

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2004 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. B.H. EDWARDS - MAYOR  
MR. J.C. BOWN - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. M.O. Bevins, Mr. C.W. Boothby, Mr. D.R. Bown, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mrs. C.M. Claridge, Mr. J.F. Collins, Mrs. M.A. Cook, Mr. N.B.L. Davis, Mr. R.D. Ellis, Mrs. D. Finney, Mr. R.J. Furniss, Mr. M.A. Hall, Mr. D.E. Hinton, Mr. K.A.J. Hunnybun, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Ms. J.E. Price, Mrs. M.L. Sherwin, Mrs. E.A. Spencer, Mr. J.E. Stanley, Mr. D.W. Thorpe and Mr. R. Ward.

Officers in attendance: Mr. K.G. Bray, Mr. P.F. Cash, Mr. D. Cook, Mr. G.B. Gethin, Mrs. T. O'Grady, Mr. A. Ottey, Mr. R. Palmer, Ms. J. Penman, Mr. T.M. Prowse, Mr. R.A. Sargent and Mr. R.M. Tobin.

111 PRAYER

The Reverend Canon F.D. Jennings, Mayor's chaplain, offered prayer.

112 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. D.C. Bill, Mrs. M.J. Crooks, Mr. K. Vessey and Mrs. R.W. Wright.

113 MINUTES (C21)

On the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Collins, it was

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2004 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

114 ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Mayor confirmed that, as previously notified to Members, he would take as an additional item of business a report (C29) relating to the way forward on improvement issues. The reason for the urgency was the need to ensure that a recruitment panel was in place to action the recruitment of a permanent Chief Executive as soon as possible.

115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

116 REVISED CONSTITUTION (C22)

Mr. P. Cooper attended for the presentation of the final report of the Improvement and Development Agency (I&DeA) on their review of the Constitution culminating in the draft now placed before Members and which had been worked up in consultation with a Member working party. In an accompanying report, the Director of Resources highlighted provision in the Constitution to allow subsequent amendment in the light of experience and new legislation etc. as well as other issues raised by I&DeA.

It was moved by Mrs. Claridge and seconded by Mr. Bevins that the Constitution submitted be approved. Following an amendment proposed by Mr. Thorpe, seconded by Mrs. Sherwin, and declared carried it was

RESOLVED - subject to all reference to 'Activ8' being changed to 'Local Strategic Partnership' the Constitution submitted be approved.

117 SEASONAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHT AND FESTIVE CELEBRATION (REVISED C23)

A report was submitted on the benefits to be gained from enhancing and extending festive celebrations to cover the main retail trading areas within the Borough with a view to increasing the vitality and economic viability of these areas and to improve the potential for tourism and leisure. The estimated cost of new lighting and installation of the necessary infrastructure was £49,500. The recommendations contained in the revised report having been proposed by Mrs. Claridge and seconded by Mr. Bevins, an amendment was moved by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mr. Thorpe that reference to 'festival lights' be changed to 'Christmas lights' which was declared carried. The substantive motion was then put to a vote and it was

RESOLVED -

- i) the introduction of Christmas lights for the festive season be introduced in the retail areas of the Borough;
- ii) an additional project of £49,500 be included in the 2004/05 capital programme for the purchase of the lights and associated works; and
- iii) the potential for Christmas festivals and any associated revenue costs be reviewed as part of overall General Fund priorities for future years.

118 PROMOTIONAL EVENTS (C24)

Mrs. Claridge informed the meeting that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

119 PROMOTION AND IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS FOR HINCKLEY MARKETS (REVISED C25)

Proposals were put forward for promoting and improving the Hinckley market towards which a County Council grant of £8,000 was available. On the motion of Mrs. Claridge, seconded by Mr. Collins, it was

RESOLVED

- i) a supplementary estimate of £11,000 be approved for 2004/05 for the enhancement and promotion of Hinckley markets, and that the funds be utilised as outlined in section 4 of the report of the Head of Environmental Services. £8,000 of this to be funded by grant income from Leicestershire County Council and £3,000 net additional expenditure; and
- ii) additional capital expenditure of £15,000 be included in 2004/05 to provide new awnings for the general Hinckley markets as outlined in section 5 of the report. The additional expenditure to be covered by savings in the 2004/05 land drainage project.

120 WASTE MINIMISATION AND RECYCLING - SUPPLEMENTARY MEASURES  
(C26)

Following monitoring of the fortnightly refuse collection service, an initiative was suggested for improving residual waste wheeled bin capacity by collecting cardboard separately and investigating options for recycling plastics, together with measures whereby residents may purchase additional capacity either by renting a larger bin or the purchase of sacks. It was moved by Mr. Collins and seconded by Mr. Hall

- (a) a monthly service for the collection of cardboard and, if practicable, plastics from areas in which the wheeled bin residual waste service operates be introduced on a trial basis;
- (b) a supplementary budget of £50,000 be approved for that service for 2004/05;
- (c) the annual revenue budget be increased by £100,000 from 2005/06 onwards to fund the costs of the service;
- (d) residents supplied with a 240 litre wheeled bin may opt to increase the size of that bin to 360 litres at an annual charge of £30;
- (e) residents may rent a second 240 litre wheeled bin at a charge of £50 per year;
- (f) residents be able to purchase suitably identified plastic sacks for any additional residual waste at a cost of 3 bags for £2; and
- (g) families of 5 or more persons be able to request a 360 litre wheeled bin instead of the normal 240 litre size.

An amendment was moved by Mr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Stanley that in the light of the widespread and growing discontent with the fortnightly collection of non-recyclable waste, no further action is taken on the subject of this report until the weekly collection of non-recyclables has been restored. The amendment was put to a vote and declared LOST.

