

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

31st JANUARY 2006 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, 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. 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, Mr. D.W. Thorpe, Mr. K. Vessey, Mr. R. Ward and Mrs. R.W. Wright.

Also in attendance: Mr. R. Birch, Chairman of the Standards Committee.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S. Atkinson, Mr. B. Cullen, Mr. D. Bunker, Ms. J. Carter, Mr. P.F. Cash, Ms. T. O'Grady, Mr. S. Kohli, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. T.M. Prowse.

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Mayor welcomed Mr. David Sprason, C.C.

376 PRAYER

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

377 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. J.F. Collins, Mrs. E.A. Spencer and Mr. J.E. Stanley.

378 MINUTES (C41)

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

379 ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor indicated that he had agreed, and as previously circulated to Members, to take as a late item at this meeting a report on the Leicestershire Area Agreement, the reason for the urgency being the short timescales involved.

380 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Messrs. Bill and Cope both declared a personal interest in the reference in minute No. 283 of the Scrutiny Commission meeting of 17th November 2005 to the development of Hinckley Railway Station.

381 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor read out a letter from Mr. Joe David, the Town Cryer of Hinckley to Mr. Stanley thanking him for his support and encouragement leading up to the World Town Cryer Championship in Marlborough, Australia last September and sending greetings from the Mayor of Marlborough.

382 QUESTIONS

The following questions and reply were received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules 11.1 and 11.3:-

(a) Question asked by Mr. Lynch and addressed to Mr. Thorpe

"At the December Full Council meeting it was agreed that a full traffic assessment would be carried out as a matter of urgency. Could the portfolio holder please advise Council of the current situation and when the result of the traffic assessment can be expected to be put before Council?"

(b) "On the 7th October 2005 in a letter of interim comments made about the Masterplan Ian Dutton said,

'Traffic and parking demand are likely to increase with intensification of the town centre. As previously stated, there is little sign that traffic and transport have received much consideration by Atkins. The work involved in doing this would be considerable. Ideally it would be aided by a traffic model, but there is no up-to-date traffic model for Hinckley and no early prospect of LCC funding one.'

Could the portfolio holder please comment on this?"

Reply given by Mr. Thorpe

"Investigations are currently underway with the County Council regarding their requirements for a Traffic Assessment for Hinckley Town Centre. Discussions have taken place at senior management level with the County Council, together with Technical Officers' discussions, and further meetings are programmed for February. We have been assured by Atkins, Consultants that were engaged by the Council to produce the Hinckley Town Centre's Renaissance Masterplan and who are renowned internationally for their expertise and experience in transportation and traffic engineering, that from the baseline assessments undertaken (including information from the Town Centre Car Parking Strategy and Traffic Assessments relating to the Bus Station Site) they do not consider there would be any serious issues arising from the proposals set out in the Masterplan. They would however expect, as we would, that a full Transportation Impact Assessment and Traffic Modelling will be required to support all detailed proposals submitted by developers.

We are in discussion with the County Council as Highway Authority, who have ultimate responsibility for Traffic and Transportation for the Town Centre, over proposals to develop an overarching Transportation Assessment for the Town Centre against which all proposals can be assessed with regard to both traffic and parking implications, which will ultimately need to be put in place and funded by developers. This process will need to take into account the resource constraints of the Borough and the County Council.

I can confirm that this work will be ongoing and progress will be reported to the joint Member working group overseeing the implementation of the Masterplan, which is in the process of being established.”

In response to a supplementary question from Mr. Lynch regarding correspondence from the County Council relating to a traffic assessment Mr. Thorpe indicated that he was acquainted with this and that the outcome of a meeting next month with officers from both Councils and developers would be reported back to Members in due course.

383 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETINGS – 17TH NOVEMBER 2005 (C42) AND 5TH JANUARY 2006 (C43)

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meetings held on 17th November 2005 and 5th January 2006 be received.

