

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

8th AUGUST 2006 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MRS. M.L. SHERWIN - MAYOR
MR. K.W.P. LYNCH - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. M.O. Bevins, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. D.R. Bown, Mr. J.C. 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. 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, Ms. J.E. Price, Mrs. E.A. Spencer, 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.

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

159 PRAYER

The Reverend Canon F.D. Jennings offered offered prayer.

At this juncture the Mayor reminded Members that the evacuation procedure was printed on the inside of the agenda and requested that mobile telephones be switched off.

160 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. P.R. Batty, C.W. Boothby, J.F. Collins, B. H. Edwards, M.R. Lay and K. Vessey.

161 MINUTES (CA12)

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

162 ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor indicated that she had agreed to consider as an urgent item and as previously circulated to Members a report on the renewal of the contract for responsive maintenance to Council properties, the reason for the urgency being that the tendering process had been formally concluded within the last few days and in order that preliminary work may now commence on responsive maintenance and void property repairs.

163 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Davis declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in agenda item no. 9(b) as a member of Hinckley and Bosworth Promotions Board and in report C14 as a member of the Standards Committee.

164 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor announced that a request had been received from the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment to exercise their right as Freemen of the Borough to parade through Hinckley town centre on 15th March 2007. Additionally, the Mayor announced the following diary dates:

Saturday, 22nd October 2006
"Journey into History", Shackerstone Railway (3.00 p.m., approximately)

Thursday, 14th December 2006
Civic Carol Service, St. Catherines Church, Burbage (6.00 p.m.)

Friday, 9th February 2007
Civic Ball, Sketchley Grange Hotel (time T.B.C.)

Sunday, 25th March 2007
Civic Service, St. Catherines Church, Burbage (3.00 p.m.)

165 QUESTIONS

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

(a) Question raised by Mrs. C.M. Claridge and addressed to Mr. M.O. Bevins

"As our representative at the LGA Conference held in Bournemouth, Councillor Bevins was invited to visit the Borough of Poole to observe the success of its Masterplan.

What lessons did he learn which would help Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council with its Masterplan?"

Reply given by Mr. M.O. Bevins

"Whilst I did not receive a formal invitation for this event, I did make enquiries, but was unable to attend due to illness. However, I have asked for further details about this successful initiative, which I will share with Members as soon as I receive them. Should there be sufficient interest following that circulation, I am sure that a visit could be arranged in due course."

Mrs. Claridge then referred to the eco-village at Poole as being an exciting initiative and asked that Mr. Bevins enquire as to the funding of this to which Mr. Bevins responded that he anticipated that these details would be included in the response from Poole.

(b) Question raised by Mrs. C.M. Claridge and addressed to Mr. M.A. Hall

"Has Councillor Hall made the friends of the Archie Marriot Charity aware of the vandalism on the proposed site of the play equipment on the Leicester Road car park at Burbage Common?"

Reply given by Mr. M.A. Hall

"I would like to thank Councillor Mrs. Claridge for her question and can assure her that the site for this play equipment has been chosen following full discussion of the options with the friends of Archie Marriot. They were

invited to look at other sites for the equipment but felt that, in keeping with Archie's wishes, it should be sited on Burbage Common, where it can be enjoyed by all the children of Hinckley."

Mrs. Claridge then asked Mr. Hall whether he considered that alternative sites should be examined to which Mr. Hall responded that there had been full discussions with the friends of Archie Marriott as to the siting of the play equipment.

(c) Question raised by Mr. D.C. Bill and addressed to Mr. M.O. Bevins

"Is it now the Council's policy to press for a connection between the Earl Shilton by-pass and the M69, with either a partial or full set of slip roads?"

Reply given by Mr. M.O. Bevins

"As Councillor Bill will know, there is no Council policy on this matter, as it has yet to be referred to the Cabinet or to the Council. All that has happened is that we have been invited to indicate to Government (as part of the "Growth Point Bid Initiative" initiated by Leicester/Leicestershire, Nottingham/Nottinghamshire and Derby/Derbyshire), any infrastructure or other support which may be necessary to underpin the sustainability of additional housing allocated to this Borough over the next twenty years. The purpose behind these indications being given by these officers has been to identify such needs for Government so that funding might be available from external/Government sources to support these vital resources, without recourse to the local taxpayer. A northward only junction linking the M69 and Earl Shilton by-pass would be a significant and positive addition to our local infrastructure (given potential future housing developments), if such funding could be made available – hence the indication given. Should that possibility become more firm, I will approach Members for formal support at the appropriate time. "

In referring to car movements on the A5 and M69 and their impact on the Northern Perimeter Road and the proposed Earl Shilton bypass Mr. Bill then asked whether residents affected would be consulted to which Mr. Bevins responded that it was not this Council's policy to request a junction linking the Earl Shilton bypass and the M69.

(d) Question raised by Mr. D.C. Bill and addressed to Mr. D.W. Thorpe

"With the traffic impact assessment of the Hinckley Town Centre Masterplan still outstanding, can I please be informed:

- (i) When the assessment will be available.
- (ii) What siting will be set aside for a new bus station.

Reply given by Mr. D.W. Thorpe

"The Council has commissioned a traffic impact assessment by the consultants, White Young Green, it is expected that the completed assessment will be available from mid-October 2006.

A number of options for siting the bus station have been investigated including:

- Bus station interchange with the train station;
- a possible interchange; and

- staying on the existing site.