By way of a further amendment, Mr. Ellis moved and Mr. Lynch seconded that the motion be amended by the deletion of items (d), (e) and (f). Upon being put to a vote this further amendment was also declared LOST.

Mr. Hunnybun left the meeting at 8.10 p.m. returning at 8.13 p.m.  
Mr. Lay left the meeting at 8.21 p.m. returning at 8.23 p.m.

The motion having then been put to a vote it was

RESOLVED

- (i) a monthly service for the collection of cardboard and, if practicable, plastics from areas in which the wheeled bin residual waste service operates be introduced on a trial basis;
- (ii) a supplementary budget of £50,000 be approved for that service for 2004/05;

- (iii) the annual revenue budget be increased by £100,000 from 2005/06 onwards to fund the costs of the service;
- (iv) residents supplied with a 240 litre wheeled bin may opt to increase the size of that bin to 360 litres at an annual charge of £30;
- (v) residents may rent a second 240 litre wheeled bin at a charge of £50 per year;
- (vi) residents be able to purchase suitably identified plastic sacks for any additional residual waste at a cost of 3 bags for £2; and
- (vii) families of 5 or more persons be able to request a 360 litre wheeled bin instead of the normal 240 litre size.

121 HOUSING STOCK OPTIONS APPRAISAL (C27)

Concerns expressed by the Government Office for the East Midlands and the Community Housing Taskforce were reported with regard to the resources currently employed to deal with the housing stock options appraisal/tenant consultation and participation workload. Proposals were also put forward aimed at addressing these at an estimated cost of £65,087. On the motion of Mr. Thorpe, seconded by Mrs. Sherwin, it was

RESOLVED

- (i) a temporary assistant to the Tenant Participation Officer be appointed for a 12 month period on salary scale 4/5, plus casual user car allowance;
- (ii) a temporary administration assistant be appointed for a 12 month period on scale 1/2;
- (iii) the Tenant Participation Officer be regraded in view of the additional staffing and project management responsibilities to scale PO1 (SCP33) for the duration of the project and its signing off; and
- (iv) a general budget provision of £20,000 be set up in 2004/05 in order to deal with costs associated with the housing stock options appraisal consultation process, for example publication costs, tenant meeting costs, materials, IT expenses, ITA/TAP publicity initiatives etc.

122 THE WAY FORWARD ON IMPROVEMENT ISSUES (C29)

Consideration was given to a report of the Interim Chief Executive on proposed arrangements relating to the recruitment of a permanent Chief Executive, providing additional capacity where necessary, and the mechanics for driving forward improvement.

On the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mrs. Claridge, it was

RESOLVED

- (i) an interview panel of seven be established for the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive;

- (ii) this panel, supplemented if appropriate, be used as an informal sounding board as the process of recruitment unfolds;
- (iii) in response to the Council's need for a meaningful response to the CPA report, the Acting Head of Paid Service be given delegated authority to establish an improvement team and arrange interim support arrangement including external capacity support and adjustment in other internal staffing arrangements;
- (iv) the earmarking of £50,000 of the 2003/04 underspends as an improvement fund be approved; and
- (v) the budgetary arrangements laid out in the financial implications to the report be approved and Cabinet be delegated to monitor disbursements of any improvement funds available against the improvement initiatives as set out (which is subject to normal audit procedures).

123 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

On the motion of Mrs. Claridge, seconded by Mr. Bevins, it was

RESOLVED - a Personnel Committee be established comprised of Mrs. C.M. Claridge (Chairman), Mr. M.O. Bevins, Mr. J.F. Collins, Mr. R.D. Ellis, Mrs. D. Finney, Mr. R.J. Furniss, Mr. M.R. Lay, Ms. J.E. Price and Mr. J.E. Stanley.

124 MOTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE NO.12

It was moved by Mr. Lay and seconded by Mrs. Camamile that this Council, having made substantial resources available for Comprehensive Performance Assessment and having regard to views expressed during both the inspection and the Peer Challenge, now calls upon the Cabinet to ensure that, rather than what appears previously to have been lip service, there is a commitment to the scrutiny process so that

- (i) in accordance with Article 6 of the Constitution before Council this evening, at least one dedicated Scrutiny Officer is appointed; and
- (ii) as required by the Member/Officer Relations Protocol, officers provide advice which is objective and consistent and points out all relevant factors rather than, as has been the case, hindering the scrutiny process by the absence or inadequacy of previously called-for reports or their non-attendance.

Mr. Bevins then moved and Mrs. Claridge seconded that item (i) be amended by the insertion after 'Officers' of the words 'two days per week'. Upon being put to a vote, the amendment was declared CARRIED.

Mr. Furniss and Mr. Hunnybun left the meeting at 8.46 p.m.

The substantive motion was then put to a vote and was also declared CARRIED.

125 MATTER FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

On the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mrs. Claridge, it was

RESOLVED - in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remaining item of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

126 SALE OF ALLOTMENT LAND AT MONTGOMERY ROAD, EARL SHILTON (C28)

Details were reported of a bid received for allotment land at Montgomery Road, Earl Shilton.

It was moved by Mr. Bevins and seconded by Mrs. Claridge that

- (i) the bid for the allotment land in the sum of £485,000 from David Wilson Homes be accepted; and
- (ii) the Council approve the termination of the two allotment tenancies by way of the appropriate notice.

By way of amendment, Mr. D.R. Bown moved and Mr. Ellis seconded, that the allotment holders be recompensed if legally permissible. The amendment was put to a vote and declared CARRIED. The substantive motion was then put to a vote and it was

RESOLVED -

- (i) the bid for the allotment land in the sum of £485,000 from David Wilson Homes be accepted; and
- (ii) the termination of the two allotment tenancies be approved by way of appropriate notice and, if legally permissible, recompense.

(The meeting closed at 8.56 p.m.)