

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

25TH OCTOBER 2005 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. J.C. BOWN - MAYOR
MRS. M.L. SHERWIN - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. M.O. Bevins, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. C.W. Boothby, Mr. D.R. Bown, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mrs. C.M. Claridge, Mr. J.F. Collins, Mrs. M.A. Cook, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mrs. M.J. Crooks, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mr. N.B.L. Davis, Mr. B.H. Edwards, Mr. R.D. Ellis, Mrs. D. Finney, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. R.J. Furniss, Mr. M.A. Hall, Mr. K.A.J. Hunnybun, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Ms. J.E. Price, Mrs. E.A. Spencer, Mr. J.E. Stanley, Mr. K. Vessey, Mr. R. Ward and Mrs. R.W. Wright.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S. Atkinson, Ms. J. Carter, Mr. B. Cullen, Ms. C. Lambert, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. T.M. Prowse.

244 PRAYER

Reverend Ron Davis, Mayor's Chaplain, offered prayer.

245 PRESENTATION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the three newly-appointed neighbourhood wardens and their team leader were introduced to Members. Working with other local agencies these officers would assist in the delivery of cleaner, safer and greener issues. Operating initially for a six-month period this pilot scheme would be reviewed to ensure that the outcome was appropriate to the long-term needs of the Authority.

Mr. Edwards entered the meeting at 6.35 p.m.

246 WELCOME

The Mayor extended a welcome to Mr. Batty, the newly-elected member for Groby and to Julie Carter, the Council's newly-appointed Head of Corporate Services.

247 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. D.E. Hinton and D.W. Thorpe.

248 MINUTES (C30)

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

249 ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor indicated that he had agreed to take as a late item, and as previously circulated to Members a report of the Chief Executive relating to the Chairmanship of the Standards Committee, the reason for the urgency being the need to regularise arrangements, as called for at the last Council meeting.

250 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Interests were declared in report number C32 by the following Members of the Licensing Committee present, including those who chaired/attended sub-panel hearings:-

Mrs. Aldridge, Mr. Batty, Mr. J.C. Bown, Mr. Davis, Mr. Edwards, Mrs. Finney, Mrs. Francks, Mr. Hall, Mr. Hunnybun, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Lay, Ms. Price, Mr. Stanley and Mr. Ward.

251 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported the impending arrival of Emilie Mulot, a French student from Le Grand Quevilly, who would be working within the Council on a six-week placement.

252 QUESTIONS

The following questions and replied were received in accordance with Council procedure Rule 11.2:-

(a) Question asked by Mrs. Francks and addressed to Mr. Collins

"During the debate on the motion to restore a weekly collection of household waste put to full Council by Mr. Lynch on 2nd August, it was stated that the cost of doing so would necessitate an increase on the council tax of £20+ per year.

However, in a letter to 'The Hinckley Times' of 25th August, the Chief Executive wrote the increase would be 20%.

Given the considerable difference between a £20+ increase and one of 20%, and the confusion this generates, could the portfolio holder please clarify the situation?

Can he tell us now only how and when this later figure was arrived at, but also why if it is accurate that it was not brought to Council at the 2nd August meeting and if it is inaccurate what the true figure for a weekly collection would be?"

Reply given by Mr. Collins

"In response to the question, can I first clarify the basis of the £20 increase in the council tax. This equates to the additional annual amount (approximately £730,000) which would be the cost of reverting to a weekly service for residual waste, as discussed by the Scrutiny Commission on 6th October 2005; a £1 increase bringing in the equivalent of an additional £36,000.

The Chief Executive's letter to 'The Hinckley Times' stated that, "A return to weekly collections would cost the equivalent of a 20% increase in the council tax". The figure used by Central Government for 'capping' purposes (a significant element also in the Chief Executive's letter) is the Band D equivalent, including special expenses. For Hinckley and Bosworth this figure for 2005/06 is £95.76. An increase of £20 on this figure would equate to 20.9% - which I consider sufficiently close to a round figure of 20% as not to make any difference. Both figures, therefore, are accurate and consistent, not only with each other but also with the figures presented both to Council on the 2nd August and to Scrutiny Commission on 6th October."

(b) Question asked by Mrs. Francks and addressed to Mr. Davis

"With Conservative Councillors resigning their seats, first in Barwell and now in Groby, part way through their terms of office, could the portfolio holder please advise Council of the full cost of holding the necessary by-elections?"