384 VAGANCIES ON COMMITTEES

Ms. Price having resigned from the Licensing & Regulatory Committees and Mrs. Wright from the Planning Committee it was moved by Mrs. Camamile, seconded by Mr. Bevins and

RESOLVED – Mr. Boothby be now appointed to the Licensing & Regulatory Committees and Ms. Price be appointed to the Planning Committee.

385 NOMINATIONS TO GOVERNING BODIES

Consequent upon the resignations of Mr. R.E. Cole and Mr. B. Wright from the governing bodies of the Bosworth College, Desford and Mount Grace High School respectively it was moved by Mrs. Camamile, seconded by Mrs. Aldridge and

RESOLVED – Mrs. S. Hough, 21 Cambridge Drive, Desford and Mr. D. Beck, 23 Outlands Drive, Hinckley, be nominated to serve on the governing bodies of the Bosworth College, Desford and Mount Grace High School, Hinckley, respectively.

386 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS MAY 2006 – MAY 2007 (C44)

Consideration was given to the above and on the motion of Mrs. Claridge, seconded by Mrs. Wright it was

RESOLVED – the schedule of meetings attached to the report of the Head of Corporate Services be adopted.

387 AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS STUDY IMPLICATIONS (CA45)

Members were circulated at the meeting with revised recommendations relating to the above. The findings from this study, designed to assess the future requirements for both affordable and market housing, had previously been considered by Cabinet and the Scrutiny Commission.

Mr. Bevins left the meeting at 6.59 p.m. returning at 7.05 p.m.

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

RESOLVED – a new housing needs study for the Borough be agreed and the following revised recommendations be taken into consideration in formulating the housing policies.

- i) The following recommendations be taken into consideration in formulating the housing policies being developed through the Local Development Framework for the Borough. These requirements be included in the form of a Supplementary Planning Document which will need to be published for consultation prior to the adoption of the agreed targets, and this will be included as an action within the Housing Strategy:-
 - a) a borough-wide maximum target of 40% affordable housing provision be met on qualifying sites; (previously 20%), with a 50/50 split of 20% for rented accommodation, with priority given to applicants from the Council's waiting list, and 20% equity share or similar, to meet local need and to be secured through the nomination rights of the Council.
 - b) where viability permits, the threshold for qualifying sites be reduced to 10 units or more/0.5 hectares (previously 25 dwellings or 1 hectare in urban areas).
 - c) the authority will continue to seek appropriate community infra-structure agreements for development proposals in addition to the recommended increase in affordable housing provision.
 - d) that the Council considers a range of options in securing affordable housing units, including Registered Social Landlords, direct transfer to the Council and in the form of commuted payments.

Mr. Lynch left the meeting at 7.11 p.m., returning at 7.14 p.m.

388 HOUSING STRATEGY (C46)

Members were presented with a proposed housing strategy for the Borough. Once adopted this would contribute to the corporate strategic objective to promote "secure decent, well managed and affordable housing across the Borough".

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) the strategy and identified priorities be agreed prior to submission to GOEM to be assessed as a 'fit for purpose' document;
- (ii) the percentage of affordable housing and site threshold identified in the now-agreed housing needs survey be incorporated into the housing strategy; and
- (iii) future action plans be extended to provide for a pro-active approach in supporting the delivery of affordable housing, including investigations into options such as equity share.

389 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN (C47)

Presented to Members was the final draft of the above, which detailed the operational context of Council owned housing stock throughout the Borough.

It was moved by Mr. Thorpe, seconded by Mrs. Sherwin, and

RESOLVED – the report and recommendations be agreed for onward submission to GOEM.

390 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2006/07 (C48)

Consideration was given to the proposed budget for 2006/07 developed in accordance with the agreed strategy and prepared taking into account the Capital and Housing Revenue Account Budgets. In presenting the report Mr. Bevins drew attention to the supplementary information circulated at this meeting with regard to Concessionary Travel and the recent completion of the sale of land at Montgomery Road, Earl Shilton. Tribute was then paid to the hard work of the officers concerned in the formulation of this budget.

