

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
11 DECEMBER 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, Mrs. A. Hall, Mr. P.A.S. Hall, Mr. D.W. Inman, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. C. Ladkin, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. R. Mayne, Mr. T. McClure, Ms. W.A. Moore, Mr. K. Morrell, Mr. K. Nichols, Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea, Mrs. J. Richards, Mr. A.J. Smith, Mr. B.E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward and Mr. D.O. Wright.

Also in attendance: Messrs. R. Birch and M.D. Clarricoats, independent members of the Standards Committee.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S.J. Atkinson, Mr. A. Bottomley, Mr. P.F. Cash, Mr. B. Cullen, Miss L. Horton, Mr. S. Kohli, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. T.M. Prowse.

365 PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Robert Stephen offered prayer.

366 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. P.S. Bessant, C.W. Boothby, J.D. Cort and D.M. Gould.

367 MINUTES (C46)

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

368 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

369 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor indicated that Mr. Ward, following the scam device discovered in a 'hole in the wall' facility in Atkins Way, Hinckley and other instances reported in the national press, had asked that the Chief Executive arrange to have this issue highlighted to all residents of this Borough as a matter of urgency during the festive season.

The Mayor announced that there were a few tickets still remaining for the 'Christmas Cracker' event at the Marston Stadium on 21 December 2007.

Finally, the Mayor thanked those officers who had assisted at the recent civic carol service, paying particular tribute to Jo McLaren. The service had been well attended and £615 had been raised on behalf of the Mayor's charities.

Mr. Ladkin entered the meeting at 6.40pm.

370 QUESTIONS

The following questions and replies were received in accordance with Council procedure rule 11.1:-

(a) Question raised by Mr. A.J. Smith and addressed to Mr. S.L. Bray

"Could the Executive Member responsible for Town Centre issues outline the progress being made on the redevelopment of the town centre?"

Response from Mr. S.L. Bray

"Can I thank Cllr Smith for his question.

Progress on the regeneration of Hinckley Town Centre is being made in a number of areas and is regularly fed back and discussed through the Town Centres Working Party meetings, through which Members are represented on a cross-party basis. Key activities in the policy and regeneration service can be highlighted as follows:-

Town Centre Regeneration Plan - Since the adoption of this document, activities have developed as follows:-

- The demolition of the YMCA building on the Bus Station site took place yesterday and is the first step in the development of this site. The publication of a development brief, incorporating a timetable for delivering site regeneration has recently been published. It is the intention to commence the contract with a preferred developer in June 2008. The selected developer will then begin the detailed design work and the securing of the necessary interests to provide the retail and leisure/culture mix. The timetable incorporates the reporting to Council of key milestones as the process moves forward towards that point.
- In respect of the Atkins site, demolition (excluding the Goddard Building) will start in January for completion by March 2008.

On other identified strategic development sites (i.e. Stockwell Head, Fludes and the Railway Station site), Officers have had ongoing discussions with developers. Whilst it is correct to say there is interest and pressure on the majority of the identified sites, negotiations need to be comprehensive to ensure the Council achieves the best possible solution for each site.

In addition, the Town Centre Area Action Plan has recently been through public consultation on its preferred options. The outcome of this consultation will be reported to Members early in 2008.

In the last few months resurfacing and the installation of heritage lighting has taken place at Chapel Yard, Bell Entry, Crown and Anchor Yard, Vernons Yard and Cross Keys. A recent bid for a major environmental scheme to Upper Castle Street has also been submitted to the Leicestershire Economic Partnership.

Work on a strategic developer contributions document, designed to deliver elements of the public realm, highway improvements and assist with consolidation of car parking provision within the Town Centre, is nearing completion and will be subject to consultation next year.

Further, Members will be aware that the Council is pursuing a Business Improvement District for Hinckley Town Centre. The Business Development Plan is to be launched before Christmas. Further publicity outlining future activities will be published in the first edition of a monthly newsletter to be published in December. A ballot on the BID is scheduled to be held in June 2008."

(b) Question raised by Mr. R. Ward and addressed to Mr. S.L. Bray

"The Conservative Group welcomes the recent announcement through the media and Borough Bulletin in respect of the timetable for the progress on the Bus Station site. When will this important matter be brought before the Council for consideration?"

Response from Mr. S.L. Bray

"I thank Cllr Ward for his question, as it gives me the opportunity to reinforce the very positive progress we are now making on this site which, as he will know, has had no attention (in terms of real action) for many years. However, the more recent action has been supported by the Town Centre Working Party, which has led to the production of a development brief and timetable for moving forward the regeneration of the site with a preferred development partner.

