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 1 - 4)
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2015.
3. Additional urgent business by reason of special circumstances
To be advised of any additional items of business which the Mayor decides by reason of special circumstances shall be taken as matters of urgency at this meeting.
4. Declarations of interest
To receive verbally from Members any disclosures which they are required to make in accordance with the Council's code of conduct or in pursuance of Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. This is in addition to the need for such disclosure to be also given when the relevant matter is reached on the Agenda.
5. Mayor's Communications
To receive such communications as the Mayor may decide to lay before the Council.
6. Questions
To deal with questions under Council Procedure Rule number 11.1
7. Minutes of the Scrutiny Commission (Pages 5 - 8)

To receive for information only the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 17 September 2015.

8. Fire Service Cuts (Verbal Report)

This item is included at the request of a number of members. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer will be in attendance.

9. West Midlands Combined Authority (To Follow)

Report of the Chief Executive will follow.

Agenda Item 2

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

15 SEPTEMBER 2015 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, Mr C Ladkin, Mr MR Lay, Mr KWP Lynch, Mr K Morrell, Mr RB Roberts, Mr SL Rooney, Mrs H Smith, Mrs MJ Surtees, Mr BE Sutton, Miss DM Taylor, Mr P Wallace, Mr R Ward, Mr HG Williams, Ms BM Witherford and Ms AV Wright

Officers in attendance: Steve Atkinson, Ilyas Bham, Julie Kenny, Sanjiv Kohli, Joseph Matharu, Rebecca Owen, Rob Parkinson and Sharon Stacey

148 PRAYER

Revd Martin Castle offered Prayer and led a minute's silence in memory of the Battle of Britain.

149 DEPUTY MAYOR IN THE CHAIR

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

150 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bessant, Kirby, Nickerson, O'Shea and Richards.

151 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Deputy Mayor.

152 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

153 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Deputy Mayor spoke about a recent event he had attended and also asked members that, following his recent wedding in Scotland, they make a donation to the Mayor's Charity Appeal and if sufficient money was raised he would attend the next Council meeting in his kilt.

154 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT

In his position statement, the Leader of the Council referred to work being undertaken within the council to support refugees, work undertaken with residents of Springfield Park and discussions with the Co-op following recent news of its intention to close its Hinckley Store. Following responses by other senior members, a member thanked the dog

warden service for its hard work and achievement of the RSPCA Gold Footprint Award for the fourth year running.

155 MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission presented the minutes of the previous meeting.

156 RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT STRATEGY

Council received the Resident Involvement Strategy 2015-18. It was moved by Councillor Boothby, seconded by Councillor Roberts and

RESOLVED – the Resident Involvement Strategy 2015-18 be approved.

157 RIGHT TO BUY SOCIAL MOBILITY FUND

Council was advised of a successful funding bid to the Government's Right to Buy Social Mobility Fund and the requirement to approve a supplementary budget to be able to utilise this funding. It was explained that this scheme was an alternative to the Right to Buy Scheme and would support tenants in buying a property on the open market, thereby retaining council stock to be re-let. Concern was expressed by some members who believed that the Government would require the Council to sell the void property rather than re-let it, and in response it was stated that there would be a meeting with CLG the following week, at which such questions would be raised. It was moved by Councillor Boothby, seconded by Councillor Williams and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The awarding of £16,000 and priorities for use be noted;
- (ii) A supplementary capital income budget of £160,000 be approved;
- (iii) A supplementary capital expenditure budget of £180,000, which will be treated as revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute (REFUS), financed from £160,000 from central government and £20,000 from the general fund through Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay (RCCO) be approved.

158 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Members received the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15. During debate, the following points were raised:

- The need to bring options to the next meeting of Council, to ensure a balanced budget going forward
- The potential reduction in rental income next year, which would affect paying off of the HRA buyout loan
- Concern regarding the increase in cost of the dry recycling contract
- The intention to bring a plan with regard to housing to a future meeting of Council, following referral to the Scrutiny Commission
- The council having gained from the loan to the Tin Hat Partnership.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) The Statement of Accounts for 2014/15 be approved;
- (ii) A report on options to address the funding gap be brought to the next meeting;
- (iii) A plan in relation to housing be brought to a future meeting, following referral to the Scrutiny Commission.

159 RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Council was presented with the revised Risk Management Strategy. It was moved by Councillor Surtees, seconded by Councillor Wright and

RESOLVED – the Risk Management Strategy be approved.

160 LICENSING POLICY REFRESH

Consideration was given to the Statement of Licensing Policy which, following consultation, had been endorsed by the Licensing Committee. It was moved by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Ladkin that the Statement be approved.

A member recalled the discussion of the Licensing Committee on 26 August with regard to implementing a Late Night Levy and that the committee had agreed to revisit that specific matter at a future meeting, and whilst it was acknowledged that this would not affect approval of the Statement of Licensing Policy, it was felt that a decision should not be made until consideration had been given to Late Night Levy. It was moved by Councillor Cartwright and seconded by Councillor Witherford that the report be deferred, which was supported by Councillor Hall as proposer of the original motion. Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried and it was

RESOLVED – the Statement of Licensing Policy be deferred to the next ordinary meeting to allow for discussion by the Licensing Committee on the Late Night Levy.

