

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

6th DECEMBER 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, Mrs. M.J. Crooks, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mr. N.B.L. Davis, Mr. R.D. Ellis, Mrs. D. Finney, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. R.J. Furniss, Mr. D.E. Hinton, Mr. K.A.J. Hunnybun, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Ms. J.E. Price, Mr. J.E. Stanley, Mr. D.W. Thorpe, Mr. K. Vessey, Mr. R. Ward and Mrs. R.W. Wright.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S. Atkinson, Ms. J. Carter, Mr. P.F. Cash, Mr. B. Cullen, Mr. S. Kohli, Mr. R. Palmer, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. T.M. Prowse.

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Mayor welcomed Mr. R. Birch, the newly-appointed independent Chairman of the Standards Committee.

322 PRAYER

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

323 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. D.S. Cope, B.H. Edwards, M.A. Hall, C.G. Joyce and Mrs. E.A. Spencer.

324 MINUTES (C36)

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

325 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Stanley declared an interest in report number C38 (Hinckley Town Centre Renaissance Master Plan) and indicated that if there was specific discussion on the bus station site he would withdraw from the meeting.

For probity, Mr. Davis also declared an interest in report C38 as Chairman of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees and as a member of Hinckley and Bosworth Promotions Board.

326 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reminded Members of the Civic Carol Service to be held this Sunday at 6 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, Hinckley and the One-Team Christmas event to be held on Thursday 15th December 2005 at Hinckley United Football Club to be attended by Members and officers.

The following questions and replies were received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2:-

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

“At the Market Bosworth Parish Council meeting of July 5th 2005, Councillor Aldridge reported that

“The Bus Station site in Hinckley was owned by H&BBC and Tesco and plans for development were progressing. Within 18 months a Tesco Metro is proposed for the site and new Council Offices are also to be relocated to this site.

On the present Council Offices site a new Leisure Centre is planned incorporating a 50m swimming pool.

A cinema and 100 flats for young people are also proposed on the Bus Station site. This is a 3-4 year project. Buses are proposed to transport young people from the surrounding area to the Leisure Centre.

It is also proposed that the present Castle Street car park become a new Debenhams store.

The issue of a skateboarding site was raised and Cllr Aldridge said that an old factory site was being searched for to offer this facility.”

However the report on the Masterplan heard at the Scrutiny Meeting on Thursday 17th November contained no reference to such information and a communication from the Deputy Chief Executive in answer to my question about it confirms that he too has no knowledge of Tesco having formal interest in the Bus Station site or the statements made by Councillor Aldridge.

Would the Leader care to explain to Council how members of The Cabinet are able to make detailed statements about Council policy and plans, that members and officers alike have no knowledge of, and at the same time will she confirm or deny Councillor Aldridge’s statements as to whether Tesco and the Council own the land on the Bus Station site and the Castle Street car park becoming the site for a Debenhams store?”

Reply given by Mrs. Claridge

“The Council has been undertaking extensive consultation during the summer on the town centre Masterplan for Hinckley and there has been a lot of speculation and comment made about the proposals. I can confirm that there does appear to be strong interest from developers and investors in a range of the key action areas featured within the Masterplan, including the Bus Station site. Tesco’s as well as other key retail operators have expressed interest in the Bus Station site and other sites in the town centre. The Council is part landowner of the Bus Station site and, therefore, has a key interest in securing a suitable regeneration of this area of the town.

The provision for a new skateboard park within the town is included within the capital programme and I hope that this will be developed when a suitable site is found.”

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

"Would it be possible in coming years to switch the town centre lights on at an earlier time for a period to coincide with the celebration of Diwali?"

Reply given by Mrs. Wright

"It was very pleasing to receive your complimentary correspondence and to know that you appreciate our forward vision and excellent achievement with the Hinckley Festive Lights.

As you know last year we were runners up in the Regeneration of the East Midlands award. You will no doubt be pleased to hear that we are confidentially hoping to win this year as we are fast becoming The Lights Capital of the Midlands. This is good for trade and the feel good factor for residents of all Faiths.

