

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

27TH JUNE 2006 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MRS. M.L. SHERWIN - MAYOR

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. M.O. Bevins, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. C.W. Boothby, Mr. D.R. Bown, Mr. J.C. Bown, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mrs. C.M. Claridge, Mrs. M.A. Cook, 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. M.R. Lay, Ms. J.E. Price, Mr. J.E. Stanley, Mr. D.W. Thorpe, Mr. R. Ward and Mrs. R.W. Wright.

Also in attendance: Mr. R. Birch, Chairman of the Standards Committee and Ms. A. Hewitt, Chair of the Youth Council.

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

86 PRAYER

The Reverend Robert Stephens of St. Catherine's Church, Burbage offered prayer.

87 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. J.F. Collins, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Mrs. E.A. Spencer and Mr. K. Vessey.

88 MINUTES (C1&C2)

It was moved by Mr. Boothby, seconded by Mr. Bevins and

RESOLVED – subject to the name of Mr. Boothby being added to the list of those present at the meeting on 9th May 2006 and the name of Mr. Thorpe being inserted for that of Mr. Davis in the first line of minute number 11 of the meeting held on 16th May 2006 the minutes of these two meetings be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

89 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Davis declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item no. 9 as Chairman of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees and on behalf of all of those members of Cabinet present (Mr. Bevins, Mr. Boothby, Mr. Hall, Mr. Thorpe, Mr. Ward and Mrs. Wright) and himself a personal interest in report no. C11 (Corporate Performance and Business Delivery Plans).

90 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor read out a response from Buckingham Palace thanking the Council for its good wishes to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Additionally, the Mayor referred to her recent official visit to Le Grand Quevilly, during which she had been presented with a silver plate in recognition of 30 years town twinning with this Council. Amy Hewitt, Chair of the Youth Council, who with Millie Benson had accompanied the Mayor, then thanked the Council for affording them the opportunity to visit Le Grand Quevilly.

91 PETITIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.11 petitions were presented as follows:-

By Mr. Lay on behalf of members of the Markfield Brownie Pack and residents of Markfield expressing concern with regard to dog fouling in that area.

By Mr. Davis on behalf of residents of the Tudor Road/Richmond Road area Hinckley regarding instances of anti-social behaviour.

92 QUESTIONS

The following questions and replies were received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.1

Questions raised by Mr. W.J. Crooks and addressed to Mrs. R.W. Wright

- (a) “Following the request from Mr. Lay, Members were sent a briefing note on Sports Funding. There are no dates against when these grants were obtained. Would the Cabinet Member kindly supply these?”

Reply given by Mrs. R.W. Wright

“Sports Development – We have included an additional column identifying when the grants were received.

Date	Amount	To	From	For
June 05	£25,000	Hinckley Netball Club	Foundation for Sport and the Arts	Floodlights
April 05	£17,000	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Hinckley and Bosworth Primary Care Trust	Grant to run the Health Referral Scheme
April to Dec 05	£14,632	Markfield Community and Sports Centre	Various funders including Charities Aid Foundation, Community Roots, Better Villages and Local Education Authority.	To help with the upkeep of the centre and to run specific projects for example Holiday Activities and weekly Youth Clubs
April 05	£5,000	Hinckley and Bosworth Local Sporting Alliance	County Sports Partnership	To help fund the year one action plan
April 05	£5,000	Hinckley and Bosworth Lady Hoops Basketball Club	Awards for All (National Lottery Small Grants)	To establish a school/club link programme in the borough
May 05	£5,000	Hinckley Junior Cricket Club	Awards for All (National Lottery Small Grants)	To train coaches and purchase equipment for new junior teams
May 05	£8,000	Hinckley Schools Sports Forum	PE Schools Sport Project	To organise curricula and extra curricula sports activities
April 05	£8,050	Hinckley Rugby Club	Payne’s Garages	Vehicle provided to run rugby coaching scheme
April 05	£8,050	Hinckley Rugby Club	Sports match	To run the rugby coaching scheme
June 05	£6,500	Hinckley and Bosworth Lady Hoops Basketball Club	Local Network Children’s Fund	To fund the clubs development plans
Aug 05	£2,000	Hinckley and Bosworth B.C.	West Area Community Engagement Fund	To assist in the trial of the Youth Contact Team
Sept 05	£4,000 (approx)	Barwell Bowls Club	Pro help	To design, draw and cost a new pavilion for the bowls and cricket club
July 05	£5,000 (approx)	Markfield Community and Sports Centre	Pro help	To design draw and cost an extension for the centre
Feb 06	£3,265	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	County Sports Partnership	Funding for community sports coach

