

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

19th SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MRS. M.L. SHERWIN - MAYOR
MR. K.W.P. LYNCH - 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, Mr. J.C. Bown, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mrs. C.M. Claridge, 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. R.D. Ellis, Mrs. D. Finney, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. R.J. Furniss, Mr. D.E. Hinton, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. J.E. Stanley, 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, Miss L. Horton, Mr. S. Kohli, Mrs. P.I. Pitt, Mr. T.M. Prowse and Mrs. J. Puffett.

241 MINUTE'S SILENCE

Members observed a minute's silence as a tribute to Matt Gadsby who, whilst playing for Hinckley United Football Club, died suddenly during the match with Harrogate Town.

242 PRAYER

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

243 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. M.A. Hall, K.A.J. Hunnybun and C.G. Joyce and Ms. J.E. Price.

244 MINUTES (C17)

The Mayor pointed out that the Journey into History event at Shackerstone Railway was to take place on 7th and not 22nd October 2006 as indicated in the minutes. On the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Collins it was

RESOLVED – subject to the date of the Journey into History event being amended to read 7th October the minutes of the meeting held on 8th August 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

245 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Interests were declared as follows:-

Mr. Davis – a personal, non-prejudicial interest in report number C18 by virtue of his being a member of the Hinckley and Bosworth Promotions Board.

Mr. Stanley – a personal and prejudicial interest in report number C20 in that his son owned property within the development area.

246 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor drew attention to the new portrait in the Council Chamber of Her Majesty the Queen, commissioned to coincide with the Queen's 80th birthday.

The Mayor then announced that she had recently attended an event commemorating the Battle of Britain and a book relating to this produced by the R.A.F. Association had been placed in the Parlour.

247 QUESTIONS

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

(a) Question raised by Mr. D.R. Bown and addressed to Mrs. R.W. Wright

"Could the Portfolio Holder for the Hinckley market simply explain why the market traders would not use the 20 heavy duty awnings purchased at a cost of £2,287.00."

Reply given by Mrs. R.W. Wright

"There is a strong commitment by this Council to improve and invest in our thriving market. One initiative taken in early 2005 was to replace some of the market awnings on a trial basis. Representatives from the market traders were consulted throughout the project. The cost of the 20 trial replacement awnings was funded from external grant monies and was separate to the provision for Markets which appeared in the Council's Capital programme.

The new awnings did prove too heavy for the traders to use unassisted and the use of the Council workforce to assist was not considered practical. The decision was therefore taken to use these awnings for specialist Council events in the future. Any proposed new awning replacements will reflect the need for lighter weight design to facilitate easy erection and removal."

In response to a supplementary question from Mr. D.R. Bown, Mrs. Wright stated that no free trial had been available prior to purchase of the new market awnings and stressed that market traders had been fully consulted throughout the process.

(b) Question raised by Mr. D.R. Bown and addressed to Mr. M.O. Bevins

"Recently a statement was made in the 'letters' column of the Hinckley Times – the writer claimed he was told when looking for industrial premises in Earl Shilton, I quote 'people of Earl Shilton neither welcome or want local industry'. Could the portfolio holder confirm that this is not the view held by the Cabinet and member of the Management Team of the Borough Council."

Reply given by Mr. M.O. Bevins

"I can confirm that this is not the view held by myself, the Cabinet nor members of the Management Team of the Borough Council."

248 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING – 27TH JULY 2006 (C18)

In presenting these the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission highlighted discussions with Hinckley and Bosworth Promotions to develop tourism and referred to the review being undertaken of the Community Safety Partnership.

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 27th July 2006 be received.

249 CONCESSIONARY FARES (C19)

Late information was circulated at the meeting as to outcome of recent discussions with the County Council and other Leicestershire District/Borough Councils which had resulted in a reduction in Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's share of the provisional total cost of a county-wide free travel scheme from 1st November 2006 and an increased contribution by the County Council.

Tribute was paid to those involved in the negotiations to bring about this improved financial arrangement and progressing the scheme for those residents of the borough eligible to participate.

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

RESOLVED – subject to paragraph 3.5 and 4.2 of the report of the Chief Executive being amended to read as follows:-

Paragraph 3.5 – the cost of a county-wide free concession (from 1st November 2006) for 2006/07 will be £20,000 (not £43,000) with the full year cost of 2007/08 being £52,000 (not £102,000);

Paragraph 4.2 - 2006/07 £20,000 and £52,000 in 2007/08 - a full year cost over and above the RSG of £129,000

the actions being taken to enable free county-wide travel to be made available to residents of Hinckley and Bosworth be supported.

250 MATTER FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

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

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 likely discussion of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 10 of Part I of that Act.

Mr. Stanley, having declared a personal and a prejudicial interest in the following item left the meeting at 7.06 p.m.

251 BUS STATION SITE – DELIVERY OPTIONS AND MASTERPLAN PROGRESS (C20)

Mr. Thorpe declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in this item on the grounds that he was a member of the Local Amateur Swimming Association.

In acknowledging that some progress had been made on this issue Members were generally supportive of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission and the Masterplan Working Group and mindful of the need to take into account what was best for the Borough.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.4 Mr. Thorpe called for a recorded vote. Mr. Lay and the Chief Executive pointed out that a recorded vote on this could be perceived as divisive and despite some reservations now expressed by Members none of the political parties were opposed to the proposals. Having regard to the views of those present Mr. Thorpe withdrew his request for a recorded vote.

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

RESOLVED –

- Members support “Preferred Developer Partner Selection” as the preferred approach to the delivery of the mixed use development on the Bus Station site, Hinckley;
- a business case be developed to consider options and implications for future location and investment decisions for the Council Offices prior to any further action being taken on the procurement process for the Bus Station site;
- a professional consultant be secured in connection with the development of a business case in respect of Council Office location and investment and the procurement process;
- the Joint Party Masterplan Working Group has delegated to progress and oversee the business case and procurement work subject to it feeding back to the Scrutiny Commission;
- it be agreed that the land off the A47 Leicester Road be considered as the preferred and only workable site for development of the Leisure Centre;
- any decision to dispose of Council owned assets in respect of the Masterplan be based on consideration of an agreed Acquisition and Asset Disposal Strategy;
- the Council seeks to secure an element of affordable housing within the bus station redevelopment in line with its adopted policies;
- full consultation takes place on delivery options for the Bus Station site and other key sites with which the Council has an interest following the adoption of the outcomes from the procurement process; and
- Members note the concern over any linkage of Trinity Lane car parks to the Bus Station redevelopment within the adopted Masterplan.

(The meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.)