

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

15 SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT:       CLLR L HODGKINS - MAYOR  
                  CLLR E HOLICK – DEPUTY MAYOR

CLlr RG Allen, CLlr DC Bill MBE, CLlr SL Bray, CLlr MB Cartwright,  
CLlr JMT Collett, CLlr MA Cook, CLlr MJ Crooks, CLlr WJ Crooks,  
CLlr DJ Findlay, CLlr REH Flemming, CLlr A Furlong, CLlr SM Gibbens,  
CLlr DT Glenville, CLlr C Ladkin, CLlr MR Lay, CLlr KWP Lynch,  
CLlr K Morrell, CLlr LJ Mullaney, CLlr MT Mullaney, CLlr K Nichols,  
CLlr LJP O'Shea, CLlr A Pendlebury, CLlr RB Roberts, CLlr MC Sheppard-  
Bools, CLlr H Smith, CLlr BR Walker, CLlr R Webber-Jones and  
CLlr P Williams

Officers in attendance: Bill Cullen, Malcolm Evans, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen, Julie Stay and Ashley Wilson

457    APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Allen, Boothby, Cope and H Williams.

458    MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Nichols and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meetings held on 25 February and 14 July be approved.

459    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

460    LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT

In presenting his position statement, the leader referred to Leicestershire County Council's report to its Cabinet seeking to gain support for requesting an invitation to submit a proposal for the establishment of unitary local government for Leicestershire, the impact of Covid-19 including alternative arrangements for events, town centre parking, planning reforms, MIRA Enterprise Zone, jobs and growth and the National Forest. Members wished to thank council staff, volunteers and residents for their hard work and support over the previous few months.

461    MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

The minutes of the Scrutiny Commission were received for information.

462    FINANCIAL OUTTURN FOR 2019/20 AND HIGH LEVEL FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Council received a report on the draft financial outturn for 2019/20, the impact of Covid-19 on the first quarter's financial position and the longer term outlook. During discussion, the following points were raised:

- Concern over the financial impact of Covid-19
- Concern about action to mitigate the impact of being unable to access properties to carry out asbestos surveys. It was agreed that more information and reassurance would be provided to the councillor
- The financial savings of moving to a unitary authority were not evidenced or convincing
- Savings that would be required were not yet known and some difficult decisions may have to be taken.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) The general fund outturn for 2019/20 be approved;
- (ii) Transfers to earmarked reserves and balances as outlined in the report be approved;
- (iii) The general fund revenue carry forwards of expenditure and income to 2020/21 be approved;
- (iv) The housing revenue and housing repairs account outturn for 2019/20 and transfers to and from balances as details in sections 3.8 to 3.9 be approved;
- (v) The capital programme outturn for the general fund and housing revenue account from 2019/20 be approved;
- (vi) The HRA carry forwards be approved;
- (vii) The capital carry forwards be approved;
- (viii) A £60,000 contribution to a new HRA rent equalisation reserve to assist in smoothing of any future rental deficit be approved;
- (ix) The first quarter impact of Covid-19 on the in-year performance be noted;
- (x) The longer term financial pressures be noted.

463 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2020/21

The HBBC pay policy statement for 2020/21 was proposed for approval. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bill and

RESOLVED – the HBBC pay policy statement for 2020/21 be approved.

464 AMBION COURT

Members received an update on the Ambion Court sheltered scheme redevelopment. It was moved by Councillor Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Bray and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The progress with the project be noted;

- (ii) The estimated tender sum of £3,068,200.00 for a 54 week programme be noted and the revised budget of £,769,668.00 for delivery of the scheme be approved;
- (iii) The ongoing discussions with Homes England regarding their funding allocation be noted.

465 SIX MONTH ATTENDANCE RULE

Consideration was given to a report which recommended temporarily extending the period of absence for any councillor who is unable to attend meetings for a six-month period. A member queried whether this was also relevant for parish councils. In response, it was noted that this decision applied only to the borough council and that parish councils would need to take their own advice on the requirements. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bill and

RESOLVED – a waiver of the six month rule be granted for members who fail to attend meetings for the reasons outlined in the report until 7 May 2021 or until revocation of The Local Authority and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, whichever is the later.

466 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The draft calendar of meetings for 2021 was discussed. In addition, the Leader highlighted the intention to adhere to dates in the original calendar of meetings for the remainder of this calendar year. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bill and

RESOLVED – the calendar of meetings for 2021 be approved.

467 MOTIONS RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 17

Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Morrell, proposed the following motion:

“Declare an expression of wish to extend the National Forest borders from the north of the Borough to the south, east and west of its borders.

Whilst the Council has already declared a climate emergency in July 2019, since this declaration few changes have been made.

However, with rapidly rising and increases of traffic and congestion, much tougher and much more ambitious plans will need to be implemented if the Borough is to become carbon neutral within the intended time scale.

Currently the Government has expressed an interest in extending and creating new woodland and forests to help mitigate some of these issues, along with extensive technology and infrastructure changes.

25 years ago, large swathes of the Midlands landscape had been left scarred by centuries of coal mining and other heavy industry. But a passionate group of people had a vision: a forest. The first forest to be created at scale in England for over 1000 years, it transformed the landscape from black to green. But the story doesn't stop here. This is Our National Forest. It belongs to us all.

The National Forest is right in the heart of the country, embracing 200 square miles of the Midlands. It spans across parts of Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Staffordshire and aims to link the two ancient Forests of Charnwood and Needwood. With a history of coalmining and heavy industry, the landscape is now that of rolling farmland, ancient forests and new planted woodlands. Its main towns and villages include Burton upon Trent (famous for its brewing), Coalville and Swadlincote (formerly associated with the clay and coal mining industries) and the historic town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch and reaches as far down as Bagworth and extending Thornton Reservoir in Hinckley and Bosworth.

Therefore to make the Climate emergency declaration and give it more emphasis, this motion proposes the following actions as a council:-

- Cross party agreement to pursue government support for the National Forest to extend the current forest to the North of Hinckley, to the South level with A47 and to join with Charnwood Forest to the East and A5 to the West to the extent of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Borders.
- Draw up plans with the National Forest and Woodland Trust Organisations to identify sites.
- Identify Grants and funding sources to permit the acquisition of land and resource, plus cover the costs of planting and the legal framework required.
- Identify landowners willing to participate in the scheme, bearing in mind Central Government is already drawing up plans with Defra to look at land set aside with possible subsidies for landowners and farming communities to actively encourage participation in such a scheme.”

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED – the motion be approved.

468 MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

On the motion of Councillor Bray seconded by Councillor Bill, it was

RESOLVED – in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3, 5 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

469 MIRA ENTERPRISE ZONE

Members received a report in relation to the MIRA Enterprise Zone. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bill and

RESOLVED – the recommendations within the report be approved.

(The Meeting closed at 7.55 pm)

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MAYOR