

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

26 JUNE 2007 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. K.W.P. LYNCH - MAYOR
MR. J.G. BANNISTER - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. J.C. Bown, Mr. S.L. Bray, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mr. M.B. Cartwright, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. D.M. Gould, Mrs. W. A. Hall, Mr. P. Hall, Mr. D.W. Inman, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. C. Ladkin, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. R. Mayne, Mr. T. McClure, Dr. J.R. Moore, Ms. W.A. Moore, Mr. K. Morrell, Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea, Mrs. J. Richards, Mr. B.E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward and Mr. D.O. Wright.

Also in attendance: Mr. M.D. Clarricoats, Independent member of the Standards Committee.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S. Atkinson, Mr. Michael Brymer, Mr. D. Bunker, Mr. B. Cullen, Miss L. Horton, Mr. S. Kohli, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. T.M. Prowse.

77 **PRAYER**

The Reverend Canon F.D. Jennings offered prayer.

78 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. P. Bessant, C.W. Boothby, K. Nichols and A.J. Smith.

79 **MINUTES (C10 & C11)**

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meetings held on 15 and 22 May 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

80 **ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE**

The Mayor indicated that, as previously circulated to Members, he had agreed to take as a late item a report (C18) of the Head of Finance and ICT relating to the comparison of the revised capital budget 2006/07 with actual outturn.

81 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared at this stage.

82 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred to the recent civic visit to Le Grand Quevilly, and to the sponsored event 'The Mallory Mile' at the Mallory Park Racing Circuit. Reference was also made to 'Creative', Hinckley, an initiative being created (details of which would be conveyed to Members), within the former Atkins building, to the forthcoming Veterans Day service and the tour of part of the Borough by civic heads on 8 September 2007.

83 PETITION

In the absence of Mr. Cort, who it was indicated, had apologised for this evening's meeting, a petition was presented by Mr. Ward on behalf of 20 residents of Ashby Road, Markfield raising concerns regarding another property in that area.

84 QUESTIONS

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

(a) Question raised by Mr. P.R. Batty and addressed to Mrs. S. Francks

"Can the Executive Member please confirm that when the Enforcement of Parking restrictions by the Borough Council comes into effect that the residents of the Northern Parishes which are all experiencing a number of serious parking issues, will benefit fully from this much needed scheme and that the Northern Parishes of Groby, Markfield and Stanton together with Ratby, Bagworth and Thornton be allocated a fair share of the Council's resources consistent with the fact that the 3 Wards account for some 16% of the Borough's electorate and almost certainly more than 16% of the Borough Council Tax collected. Therefore, can the Executive Member please confirm that the Administration will ensure that residents of the Northern Parishes are not to be discriminated against and will receive pro-rata benefit from the scheme and not be expected to subsidise other areas, as we are led to believe has been suggested?"

Response from Mrs. S. Francks

"Members will be aware that Leicestershire County Council, in partnership with the 7 District and Borough Councils in Leicestershire, will take over responsibility for certain parking enforcement work from the police, with effect from July 2007.

The Parking Attendants that will be employed after the 1st July will only be able to take action where there are currently parking restrictions in force on the public highways, i.e. where there are yellow lines and in respect of restrictions on car parks. In all other circumstances, e.g. where a vehicle is causing an obstruction, then enforcement will still remain with the Police.

I can confirm that the Parking Attendants will be patrolling and enforcing parking restrictions in the northern parishes. A scheme of patrols, based upon the metres of waiting restrictions, has been drafted, which indicates that 1.74 hours per week (excluding travelling time) should be spent patrolling Markfield, Ratby and Groby. Currently there are no waiting restrictions in Stanton, Bagworth or Thornton.

In addition to this patrol time I can also confirm that the assignment of the Parking Attendants will be flexible in order that where parking problems which can be dealt with under the scheme are brought to the attention of staff, sufficient resources will be directed at the problem to bring about its solution.”

Following a supplementary question from Mr. Batty, Mrs. Francks stated that both she and the Head of Health and Environment would be happy to address any Member’s concerns regarding the distribution of parking attendants.

(b) Question raised by Mr. P.R. Batty and addressed to Mrs. S. Francks

“Can the Executive Member please confirm whether the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme is still operational in the Rural Parishes and if so can the Executive Member please confirm the level of effective resources allocated to the Northern Parishes, as genuine concern has been expressed in my Ward in particular that very little is now seen or heard from Neighbourhood Wardens. From my own experience, as Ward Member, I have had no contact from a Neighbourhood Warden to advise me of any initiative or involvement in my Ward since the scheme was introduced and I am informed that the last contact with Groby Parish Council by a Neighbourhood Warden was some 6 months ago. Can the Executive Member also please comment as to whether she agrees that it would be a good idea for regular reports to be issued by Neighbourhood Wardens to Members and Parishes on their activities, not only to measure their effectiveness and value for money to the Borough’s Council Tax payers but simply to build up good working relationships between the interested partners and keep everyone informed of progress or successes?”