161 WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY

Members received a report and supplementary document in relation to membership of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). Councillor Hall suggested an amendment to recommendation 2.1 which would require a report to be brought back to an extraordinary meeting of the Council by no later than 8 October, if a positive decision to join was being recommended. No meeting would be necessary if the recommendation was to stay outside the West Midlands Combined Authority. It was requested that Councillor Bill be kept updated on progress as he had been involved since the onset of discussions. The amended motion was seconded by Councillor Rooney and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The Leader and Chief Executive be authorised to continue negotiations in relation to membership of the West Midlands Combined Authority;
- (ii) A further report be brought to Council on or before 8 October for a final decision, if there was to be a recommendation to join the WMCA.

162 CODE OF CONDUCT - REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Consideration was given to a report which recommended amendments to the code of conduct for purposes of clarification. In response to a member's question, it was noted that this wouldn't affect parish councils as they were responsible for adopting their own code of conduct. It was moved by Councillor Wright, seconded by Councillor Camamile and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The deletion of paragraph 2.16(b)(ii) of the Code of Conduct be approved;
- (ii) The necessary amendment to paragraph 2.17 of the Code of Conduct to remove reference to paragraph 2.6.1 be approved.

(The Meeting closed at 7.58 pm)

MAYOR

Agenda Item 7

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

17 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman
Mr SL Bray and Mrs R Camamile – Vice-Chairmen

Mr WJ Crooks, Mr KWP Lynch, Mr SL Rooney, Mr BE Sutton, Mr R Ward and
Mr HG Williams

Also in attendance: Councillor K Morrell

Officers in attendance: Richard Crosthwaite, Julie Kenny, Sanjiv Kohli, Joseph Matharu,
Rebecca Owen, Rob Parkinson and Judith Sturley

163 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allen and Bill, with Cllr Hodgkins substituting for Cllr Bill in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.

164 MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Camamile, seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 13 August be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

165 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

166 MTFS PROGRESS REPORT

The Scrutiny Commission received an update on the financial targets for 2016/17 outlined in the abbreviated Medium Term Financial Strategy. During the presentation, the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) reminded members of the budget pressures due in part to Leicestershire County Council's withdrawal of recycling credits and the increased costs of the recycling contract. A revised deficit of £1.9m had been projected, against which officers had identified savings to meet half of the deficit.

Options highlighted at previous meetings since Council in March were discussed, including increasing Council Tax by 2%, going to a referendum to increase Council Tax by more than 2%, removing Local Council Tax Support to parish councils, charging for green waste collection, and vacancy savings.

Councillor Williams entered the meeting at 6.40pm.

The Chairman reminded members of discussions during the previous municipal year in relation to a consultation on charging for green waste collections, and asked that, if the same was to be considered at this stage, the wording of the consultation be brought to the Scrutiny Commission again. In response, officers explained that the consultation would need to be sent out early the following week and as such there would not be time to bring back to the Commission, but that the proposed consultation was very similar to that previously considered by the Scrutiny Commission.

The options for green waste charging were discussed, including 'opt in' and 'opt out' options. The possibility of increasing council tax was also discussed and it was suggested that an increase of 20% (approximately £20 per year increase for the average band D) would cover the cost of the referendum and the increasing budget requirements.

The Chairman requested that an urgent task & finish group be set up to look at the proposed consultation questions and asked that each group nominate two members to sit on the group, to meet on Thursday, 24 September.

Some members expressed concern in relation to the withdrawal of the Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) grant to parish councils, which had been previously agreed to be phased out, but was now being suggested for complete withdrawal. It was requested that parish councils be notified of the suggestion to withdraw the grant as soon as possible by the Executive to enable them to plan for the possibility, particularly as the majority were already finalising their budgets.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The Executive be RECOMMENDED to notify parish councils of the possibility of withdrawing the Local Council Tax Support grant;
- (ii) A Task & Finish group be set up to consider the consultation on charging for green waste collection.

167 ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Scrutiny Commission received an annual update on work undertaken to fulfil the aims of the Economic Regeneration Strategy Action Plan. Members welcomed the report and the work that had been taken place.

RESOLVED – the report be noted and ongoing work be endorsed.

168 AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY UPDATE

Members received the annual update on affordable housing delivery. Concern was expressed that the percentage of affordable housing delivered against the target was lower than the percentage of open market housing delivered against the target. In response, members were reminded that a slower rate of delivery in the first half of the plan period had always been predicted, and in April 2016 at the halfway point, the numbers would be reviewed.

Members requested a report on the numbers of planning applications where a viability assessment had reduced numbers of affordable housing provided.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The report be noted;
- (ii) A report be brought back to a future meeting on planning permissions that had been subject to a successful viability assessment.

169 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

The Environmental Improvement Programme for 2015/16 was outlined for members and a presentation of projects was displayed. Members emphasised the importance of the

scheme and the hope that it would continue into the future. A list of those projects not approved and reasons for this was requested and it was agreed that this would be sent to members.

170 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT POLICY

The Commission received the draft Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) policy which had been updated following an inspection by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners (OCS) in 2014.

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed and RECOMMENDED to Executive for approval.

171 SCRUTINY COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16

It was agreed that the work programme would be drafted by the Chair and Vice-Chairs.

(The Meeting closed at 8.35 pm)

CHAIRMAN

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