These activities follow on from proposals agreed through the Town Centre Regeneration Plan and the Town Centre Area Action Plan and have been openly discussed with and positively supported by those who own land within the site.

The Development Brief identifies our ambitions as:

- a significantly improved retail shopping offer
- a new state-of-the-art multi-screen cinema and other supporting leisure facilities
- a high quality development with landmark buildings of which people can be proud
- a fully sustainable development, enhancing the public realm in this key area and improving transport facilities

Matters concerning the development of the two documents have been considered by Council at key stages over the last few years, in addition, the timetable has also been the subject of consideration via the Local Development Framework Working Party; again a cross party group of Council members.

Can I repeat and re-emphasise the commitment of the Administration, supported I would hope by members of all three Political Groups, to working alongside all those stakeholders involved with the site to bring about our the ambitions I have outlined above at the earliest opportunity.

The development brief timetable identifies the opportunities to report to Council the key milestones in the regeneration of the site. Whilst the precise date of the longlisting meeting is to be confirmed (February 2008), it is anticipated that Council will be informed as soon as possible after that stage has been completed. In the meantime, I can confirm that a briefing note on the activities relating to the Bus Station site will be circulated to Members shortly. “

(c) Question raised by Mrs. A. Hall and addressed to Mrs. S. Francks

“Can the Executive Member with responsibility for Recycling inform Council of the level of public support from the 1200 participating households for the recently introduced kitchen food waste collection trial?”

Response from Mrs. S. Francks

“I would like to thank Councillor Mrs A Hall for her question. I am delighted to be able to advise Council of the successful introduction of the kitchen food waste collection trial to 1200 household in Burbage in this Council’s area.

The service has been well received and approximately 60% of households have put waste out for collection each week since the trial commenced on 15th October 2007. This is indicative of a participation rate of over 70% (i.e. households that put out waste at least once over 3 weeks).

As a result, approximately 2 tonnes of food waste has been collected each week for conversion into a usable compost. Similar results are being obtained in the other trial area in Lutterworth. Members will be pleased to know that the trial in Harborough District Council’s area is also being operated by our own workforce.

If a similar service was introduced across the Borough, it has been estimated that the result would be in excess of 4000 tonnes of food waste would be diverted from landfill. The resultant recycling and composting rate would be in the region of 53 – 55%, well above our own target of 50% in 2010 and well on the way to our 2017 target of 58%.

Once again, the people living in this Council's area have shown their commitment to recycling and their willingness to work with this Council to create 'A Borough to be Proud Of'."

(d) Question raised by Mr. B.E. Sutton and addressed to Mr. D.C. Bill

"As the Council's discussions on the future of the leisure centre progress, does the Leader agree that this provides a golden opportunity to assess the advantages of relocating the facility to the perimeter road site and using the extra area to provide an anaerobic digester for household and garden waste, which would reduce the road miles travelled by such waste and use the energy produced to assist in running the new leisure complex?"

Would the Leader of the Council further agree that such a farsighted initiative would give the Authority the opportunity to demonstrate publicly its commitment to sustainable environmentally-friendly projects by showing how waste can be disposed of and energy produced?"

Response by Mr. D.C. Bill

"I would like to thank Councillor Sutton for this wide-ranging question, which raises issues around both asset and waste management, two key areas of work for this Council.

I can advise members that a Working Group has been established to look at all the options available to the Council for a future leisure facility, including relocation on the perimeter road. That work has only recently commenced and so it is far too early to predict what outcome will result from its deliberations.

However, if the outcome is that a new leisure facility should be developed on the perimeter road, I would want it to be a flagship development for this Borough in terms of its design and sustainability. That should include consideration of all potential sources of energy and I would not wish to exclude any at this stage.

However, we need to be mindful of our commitments to the Leicestershire Municipal Waste Management Partnership and the strategy, which is being implemented to deal with waste from households across Leicestershire. Whilst small scale energy from waste plants may have their place in certain circumstances, economies of scale may indicate that the procurement of larger, more strategic treatment facilities may prove to be the better environmental option taking into account such issues as cost, where the waste arises, local environmental impact and optimal method of treatment.

I consider that the Council has already shown its commitment to protecting the environment, particularly in areas of recycling and composting and am pleased to hear about the success of the recently introduced kitchen food waste collection trial and our continuing excellent performance in this area of work, I can assure all members that we will continue to commit to further environmentally friendly

initiatives, but only where these can be shown to be sustainable and economically viable.”

In response to a supplementary question from Mr. Sutton, Mr. Bill indicated that, having regard to the 2012 Olympics, he would arrange for all interested parties to be made aware of funding opportunities for sports development.

