

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

9TH MAY 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.R. Bown, Mrs. R. Camamile, 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, 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, Mrs. E.A. Spencer, 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 and Millie Benson, Dave Clements, Keegan Greenwood, Amy Hewitt, Josh Matthewman and Nisar Nader of the Youth Council Executive.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S. Atkinson, Mr. Michael Brymer, Ms. J. Carter, Mr. P.F. Cash, Mr. B. Cullen, Ms. A. Egan, Mr. S. Jones, Mr. S. Kohli, Mrs. P.I. Pitt, Mr. T.M. Prowse, Mrs. J. Puffett and Mr. D. Tilley.

561 PRAYER

Mr. Tom Russell of Earl Shilton Baptist Church offered prayer.

At this juncture the Mayor welcomed the Chair and executive members of the Youth Council to the meeting.

562 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. D.C. Bill, Mrs. M.A. Cook, Mrs. S. Francks, Ms. J.E. Price and Mr. J.E. Stanley.

563 MINUTES (C66)

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

564 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

On behalf of those Members of the Conservative Group present (Mrs. Aldridge, Mr. Batty, Mr. Bevins, Mrs. Camamile, Mr. Collins, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Furniss, Mr. Hall, Mr. Hinton, Mrs. Sherwin, Mrs. Spencer, Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Ward, Mrs. Wright) and himself Mr. N.B.L. Davis for probity declared an interest in report C67 (draft of Business Delivery Plans 2006/09) and in the light of the presentation of the final version of these at the June Council meeting.

565 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor announced that at the conclusion of the meeting he would be drawing the raffle to raise funds for his two nominated charities, the Air Ambulance Service and Macmillan Nurses.

Leader of the Council

In introducing the first "State of the Borough" presentation and debate the Leader of the Council summarized the corporate achievements during 2005/06 and the Council's objectives for 2006/07, which though presenting significant challenges would be approached with cautious confidence and optimism.

Mrs. Cook entered the meeting at 6.47 p.m.

Deputy Leader of the Council

The Deputy Leader of the Council reported on the achievements and challenges relating to his portfolio area and paid tribute to the contribution made by the voluntary sector. As Youth Champion the Deputy Leader further welcomed the Youth Council Executive.

Youth Council

The various executive members gave a brief outline of their Council's purpose and priorities, which targeted the 11/21 age group, and on the relationship to date with the Borough Council, paying particular tribute to the Youth Champion and to the encouraging response to the recently produced questionnaire "The Shape of Things to Come". The call was made for joint consultation on youth related issues within the Borough, with regular communication and full discussion on current and future projects. Having outlined the three main priorities which it wanted to achieve the Youth Council Executive concluded by calling for the support of the Borough Council in establishing an annual budget to assist the Youth Council in its work.

Representatives of each of the political groups then paid tribute to the professionalism of the Youth Council representatives and the clarity and comprehensiveness of their presentation and were unanimous on the need to examine ways in which both Councils could work together.

Mr. Edwards left the meeting at 7.22 p.m.

Culture and Development

The portfolio holder for the above referred to achievements and future direction within her service area, covering asset management, development services, and cultural services. Members highlighted those areas of the business delivery plan for culture and development relating to the provision of two community houses and to external funding of £240,000 being secured for sports development.

Mr. Edwards returned to the meeting at 7.32 p.m.

Assurances were given that the details in the final business delivery plan for this service area would accurately reflect the situation with regard to the two community houses and it was agreed that the Cultural Services Manager provide Members with details as to the allocation of external funding for sports development.

Mr. Bevins left the meeting at 7.40 p.m., returning at 7.41 p.m. Mrs. Finney left the meeting at 7.48 p.m.

Finance and ICT

In his presentation the portfolio holder for Finance and ICT paid tribute to his predecessor and to staff working within the Accountancy Section. In consideration of the business delivery plan Members stressed the need for the presentation of pertinent monthly out-turn figures and for representation to be made so that the annual audit letter might be received in a more timely manner.

Mr. & Mrs. Crooks left the meeting at 7.48 p.m., Mr. Ward at 8.02 p.m., and Mrs. Aldridge at 8.05 p.m. Mr. Aldridge and Mr. Ward returned at 8.06 p.m. and Mrs. Finney at 8.07 p.m.

Health and Environment

Mr. D.R. Bown left the meeting at 8.11 p.m.

Following the presentation by the portfolio holder for Health and Environment tribute was paid to that incumbent by the Group Leaders in consequence of his stepping down from that role. Concerns being raised by Members relating to dog fouling enforcement it was agreed that the Head of Health and Environment continue to examine the relevant provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act in this regard.

Performance, Strategy and Housing

The portfolio holder briefly outlined the achievement and challenges relevant to these service areas. This included implementation of the Council's long term vision, progression with the Local Development Framework and Hinckley Town Centre Masterplan and sustaining the Decent Homes Standard for Council Houses.

Mr. D.R. Bown returned at 8.29 p.m.

Rural Areas

Following the presentation by the portfolio holder for rural areas comment was made with regard to street signage in these areas and Members were advised of the appropriate officer to contact should they have concerns.

567 BUSINESS DELIVERY PLANS 2006/09 (C67)

The Council having been provided with the latest draft of the above, for eventual approval, together with the Corporate Performance Plan, on 27th June 2006 it was moved by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Davis, and

RESOLVED – the foregoing comments arising from the various presentations be noted and the presentation of the final business delivery plan 2006/09 to Council for approval on 27th June 2006 be agreed.

568 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06 AND WORK PROGRAMME 2006/07 (C68)

In presenting the above the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission outlined the achievements of overview and scrutiny, referred to the challenges ahead and paid tribute to all involved in achieving the objectives of the scrutiny function.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2005/06 be received;
- (ii) the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be endorsed; and
- (iii) the approved Annual Report and Work Programme be circulated to all Members, senior officers, key partners and the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

(The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.)