The switch on night was unreservedly praised by residents, shop keepers, businesses and Market Traders and was brilliantly supported by vast numbers of people turning out to witness the occasion.

All faiths were made most welcome and it was noticeable how many minority groups turned out which was excellent. Diwali as you know is a festival of Light, celebrated by the Hindu faith during October and November and Leicester has a huge Diwali celebration which I understand is well attended by people from surrounding areas.

In answer to your question:

Engaging with other religions and minority groups is an important priority for this Council and Cabinet will consider how we can engage with relevant groups to ascertain if switching the lights on in October for Diwali is a local aspiration."

328 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING – 6TH OCTOBER 2005 (C37)

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 6th October 2005 be received.

329 COUNCIL MEETING – JANUARY 2006

To coincide with the budget timetable it was moved by Mr. J.C. Bown, seconded by Mrs. Sherwin and

RESOLVED – the meeting of the Council scheduled for 17th January 2006 be now held on 31st January.

330 LICENSING AND LICENSING (REGULATORY) COMMITTEES – VACANCY

Consequent upon the resignation of Ms. Price it was moved by Mrs. Claridge, seconded by Mr. Thorpe and

RESOLVED – Mr. Batty be now appointed as a member of these two committees.

331 STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 6TH OCTOBER 2005

Having been called upon to support the resolution made at the above meeting with regard to Government funding of the Air Ambulance Service from central resources it was moved by Mrs. Claridge, seconded by Mr. Crooks and

RESOLVED – this resolution be supported and Staffordshire County Council advised accordingly.

332 HINCKLEY TOWN CENTRE RENAISSANCE MASTERPLAN

The Council was called upon to support the adoption of this, which had been developed from earlier consultation aims to provide a vision for the future social, economic and environmental development of Hinckley Town Centre for the next 5-15 years. The summary of key recommendations had already been considered by the Scrutiny Commission on 17th November 2005 and its views and recommendations incorporated into the report now before Members.

A call was made for each area of the executive summary to be discussed separately and on the need for an early traffic assessment, which it was understood would be initiated in January/February 2006. Because of reservations still being expressed with regard to the plan detail it was moved by Mr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Bill that the Masterplan be not advanced in any form until a full and comprehensive traffic assessment had been obtained for the whole area of the Plan and time had been allowed for evaluation of the findings and due consideration had been given by Cabinet, the Scrutiny Commission and Council. Upon being put to a vote, recorded as follows this motion was declared LOST.

For: Mr. Bill, Mrs. Crooks, Mr. Crooks, Mrs. Finney, Mrs. Francks, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Stanley (7)

Against: Mrs. Aldridge, Mr. Batty, Mr. Bevins, Mr. Boothby, Mrs. Camamile, Mrs. Claridge, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Cook, Mr. Davis, Mr. Furniss, Mr. Hinton, Ms. Price, Mrs. Sherwin, Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Wright (16)

Abstentions: Mr. J.C. Bown, Mr. D.R. Bown, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Hunnybun, Mr. Lay (5)

It was then moved by Mr. Lay, seconded by Mr. Bevins and

RESOLVED – each of the overall recommendations be considered separately, as follows:-

Masterplan vision and principle

On the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mrs. Wright it was agreed that the Hinckley Town Centre Masterplan be endorsed and its adoption agreed (subject to revision arising from consideration of the individual strategic development sites).

Mr. Vessey entered the meeting at 7.08 p.m.

Residential development

Although concerns were raised by members of the Liberal Democrat Group with regard to traffic and parking implications and the need for further residential development 18 Members voted to endorse this recommendation, 5 voted against and Mr. Stanley requested that his name be recorded as abstaining from voting.

Section 106 developer contributions

On the motion of Mrs. Claridge, seconded by Mr. Collins it was agreed that the recommendation set out in the report be approved.

Delivering the Masterplan strategy

It was moved by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Collins that the recommendations set out in the report be agreed.