Currently it was considered that the existing site is the most feasible option.”

Mr. Bill then asked for clarification regarding the bus station site to which Mr. Thorpe responded that all members of the Master Plan Steering Group were kept fully informed of the situation.

166 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING (C13)

In the absence of the Commission Chairman Mrs. Camamile, one of the two Vice-Chairmen, presented the above, and in response to a Member’s question indicated the intention of the Commission to examine the remit of the Community Safety Partnership. With concerns being raised generally as to the standing and performance of the Partnership the Chief Executive stated that one of the areas that would be examined was whether the Partnership currently delivered value for money for the community.

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 15th June 2006 be received.

167 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING – 27TH JULY 2006

Members gave consideration to the following recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission:-

- (a) the Post Office be requested to review its policy with regard to postal addresses, to ensure that attractions within this Borough have Leicestershire addresses, and not postal addresses which are currently outside of the County;
- (b) Hinckley & Bosworth Promotions be urged to continue to develop awareness of open space provision within this Borough.

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

RESOLVED – the approach to the Post Office along the lines indicated be endorsed and on the motion of Mr. Bill seconded by Mr. Crooks it was

RESOLVED – the proposal that Hinckley and Bosworth Promotions be requested to continue to develop open space provision locally be supported.

168 ANNUAL REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER (C14)

The Monitoring Officer presented the first report to be produced in this form. In addition to providing an overview of the work of that officer during the past year the report identified and promoted examples of best practice with the opportunity to review and learn from experience.

Reservations were expressed as to the identification of Members who had been investigated by the Ethical Standards Officer and the impact that this may have on the future recruitment of Councillors. Whilst sympathetic to these concerns the Chief Executive emphasized that the main purpose of bringing this report to

Members was that lessons could be learnt and send a message to the public that this Authority was rigorous and forward-looking in its approach to ethical standards.

With the development of an Ethical Framework and improved Member Training and Development and the increased role of the Standards Committee in the local investigation of complaints it was envisaged that the number of cases investigated by the Standards Board would gradually reduce.

Following a Member's suggestion that in order to avoid future change all references to "her" in Appendix 5 to the report to be amended to "their". It was moved by Mr. D.R. Bown, seconded by Mr. Bill, and

RESOLVED –

- (i) agreement be given to
 - (a) the use of the Audit Commission's diagnostic and the IdeA tool kit as a package to enable the Council to test its ethical health and take any necessary remedial action;
 - (b) the development of a Corporate Governance Manual;
 - (c) through the LRIP member development strand a "Raising Standards" conference be held to examine the link between high standards of ethical behaviour and governance and the ability to improve standards of service and to explore better ways of working together in the context of those links;
 - (d) the completion by officers who hold "politically restricted" posts of an interests registration form to be held alongside the register of members' interests within law and governance; and the development of a new protocol for local investigation of allegations about the personal conduct of Council Members.
- (ii) the annual report of the Monitoring Officer and particularly the protocol attached as Appendix 5 to that report be endorsed.

169 REVIEW OF CHARGES FOR THE TREATMENT OF RATS AND MICE (C15)

Members were informed of issues which had arisen in consequence of the introduction on 1st April 2006 of a charge of £30 for the treatment of rats. Additionally, endorsement was sought to increase the charge for the treatment of mice to £50 with effect from 1st July 2006.

It was moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mrs. Finney, and

RESOLVED – the action taken by the Chief Executive and Head of Finance & ICT (in consultation with the portfolio holders for Health and Environment and Finance and ICT) to cancel the requirement to charge for rat treatment (other than where it can be shown that an infestation is due to the negligence or actions of a property owner) and to increase the charge for the treatment of mice to £50 with effect from 1st July 2006 be endorsed.

170 RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT FOR RESPONSIVE MAINTENANCE TO COUNCIL PROPERTIES (C16)

As previously indicated, the Mayor had agreed that this report be considered as a matter of urgency on the grounds that the tendering process had been formally concluded within the last few days and in order that preliminary work may now commence on responsive maintenance and void property repairs.

In updating Members on the appointment of the new contractors for the above with effect from 29th September 2006 the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Strategy paid tribute to all involved in the renewal process and indicated that InSpace Partnership Limited, the successful tenderers, had extended an invitation to Members to view the benefits of the new contract.

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

RESOLVED – this Council acknowledge the effectiveness of the procurement process followed and endorse the appointment of InSpace Partnership Limited to undertake work on responsive maintenance and void property repairs.

171 MOTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 12

Members having been circulated at the meeting with an amendment to the motion of Mr. Bill as printed on the agenda, and with the agreement of Mr. Bill, it was moved by Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Ellis, and

RESOLVED – the following motion be supported:

“That this Council recognises the essential nature of the services provided by the George Eliot Hospital and the vital need for their continued existence. As a great many people from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough use these services out of necessity, the Council requests that people within this Borough, and the Council on their behalf, be fully involved in consultation regarding any proposals to change these services and that this Council request that the Strategic Health Authority for the East Midlands and the Leicestershire PCT Transition Executive to consult fully with the residents of the Borough regarding the impact of any changes proposed by Coventry and Warwickshire Acute Services Review, as the Council values the local access and provision of accident and emergency services, preferably in the Hinckley locality.

(The meeting closed at 7.37 p.m.)