Mr. D.R. Bown in drawing attention to the cost of the recent staffing restructure moved, and Mr. Ellis seconded, that the Conservative Group be censured for its actions relating to the restructure which significantly impacted on the budget.

A vote was then taken recorded as follows:

FOR: Mr. D.R. Bown, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Hunnybun, Mr. Lay, Mr. Vessey (5).

AGAINST: Mrs. Sherwin, Mrs. Aldridge, Mr. Batty, Mr. Bevins, Mr. Boothby, Mrs. Camamile, Mrs. Claridge, Mrs. Cook, Mr. Davis, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Furniss, Mr. Hall, Mr. Hinton, Ms. Price, Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Ward and Mrs. R. Wright (17).

ABSTENTIONS: Mr. J.C. Bown, Mr. Bill, Mr. Cope, Mrs. Crooks, Mr. Crooks, Mrs. Finney, Mrs. Francks, Mr. Joyce and Mr. Lynch (9).

The motion was therefore declared LOST.

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

RESOLVED – approval be given to the following:

- (i) the General Fund Service expenditure shown in table 1 of the report of the Head of Finance and ICT;
- (ii) The Special Expenses Area expenditure shown in table 2 of that report;
- (iii) the total General Fund Service expenditure for the Council indicated in table 3;
- (iv) the proposed Borough-wide average Band D council tax outlined in section 5 of the report; and

- (v) the proposed movement of General Fund reserves set out in table 12 of the report.

Mr. Furniss left the meeting at 7.37 p.m., returning at 7.40 p.m.

391 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES 2006/07 (C49)

Details were submitted of the revised budget for 2005/06 and the proposed budget for 2006/07, including the recommended level of rent increases.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) dwelling rent increases for 2006/07 be set in accordance with the process prescribed by the government for rent restructuring, averaging 5.0% and the budgets presented in Appendices 'A', 'B' and 'C' be approved; and
- (ii) an increase of 3.0% be applied to all private sector charges for 'Piper rental' and 'central control connection'.

392 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06 TO 2008/09 (C50)

Placed before the Council was the proposed capital programme through to 2008/09 and on the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Davis it was

RESOLVED – the proposed capital programme be approved.

393 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES (C51)

Consideration having been given to the above it was moved by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Davis and

RESOLVED - the proposed fees and charges set out in Appendix 'A' to the report of the Head of Finance & ICT be approved.

Mr. & Mrs. Crooks left the meeting at 8.10 p.m.

394 EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ACT 1972 (C52)

In consequence of the need to now delegate food safety powers originating from the European Communities Act 1972 to appropriately qualified Council Officers it was moved by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Davis and

RESOLVED – when reviewed the Constitution be amended to provide that food safety powers arising from the above legislation be delegated to the Head of Health & Environment who in turn may delegate such authority to appropriately qualified Environmental Health and Technical Officers.

395 LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA)(C54)

Mr. David Sprason CC, the Chairman of the Local Strategic Partnership attended for discussion on this, which it was intended, would secure improvements and efficiency through joint working.

This Council's agreement being sought to arrangements for endorsing the content and supporting the delivery of the LAA for 3 years from April 2006 it was moved by Councillor Bevins, seconded by Mrs. Sherwin and

RESOLVED – in view of the short timescales Members submit any comments on the penultimate draft LAA to Cabinet (via the Chief Executive) and Cabinet be authorised to make the decision on the final draft LAA on 8th February 2006.

396 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 disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

397 ICT CONTRACT (C53)

Members having been informed of the outcome of the evaluation of tenders for the Council's out sourced ICT service provision it was moved by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mrs. Claridge and

RESOLVED – the outcome of the tendering process be noted and the decision of the Head of Finance and ICT to award the new out sourced contract on the terms outlined in his report be endorsed.

(The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.)