Hinckley town centre sustainable car parking strategy

Again reservations were expressed by the Liberal Democrat Group but, in receiving advice from officers that a separate report would follow (including residential parking) 15 Members voted to endorse this recommendation, 2 voted against and 8 Members abstained.

Compulsory purchase orders

Moved by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Collins 16 Members voted in favour of this recommendation and 10 voted against.

Stockwell Head/Concordia Theatre

Being advised that discussions had been held and would continue with representatives of the Concordia Theatre management committee 22 Members voted in favour of this recommendation and 5 abstained.

Atkins factory

Following a motion by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Collins 20 Members voted in favour of this recommendation and 6 abstained.

Britannia Centre/Castle Street

Upon this being put to a vote following a motion by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mrs. Claridge, 22 Members voted in favour of this recommendation, with 5 abstentions.

Land north of Mount Road

It was moved by Mr. Bevins and seconded by Mr. Collins that:-

1. a Strategic Development Area be identified for land north of Mount Road and the boundary between this site and the Argents Mead site be clearly defined.
2. Argents Mead be identified as an additional strategic site in the Masterplan which aims to provide enlarged and enhanced public space only at the heart of the town centre.

3. the development of a new leisure centre on land north of Mount Road be retained as one option and a detailed feasibility study be carried out to determine the scale and range of features to be provided.

Again concerns were raised by Members of the Liberal Democrat Group as to the extent of these proposals. Additionally, it was moved as an amendment by Mr. Lay and seconded by Mr. Ellis that the final paragraph of this recommendation be deleted (relating to the development of a new leisure centre on land north of Mount Road). Upon this being put to a vote 13 Members voted for the amendment and 16 against. The amendment was therefore declared LOST. It was then moved as a further amendment by Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Lynch that the proposals for the site and resultant loss of Mount Road car park be not proceeded with. Upon being put to a vote, recorded as follows, this amendment was declared LOST.

For: Mrs. Aldridge, Mr. Batty, Mr. Bevins, Mr. Boothby, Mrs. Camamile, Mrs. Claridge, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Cook, Mr. Davis, Mr. Furniss, Mr. Hinton, Ms. Price, Mrs. Sherwin, Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Wright (16)

Against: Mr. Bill, Mr. D.R. Bown, Mr. Crooks, Mrs. Crooks, Mr. Ellis, Mrs. Finney, Mrs. Francks, Mr. Hunnybun, Mr. Lay, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Vessey (12)

Abstentions: Mr. J.C. Bown (1)

The recommendations set out on the previous page and above and in the executive summary as previously proposed and seconded were then agreed.

Existing Leisure Centre, Trinity Lane

It being emphasised that to accord with the public's wishes the existing facility would not be lost until a replacement was provided 18 Members voted in favour of this recommendation and 8 Members abstained.

Rugby Road/Hawley Road

Although it appeared that there had been no earlier expressions of interest to provide a hotel facility within this gateway it was proposed by Mr. Lay and seconded by Mr. Bevins that further discussions be held with the consultants with regard to the possible reinstatement in the Masterplan of budget-type hotel accommodation.

Twenty six Members then voted in favour of this amended proposal.

Railway Station/Southfield Road

Mr. Bill declared a non-pecuniary interest in this area.

Following a motion by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Collins 18 Members voted to approve this recommendation and 6 Members abstained.

Leisure Centre provision

Mr. Lay reiterated his earlier comments that he considered that this should not be included in the Masterplan strategy but the facility be better provided on the former crematorium site at Leicester Road. In consequence a vote, recorded as follows, was taken that two options be included in the Masterplan for leisure centre provision:-

For: Mrs. Aldridge, Mr. Batty, Mr. Bevins, Mr. Boothby, Mrs. Camamile, Mrs. Claridge, Mr. Collins, Mrs. Cook, Mr. Davis, Mr. Furniss, Mr. Hinton, Ms. Price, Mrs. Sherwin, Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Wright (16)

Against: Mr. Bill, Mrs. Crooks, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Ellis, Mrs. Finney, Mrs. Francks, Mr. Hunnybun, Mr. Lay, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Stanley, Mr. Vessey (11)

Abstentions: Mr. J.C. Bown, Mr. D.R. Bown (2)

The motion was then declared CARRIED.