April 05	£47,114	County Sports partnership, (Core Funding)	Sport England	
April 05	£79,389	County Sports Partnership (Active Sports Funding)	Sport England	
Total	£243,000			

Arts Development

Date	Amount	To	From	For
Start of each financial year until 2008	£10,000 (share)	Leicestershire Arts Development Officers Forum	Arts Council England East Midlands (main)	Centre Stage – Rural Touring Theatre Scheme (Regularly funded organisation)
Start of each financial year	£5,000 (share)	Leicestershire Arts Development Officers Forum	EMMedia (main)	Centre Screen – Rural Touring Cinema Scheme
Start of each financial year until 2008	£31,000 (share)	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Arts Partnership	Arts Council England, East Midlands (main)	Creative Leicestershire – support for the Creative Industries
July 05	£5,150	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	Home Front Recall	VJ Day celebrations
Feb 06	£1,400	Hinckley and Bosworth Youth Council	Local Network Fund	Battle of the Bands competition
April 05	£5,250 (share)	Leicestershire Arts Development Officers Forum	Arts Council, East Midlands	Young Promoters project
Dec 05	£5,000	Market Bosworth Festival Committee	Awards For All	Development of Festival
Mar 06	£2,000	Market Bosworth Festival Committee	Local Network Fund	Develop activities for young people
Oct 05	£3,000	Peckleton Arts	Eastern Orchestral Board	Education projects to accompany Classical Concert by LMP
Total:	£67,800			

In response to a supplementary question from Mr. Crooks, Mrs. Wright undertook to examine increased publicity being given to the allocation of grants to local organisations.

- (b) “Again, relating to this briefing note, have all of these grants been obtained by the Borough Council for the clubs/organisations, i.e. grant from Payne’s to Hinckley Rugby Club or is this purely money coming into the Borough for sport?”

Reply given by Mrs. R.W. Wright

“The Sports and Arts Teams have supported the Clubs, Organisations and Agencies involved in accessing the grants. This involves initial meetings to discuss the project. The Team then research the funding streams available and support the group in writing and preparing the bid(s). We often act as referees in support of potential bids. Both the Sports and Arts teams run regular funding workshops to support local groups access funding streams. I can confirm that on many occasions the Borough Council does not actually receive the funding directly, it is allocated to each Community Group or Club.”

Question raised by Mr. W.J. Crooks and addressed to Mr. D.W. Thorpe

“There seems to be a major lack of performance figures from all departments, with briefing notes not being sent to members recently, when will this practice resume?”

Reply given by Mr. D.W. Thorpe

“The Council manages its performance on a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis. The agreed corporate process for reporting of performance information is on a quarterly basis.

The performance indicators reported present the following information:

- Actual outturn performance for the period
- A comparison against the Council’s previous year’s performance
- A comparison of the performance against the agreed target level of performance
- A comparison against the best of all Council’s and the Council’s comparative benchmarking group

Quarterly performance reports are presented in the following order:

- Head of Service discusses information with Cabinet Member
- Strategic Leadership Board – To discuss current performance and agree positive action to rectify areas of underperformance
- Overview and Scrutiny Function – Progress with Performance Indicators and implementation of the Corporate Performance Plan are reported to the Council Services Select Committee and the Scrutiny Commission respectively
- Cabinet – Receive final performance information for the quarter with proposed actions to address underperformance and issues raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Function

All of the above Committee reports are distributed to all Borough Councillors. “

Question raised by Mrs. S. Francks and addressed to Mr. M.A. Hall

“Given that the refuse collection team have once again contributed to this Council exceeding targets with regard to recycling, will Council consider reviewing the pay scales or instigating a bonus scheme of some kind so their loyalty and efforts can be rewarded financially and can he also confirm if their wage scales are below that of neighbouring authorities who do not achieve the same results.”