Response from Mrs. S. Francks

“I am pleased to be able to confirm that the Council’s Neighbourhood Warden Service is still in place and is still operational in the rural parishes. There are currently 3 Neighbourhood Wardens, one primarily for the Hinckley/Burbage area, one primarily for the Earl Shilton/Barwell area and one primarily for the rural parishes. On occasions, they will work together on projects/campaigns and would be deployed to particular areas if the demands dictated.

The Neighbourhood Wardens are in contact with Borough and Parish Councillors from time to time when dealing with issues in their areas. They would be pleased to attend any Parish Council meeting if there are issues of concern or to explain the powers and responsibilities which they have in responding to requests for service.

The Head of Health and Environment already produces a quarterly report on the work of his service area (Briefing Notes 6/07 and 14/07) which includes details of the work carried out by the Neighbourhood Warden. These Briefing Notes are distributed to all Members and are on the Council's Intranet. If any Member would wish to discuss the content of the quarterly report further, particularly in respect of the work of the Neighbourhood Wardens in their area, I and the Head of Health and Environment would be more than happy to do so."

Following a supplementary question from Mr. Batty, Mrs. Francks indicated that she and the Head of Health and Environment would provide clarification to Mr. Batty on the role of parking attendants and on parking on pavements.

85 FINAL OUTTURN 2006/07 (C12)

Circulated to Members at the meeting were slight revisions to table 3 (page 4) of this report, namely that the Reserve 'Support Services' should read 'Shared Services' and the amount set aside should read '£140,000' as against '£100,000'.

Reference was made to the good work by officers in achieving for the Council the sum of £604,000 by way of Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Grant and following a Member's question with regard to the underspend on Groundcare the portfolio holder for parks and open spaces undertook to respond to the Member concerned in writing.

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

RESOLVED – the outturn for 2006/07, the transfer to earmarked reserves and balances as outlined in the report of the Head of Finance and ICT and the carry forward to 2007/08 of some of the underspends incurred in 2006/07 as set out in paragraph 3.9 and detailed in appendix 1 to that report be approved.

86 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2006/07 (C13)

In accordance with the terms of the Accounts and Audit Regulations that the Council prepare a Statement of Accounts by 30 June each year consideration was given to the draft Statement of Accounts for 2006/07. 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. Bill, seconded by Mr. Bray it was

RESOLVED – the draft Statement of Accounts for the year 2006/07 be approved.

87 ANNUAL STATEMENT ON THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL (C14)

This, together with the rest of the financial items on the agenda for the meeting tonight, had been examined and fully supported at the Finance and Audit Services Select Committee meeting on 25 June 2007.

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

In welcoming this document Mr. Bill proposed, Mr. Bray seconded and it was

RESOLVED – the annual statement and the system of internal control be approved.

88 COMPARISON OF REVISED BUDGET 2006/07 WITH ACTUAL OUTTURNS (C18)

A report and statement were submitted of actual expenditure for 2006/07 compared with the revised budget. Certain adjustments to the 2007/08 budget were necessary in consequence of certain projects progressing either more quickly or more slowly than anticipated.

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

RESOLVED – the expenditure incurred in 2006/07 and adjustments to the 2007/08 capital budget as detailed in Appendices A and B respectively to the report of the Head of Finance and ICT be noted.

89 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07 (C15)

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission in presenting the above reminded Members of the objectives of the Council's overview and scrutiny function, highlighted examples of work undertaken during the last year and referred to proposed areas for examination in 2007/08. Tribute was paid to the Chairman, who in turn, thanked his two vice-chairmen, Members and officers for their continued support.

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

RESOLVED – the overview and scrutiny annual report for 2006/07 be endorsed.

90 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2007/12 (C16)

The Council having been presented with this, a key document which would be reviewed and refreshed each year, it was moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED – the Corporate Performance Plan 2007/12 be agreed.

91 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMERCIAL SERVICES ENFORCEMENT SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2007/08 (C17)

Following endorsement by the Scrutiny Commission Council approval was sought to the above document. In welcoming this Plan and paying tribute to the work of officers involved it was moved by Mrs. Francks, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED – the Environmental Health Commercial Services Enforcement Service Delivery Plan 2007/08 be approved.

92 VACANCY ON SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Consequent upon the resignation of Mr. Boothby from the above it was moved by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mrs. Camamile and

RESOLVED – Mr. Morrell be appointed to the Scrutiny Commission as replacement for Mr. Boothby.

(The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.)