Mr. Stanley left the meeting at 8.18 p.m.

Bus station site, Brunel Road

Although proposed by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mrs. Claridge, that this recommendation be agreed it was moved as an amendment by Mr. Lynch seconded by Mr. Bill that a mixed use development of the bus station site be endorsed (as against the mixed use).

Mrs. Finney left the meeting at 8.22 p.m., returning at 8.27 p.m.

Members then received an update as to recent discussions with Tesco as to their interest in this site.

On the amendment being put to the vote, 16 Members voted against this and with 6 Members voting in favour it was declared LOST. It was then moved by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mrs. Claridge that the recommendation be agreed. Sixteen Members voted in favour of the recommendation, 6 against and 5 Members abstained.

Mr. Stanley returned at 8.35 p.m., at which time Mr. Crooks left, returning at 8.37 p.m.

Members were reminded of the intention to set up a cross-party working group of Members to guide the implementation of the Masterplan strategy and provide regular updates to Members.

The Leader of the Council then paid tribute to officers and Members for the efforts in producing this Framework to promote and facilitate the regeneration of Hinckley town centre.

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

RESOLVED:-

- i) the overall recommendations highlighted in the main body of this report be approved;
- ii) the proposed recommendations for each individual development area (as set out in appendix A to the report of the Strategy and Regeneration Manager) be agreed; and
- iii) discussions be held with consultants on the possible reinstatement of budget-type hotel accommodation within the Rugby Road/Hawley Road area.

333 CONSTITUTION: REVISION AND AMENDMENTS (C39)

Consideration was given to proposed revisions, amendments and enhancements to the Constitution which incorporated alterations made during the last year. The Council's attention was drawn to certain amendments which now needed to be agreed to ensure clarity within the Constitution. Any minor textual amendments needed to be referred to the Council's Monitoring Officer by 9th December 2005.

It was moved as an amendment by Mr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Bill that the selection of the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission be made at the Annual Meeting of the Council by a vote of opposition Members only. Upon this being put to a vote 7 Members voted in favour and 22 against. The amendment was therefore declared LOST.

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

RESOLVED –

- i) subject to the following amendments the revised constitution attached to the report of the Chief Executive be adopted with immediate effect:

Page 110, 11.3(a)

The notice of questions from Members be **five days**, not three.

Page 122, 26.7 (i)

As approved by the Planning Committee, the maximum time allowed for speakers to address the Committee be **two minutes**, not three.

Page 122, 26.8 (iv)

A sentence be added. "The relevant Ward Member and the Portfolio Holder for development control matters will be allowed to speak for no more than two minutes each on the relevant application, but may speak no more than once on each application". The Committee Chairman may exceptionally allow the Portfolio Holder to speak for up to five minutes where he considers the application to be of major significance.

Pages 270-273 Item 6(iv)

Members' Allowance Scheme – In relation to Special Responsibility Allowances, the word "**persons**" be substituted for "councillors" in this section to take account of the fact that a Special Responsibility Allowance is payable to the Independent Chair of the Standards Committee.

- ii) the Council review the Constitution at each subsequent December meeting.

334 DESIGNATION OF POWERS AND DUTIES TO OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL (C40)

In consequence of management restructuring it was necessary to reallocate various functions of the Council to designated officers.

On the motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. D.R. Bown it was

RESOLVED –

1. The Principal Solicitor be appointed Deputy Monitoring Officer;

2. The Head of Corporate Services and the Principal Solicitor be authorized for the sealing of documents, in addition to the Chief Executive;
3. The Corporate Governance officer be appointed Proper Officer for the receipt of tenders and the dispatch of agendas and reports and the designated Data Protection Officer;
4. The Head of Corporate Services be appointed Data Protection Officer for the Council; and.
5. The Principal Solicitor be given power to approve and conduct all court action on behalf of the Council.

(The meeting closed at 9.02 p.m.)