371 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETINGS

In presenting these the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission highlighted the following from the respective meetings:-

6 September 2007 (C47)

- Discussion on options for the future of the Council Offices
- Hinckley Leisure Centre Feasibility Study – update

11 October 2007 (C48)

- Interview of witnesses, Local Strategic Partnership
- Discussion on Hinckley Club for Young People project

28 November 2007 (C49)

- Rural areas review - update

In response to a Member’s question Councillor Lay indicated that he would ask the Executive member responsible for rural areas to provide Members with updates as necessary. On the motion of Mr. Lay, seconded by Mrs. Camamile it was

RESOLVED - the minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meetings held on 6 September, 11 October and 28 November 2007 be received.

372 POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

In his presentation of this the Leader highlighted three decisions recently taken by the Executive, namely a grant of £50,000 to the Concordia Theatre, free swimming sessions for over-60s and a review of sheltered housing. Also outlined to Members were planned developments in the new year relating to the Atkins site, Britannia Centre/Castle Street and the procurement of a development partner for the bus station site.

373 LICENSING ACT 2003 – ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY (C50)

Council approval having been sought to the above it was moved by Mrs. Francks, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED – the Statement of Licensing Policy (appendix A to the report of the Director of Community and Planning Services) be adopted as the primary document by which the Council will determine applications made under the Licensing Act 2003 and related guidance.

374 GAMBLING ACT 2005 – TEMPORARY USE NOTICE (TUN) (C51)

Consideration having been given to the setting of fees (based on full cost recovery of administering a TUN application) under the above legislation it was moved by Mrs. Francks, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED – the proposed fees for the grant and replacement of a TUN under the Gambling Act 2005, as set out in section 2.5 of the report of the Director of Community and Planning Services, be approved.

375 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (C53)

Consequent upon the need to make certain revisions to the Constitution and to reflect changes in licensing legislation, the new management structure and the Financial Procedure Rules it was moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED –

- (i) amendments made to the Constitution from May 2007 to date, as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report of the Head of Corporate and Scrutiny Services, be confirmed;
- (ii) the changes proposed on pages 33 and 34 of the report be approved; and
- (iii) approval be given to the amended Financial Procedure Rules appended to the report.

376 REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR NEW CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME SET UP COSTS (C52)

With the coming into effect of the new Concessionary Travel Scheme on 1 April 2008 approval was sought to a supplementary budget to cover the implementation costs. Such scheme, administered by the County Council, was to be funded by Central Government. The Leader of the Council undertook to investigate whether there were any exclusions to the new scheme, whether pass holders could travel anywhere and whether the concession applied to train travel.

It was moved by Mr. Bill, seconded by Mrs. Francks and

RESOLVED – approval be given to a supplementary budget of £58,400 to meet the cost of implementing the new concessionary travel scheme which comes into operation on 1 April 2008.

377 CORPORATE PEER REVIEW (C53)

At the request of the Chief Executive Council was called upon to acknowledge the findings of the review of the Council undertaken by the IDeA at the Council's request, and to agree actions to be taken arising from such Review.

In welcoming the generally very positive findings and the Peer Group's acknowledgement of the commitment of staff it was moved by Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED –

- (i) the findings of the Peer Review, as set out in the report of the Chief Executive be acknowledged; and
- (ii) the Action Plan highlighted to address the recommendations and 'issues for consideration' in the report be agreed.

378 MOTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

It was moved by Mr. Bown and seconded by Mr. Lay that

"Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council requests that HSBC reconsider its decision to close its Earl Shilton branch on 1 February 2008. With the proposed 2,000 new houses in Earl Shilton it will be a rapidly growing town. The decision to close the bank will not be beneficial to the town's future since a thriving community needs amenities such as this".

Grave concerns being expressed by all Members on the intended closure of this valuable facility in Earl Shilton it was Agreed "This Council requests that the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance contact representatives of HSBC to make known the strong feelings of Members of this Council with regard to the proposed closure of the Earl Shilton branch of HSBC and the outcome of such representation be reported to the next Council meeting".

It was then moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mrs. Francks that

"This Council deplores the recent announcement by the Post Office that it intends to close the sub post offices at Higham-on-the-Hill and Bagworth. This follows the closure of all the other sub post offices which has so obviously been to the detriment of local communities and the intended displacement of the main Station Road post office and sorting facilities which is clearly going to cause problems for Station Road traders.

Accordingly the Council requests that the Chief Executive having regard to Members' unanimous concerns regarding post office closures make representations, as appropriate, in the strongest terms to the post office authorities".

(Both of the foregoing motions were approved by unanimous consent of all Members present).

(The meeting closed at 7.47 p.m.)