Reply given by Mr. M.A. Hall

“I thank Councillor Mrs. Francks for her question and her acknowledgement of the Council’s workforce and that of our partners, together with the residents of the area who have helped, through the implementation of this Council’s policies, to exceed the target for recycling and composting.

The target for this Council for 2005/06 was that 27% of household waste should be recycled or composted. The final result for that year is likely to exceed 40%, a result of which we can be justifiably proud.

Councillor Francks may be aware, under the terms of the National Pay Agreement, that the Council is currently undertaking a Job Evaluation exercise in respect of the pay scales for most of the staff it employs. Funding for the outcome of this process has been budgeted for this year, and the provisional results of the evaluation will be published shortly for consideration by the staff concerned.

Because of their potential for inequality between male and female employees, bonus schemes are generally being removed as part of this national process and are being replaced by grading schemes which are more fairly based.

The issue of the salaries of the frontline staff in this service area was raised by the Scrutiny Commission in July 2005, when the Head of Health and Environment reported that they were paid at a lower rate than 3 other Councils in Leicestershire from whom information had been sought. I do not believe that this position has improved.

However, the basis of the Evaluation Scheme adopted by this Council (the National Evaluation Scheme) gives greater recognition than other schemes to the skills and abilities required for jobs undertaken by employees in the "caring" and "former manual worker" posts, which include refuse collection and recycling.

It is my hope, that the Job Evaluation exercise will address any anomalies, in respect of all staff employed by this Council, in terms of relativities both internally and with other councils who have already completed this exercise, and in so doing our staff will all be fairly rewarded for the contribution that they make in achieving our key strategic objectives."

93 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETINGS – 6TH APRIL & 4TH MAY 2006 (C3&C4)

In presenting these the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission received questions from Members relating to figures on the overspend on the Christmas Lights 2005 and to Christmas lights provision within the Borough/Parishes. On the motion of Mr. Lay, seconded by Mrs. Camamile it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meetings held on 6th April and 4th May 2006 be received, the Member concerned be supplied with information by the Head of Finance and ICT relating to the final overspend on Christmas lights when available and the Chief Executive clarify the breakdown of the overall figures relating to Christmas lights provision to more clearly indicate the expenditure in specific geographical areas.

94 VACANCY ON COUNCIL SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

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

RESOLVED – in consequence of Mr. Hall being appointed to the Cabinet Mr. Collins be appointed to the above vacancy.

95 LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

RESOLVED – again, in consequence of Mr. Hall being appointed as a member of Cabinet, Mr. Batty be appointed Vice-Chairman of these two Committees.

96 AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE FINANCE AND AUDIT SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

Since membership of this Body had been determined at the Annual Council meeting this item was withdrawn.

Mr. Edwards entered the meeting 6.47 p.m.

97 FINAL OUTTURN 2005/06 (C5)

Following an update by the Chief Executive on the situation with regard to concessionary travel it was moved by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Bevins and

RESOLVED – the outturn for 2005/06, the transfer to Reserves as outlined in the report of the Head of Finance and ICT, and the supplementary budgets for 2006/07 as set out in appendix 4 to that report be approved.

98 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2005/06 (C6)

In accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Statement of Recommended Practice to prepare a Statement of Accounts by 30th June consideration was given to the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2005/06. Such Statement was subject to audit and publication of the accounts would take place following approval by the Council's external auditors. On the motion of Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Bevins it was

RESOLVED – the draft statement of accounts for the year 2005/06 be approved.

99 ANNUAL STATEMENT ON THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL (C7)

Arising from the need to now review at least annually its system of internal control Council gave due consideration to the above, which was a key measure of the overall effectiveness of this Authority.

In welcoming this document Mr. Ward proposed, Mr. Bevins seconded and it was

RESOLVED – the Annual Statement and the System of Internal Control be approved.

