

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

26TH OCTOBER 2004 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. J.C. BOWN - DEPUTY MAYOR (IN THE CHAIR)

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.T. Andrews, Mr. M.O. Bevins, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. C.W. Boothby, Mr. D.R. Bown, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mrs. C.M. Claridge, Mrs. M.A. Cook, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mrs. M.J. Crooks, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mr. N.B.L. Davis, Mr. R.D. Ellis, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. R.J. Furniss, Mr. D.E. Hinton, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Mrs. M.L. Sherwin, Mr. J.E. Stanley, Mr. D.W. Thorpe, Mr. R. Ward and Mrs. R.W. Wright.

Mr. R. Birch, an independent member of the Standards Committee, attended the meeting as an observer.

Officers in attendance: Mr. K.G. Bray, Mr .B. Cullen, Mr. S. Kohli, Mrs. P.I. Pitt, Mr. M. Roffey, Ms. S. Stacey, Ms. B. Thomas and Mr. R.M. Tobin.

217 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. J.F. Collins, Mr. B.H. Edwards, Mrs. D. Finney, Mr. M.A. Hall, Mr. K.A.J. Hunnybun, Ms. J.E. Price, Mrs. E.A. Spencer and Mr. K.Vessey.

218 PRAYERS

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

219 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

On the motion of Mr. J.C. Bown, seconded by Mrs. Claridge it was

RESOLVED - Mrs. Aldridge be appointed Vice-Chairman for the purpose of this meeting only.

220 MINUTES (C37)

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2004 be confirmed and signed by the Deputy Mayor subject to the substitution of the name of Mrs. M.J. Crooks for Mr. W.J. Crooks in minute No. 178(c).

221 ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Deputy Mayor confirmed that as previously notified to Members he would take as an additional item of business a report (C42) on the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Improvement Plan and reporting arrangements. The reason for the urgency was the need for the Improvement Plan produced in response to the Audit Commission's CPA report to be formally "signed off" by the Council and the Audit Commission by the end of October 2004.

222 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Bevins, Mrs. Claridge, Mrs. Sherwin and Mr. Thorpe each declared a personal interest in the supplement to Report No. C41.

The following question and reply were submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10:-

Question raised by Mrs. Francks and addressed to Mr. Collins

"At the implementation of the fortnightly refuse collection scheme no methods were put into place to collect and recycle the two largest items of most people's refuse, plastic and cardboard packaging.

At a recent Scrutiny Commission meeting some Councillors suggested we move to a more ambitious target for recycling in the near future.

Given that last week, along with other residents I was turned away from Barwell tip when trying to recycle my plastic items because all the available containers were full, how will we achieve this?

Does Council intend to incorporate recycling of plastic and cardboard together in a curtilage collection scheme and if not what measures are being taken to ensure there are adequate sites and capacity to enable recycling by all residents?"

Reply given by Mr. Collins

"Since the implementation of the alternate week recycling and refuse collection service, I, together with officers, have been listening very carefully to the concerns of residents.

I agree with Councillor Francks that the main issue we need to address is that of the volume of cardboard and plastics in the residual waste.

We need to work closely with our colleagues at Leicestershire County Council, who operate the Barwell Household Waste and Recycling Centre, to provide the services which will allow residents to recycle more cardboard and plastic. There is clearly a demand for more sites at which these materials can be recycled, as evidenced by Councillor Francks' own experience.

I have been working very closely with officers to look at how we can address this issue. We have come to the conclusion that the best option would be to enhance some of the existing bring sites to provide containers for plastics and this should commence during November. In addition, we propose to provide sites across the area at which residents will be able to recycle cardboard and plastic. These would be emptied regularly by the in-house contractor. The revenue costs for this service can be met from existing budgets.

I am confident that the implementation of this scheme, which will be subject to Member approval, together with those which are already in place, will allow us to achieve a recycling rate which is in excess of the statutory recycling target of 27% in 2005/06.

The Head of Environmental Services will seek the appropriate Member approval for the introduction of this significant enhancement to the Council's recycling service."

In reply to a supplementary question Mrs. Claridge stated that Mr. Collins would respond in writing to Mrs. Francks regarding the outcome of discussions with the County Council.

224 COST OF BED AND BREAKFAST ACCOMMODATION 2004/05 (C38)

The Head of Housing reported on the increased cost to the Council of providing bed and breakfast accommodation to persons owed a duty under the Homelessness Act 2002 and requested that Members agree a supplementary budget of £78,000 in 2004/05 to meet such costs.

On the motion of Mr. Thorpe, seconded by Mr. Lay it was

RESOLVED -

- (i) approval be given to a supplementary budget of £78,000 from the general fund in 2004/05 to meet bed and breakfast costs;
- (ii) preparation work take place to create via conversion and regeneration a scheme of flats with on-site management suitable for single people; and
- (iii) a process of claiming housing benefit towards bed and breakfast costs be implemented wherever possible.

225 ETHICAL GOVERNANCE AUDIT (C39)

Approval was sought to the ethical governance audit document produced by the Director of Resources and on the motion of Mrs. Sherwin, seconded by Mr. Lay it was

RESOLVED - the covering letter and questionnaire accompanying the report produced by the Director of Resources for ethical governance audit purposes be approved.

226 AMENDMENT TO HUMAN RESOURCES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (C40)

The Director of Resources advised Members that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

227 BURBAGE FARMERS' MARKET (C41)

The need to regularise the procedure for dealing with applications for road closures under the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 was outlined. Additionally, Members had been circulated, as a supplement to this report, with details of a request from Burbage Parish Council for the waiving of the Council's fee of £100 in consequence of the Parish Council's intention to hold a monthly farmers' market. Mr. Davis indicated that the Parish Council had subsequently withdrawn this request. On the motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Wright, it was

RESOLVED -

- (i) the Director of Resources be authorised to make an Order under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 as attached to his report and to determine all future applications, including the making of relevant Orders under this legislation; and
- (ii) the Council's Constitution be amended accordingly.

228 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS (C42)

Arising from the above, Members considered the need to develop a control framework for driving forward the Council's improvement programme. For clarity the core themes which would form part of the proposed joint capacity building bid with other Leicestershire authorities included people management, performance management and shared learning. On the motion of Mrs. Claridge, seconded by Mr. Bevins, it was

RESOLVED -

- (i) the CPA improvement plan be endorsed;
- (ii) the establishment of an improvement team within the organisation noting measures to be taken to address capacity issues be supported; and
- (iii) agreement be given to the core themes to form part of a joint capacity building bid with other Leicestershire authorities.

(The meeting closed at 7.43 p.m.)