Reply given by Mr. Davis

"The full cost of holding elections due to Councillors resigning their seats between the period of May 2003 to the current time is £8,910.65."

(c) Question asked by Mr. Crooks and addressed to Mr. Collins

- "1. How many of the Countryside Type Publications have been produced and how much has it cost?
2. Why are the publications so inaccurate? e.g. Nailstone 'Church Meadow' has been given a 'poor' mark, and yet in another part of the brochure a picture of 'Church Meadow' has been shown as a good example but the photo has been attributed to Congerstone!"

Reply given by Mr. Collins

- "1. 80 copies of the Green Space Strategy were produced for the consultation. Printing costs were £225. Copies went to all Parish Councils, each Member of Council, other partners, e.g. LCC, Friends groups etc., and relevant officers within the Council.

A further 150 copies have been produced for full Council as an essential part of the democratic process of adopting this strategy. Once adopted further copies will be produced for use by each Parish Council and Officers. Total printing costs are estimated to be £769.

2. 1 photograph within the strategy was incorrectly annotated on page 10. It should have (and now does) read Church Road, Nailstone, which was one of the top 10 scoring parks in the quality assessments (see page 27). The photograph illustrates a good park entrance. I apologise for this error."

No supplementary questions were asked but for clarification Members were requested to note that with regard to question (c) above the reference to 'Church Road, Nailstone' should read 'Church Meadow'.

253 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING – 25TH AUGUST 2005 (C31)

Having presented the above Mr. Lay moved, Mr. Ellis seconded and it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 25th August 2005 be received.

254 SOUTH CHARNWOOD HIGH SCHOOL – APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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

RESOLVED – Mr. Boothby be nominated to fill the vacancy on the above governing body for a four-year period.

255 UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER COURT

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

RESOLVED – Mr. Collins be appointed to the vacant position on the above for a three-year period.

256 VAGANCIES ON COMMITTEES/OUTSIDE BODIES

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

RESOLVED – Mr. Batty be appointed to the following:-

Scrutiny Commission
Licensing and Regulatory Committees
Finance and Audit Services Select Committee
Groby Quarry Liaison Committee

257 REPORT OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES PANEL RE: REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES (C32)

Presented to Council were the recommendations of the independent panel convened to review the Members' allowances scheme. It was then moved by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mrs. Sherwin and

RESOLVED –

- (i) the recommendations of the independent panel on Members' allowances and the revised scheme, attached as appendix C to the report of that panel be approved;
- (ii) the revised allowance for the Licensing Panel members be backdated to 1st July 2005; and
- (iii) a Member working group be convened to consider how best to address poor attendance at meetings by Council members and nominations to serve on this be submitted to the Chief Executive by the respective group leaders.

258 GREEN SPACE STRATEGY (C33)

Mr. Stanley left the meeting at 7.07 p.m.

The above document, produced to set out this Authority's vision and strategic development of its green spaces, was presented to Council for adoption. Following a lengthy debate, during which time it was agreed that Policy GS17 be extended to include fly posting it was moved by Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Davis and

RESOLVED – agreement be given to the adoption of the Green Space Strategy, as now amended by the inclusion of fly posting, but that any consequential land disposal issues be subject to extensive consultation.

259 APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER (C34)

Arising from the requirement under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for this Council to designate one of its officers as Monitoring Officer it was moved by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Lay and

RESOLVED – Julie Carter, Head of Corporate Services, be formally appointed Monitoring Officer for Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

260 CHAIRMANSHIP OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE (C35)

Further to minute number 204 of 13th September 2005 consideration was again given to the above and whilst accepting that the Chief Executive was fully satisfied with information supplied by the two independent members prior to appointment some Members were of the view that this issue would best be dealt with by the Standards Committee. It was then moved by Mr. Lay, and seconded by Mrs. Crooks that this matter be determined by the Standards Committee and upon this being put to a vote 14 Members voted for the motion and 14 members voted against. The Mayor then exercised his vote in favour of the motion and it was thereupon

RESOLVED – the Chairmanship of the Standards Committee by one of the two independent members be referred to that Body for decision and with the delegated authority to make an appointment.

(The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.)