100 COMPARISON OF REVISED CAPITAL BUDGET 2005/06 WITH ACTUAL OUTTURNS (C8)

A report and statement were submitted of actual expenditure for 2005/06 compared with the revised budget. Certain adjustments to the 2006/07 budget were necessary in consequence of certain projects progressing either more quickly or more slowly than anticipated.

Reference was made to the entry in the section of the report relating to the unspent balance on market awnings and on the motion of Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Bevins it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) the expenditure incurred in 2005/06 as set out in appendix A of the report of the Head of Finance and ICT be noted;
- (ii) adjustments to the 2006/07 budget detailed in appendix B of that report be approved; and
- (iii) the Head of Finance and ICT write to all Members clarifying the position with regard to expenditure on market awnings.

Ms. Price entered the meeting at 7.04 p.m.

101 LEICESTERSHIRE MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (C9)

Prior to Members' consideration of this Neil Greenhalgh, the Interim Project Officer, Leicestershire Waste Management Partnership gave a brief presentation on the process of reviewing the joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Leicestershire. The details of this Strategy had been produced by the Leicestershire Waste Management Partnership and the Members Steering Group and their recommendations to the partner authorities indicated proposals to take the Strategy forward, whilst recognising that further detailed work and negotiations needed to be undertaken on implementation issues.

Discussion ensued with regard to the representative trial of kitchen waste collection, the identification of funding of the Strategy and additional facilities to manage residual waste and concerns were expressed as to the continuing amount of business-generated waste and removal of waste from licensed premises.

It was moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED –

- (i) the proposed Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Strategy as set out in the report for formal adoption by the authority be agreed;
- (ii) the Member Steering Group be advised that this Council wishes to see the following amendments being added to the associated action plan;
 - a) that a representative trial of the proposed kitchen waste collection service is undertaken within Leicestershire at the earliest opportunity in order to gauge public acceptance and suitability of the scheme, prior to possible implementation throughout the County;
 - b) that the trial area and funding mechanism be identified by relevant officers within the Leicestershire Waste Management Partnership and be reported back to Members for comment and endorsement;
 - c) that further treatment options utilising existing facilities in and around Leicestershire are robustly explored and a full cost benefit analysis undertaken in relation to the proposed kitchen waste collection trial;
 - d) that a further report be brought back to the Member Steering Group detailing the outcomes of the above actions; and

- (iii) the action plan be approved subject to the Member Steering Group agreeing to the requested changes above

102 DEVELOPMENT OF RECYCLING SERVICES (C10)

Presented to Council were details of work undertaken by the Portfolio Holder for Recycling and Refuse Collection, the Head of Health and Environment and other officers in addressing outstanding concerns of Members regarding recycling issues.

A three-month trial system in Market Bosworth whereby residents were allowed to dispose of grey card in garden waste had proved very successful and approval was now sought to the rollout of a grey cardboard collection service as outlined in section 4 of the report of the Head of Health and Environment.

Whilst fully supportive of this incentive Members were unanimous in that, since not all cardboard was suitable for inclusion in the scheme, householders should be made fully aware that only grey card could be recycled and the suggestion was made that stickers providing further guidance be attached to the garden waste bins. It was emphasised that generally householders would continue to be given the choice as to means of recycling.

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

RESOLVED – approval be given to

- (i) the rollout of a mixed garden waste and grey cardboard collection service as outlined in section 4 of the report of the Head of Health and Environment; and;
- (ii) the inclusion of £150,000 in the Council's capital programme for the purchase of brown wheeled bins for the provision of the garden waste and grey cardboard collection service, to be funded as outlined in paragraph 7.1 to that report.

103 APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S VISION, STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, CORPORATE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2006/2011 AND BUSINESS DELIVERY PLANS 2006/2008 (C11)

Agreement being sought to the above it was moved by Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Thorpe and

RESOLVED – approval be given to

- (i) the Corporate Performance Plan 2006/2011 and Business Delivery Plans 2006-2008/09; and
- (ii) the delegation of any final amendments to the Corporate Performance Plan 2006/2011 and Business Delivery Plans 2006-2008/09 to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

On behalf of those Members of the Liberal Democrat Group present Mr. Bill requested that it be recorded that that group had abstained from voting on this item.

(The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.)