

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
10 JUNE 2008 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. J.G. BANNISTER - MAYOR  
MR. K. NICHOLS - 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. A. Hall, Mr. P.A.S. Hall, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. C. Ladkin, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Mr. R. Mayne, Dr. J.R. Moore, Mr. K. Morrell, Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea, Mrs. J. Richards, Mr. B.E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward and Ms. B.M. Witherford.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S.J. Atkinson, Mr. Michael Brymer, Mr. B. Cullen, Ms. A. Egan, Mr. M. Evans, Miss L. Horton, Mr. S. Jones, Mr. S. Kohli, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. T.M. Prowse.

26 PRAYER

The Reverend Canon B. Davis offered prayer.

27 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. P.S. Bessant, C.W. Boothby, J.D. Cort, D.W. Inman, A. J. Smith and D.O.Wright.

28 MINUTES (C1 and C2)

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 7 May (C1) and the Annual Meeting held on 20 May 2008 (C2) be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

Mr. Nichols left the meeting at 6.33pm, returning at 6.35pm.

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. and Mrs Hall both declared a personal interest in report number C6.

30 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred to his attendance at the very successful Hinckley Carnival on 8 June 2008. The Mayor reiterated his intention to promote activities within the Borough and highlighted forthcoming events at Hollycroft Park, namely the Proms in the Park Concert on 14 June and a production of "Charlie's Aunt" on 6 July.

31 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING - 1 MAY 2008

Following presentation by the Chairman of the Commission these minutes were noted.

32 PRESENTATIONS

(a) Youth Council

Millie Benson (Chair), Rich Dobson (Executive Member) and Josh Kirkcaldy (Vice-Treasurer) attended and highlighted the Youth Council's achievements during the last twelve months, including:

- The holding of numerous Full Council/ Executive Meetings.
- Team building activities during a residential course in Derbyshire.
- The Voice of Young People Co-ordinators' Conference.
- Raising the profile of the Youth Council by organising a Battle of the Bands competition.
- Development of a fully-equipped mobile youth centre.
- Working with partners, eg Dorothy Goodman School, Parish Councils and Community Forums.

Also outlined were details of the Youth Council's aims for the forthcoming year, namely:-

- Work on the Service Level Agreement.
- Maintaining strong links with Councils.
- Completion of a School Charter Pilot Scheme.
- Recruitment of more members and training of newer/young members.
- Increasing community awareness of its work, including via the Borough Bulletin.
- Further targeting of hard-to-reach groups.

Following this presentation Members paid tribute to the work of the Youth Council. The Council was commended on being a fine example to other young people and on bringing great credit to the Borough.

(b) Leader of the Council

In presenting his "State of the Borough" address, the Leader summarised the Council's activities and achievements since May 2007 and highlighted:-

- The regeneration of Hinckley Town Centre, including the 'bus station site, the joint initiative with North Warwickshire and Hinckley College and the development of the Atkins site.
- Significant and continuing improvement in service quality and performance.
- Partnership working.
- Improved corporate working.

Mrs Francks left the meeting at 7.37pm, returning at 7.45pm.

In conclusion the Leader paid tribute to the improved working relations cross-party and between Members and Officers and to the commitment of the voluntary sector. Then outlined was an extensive list of future challenges for the Council for the present year, in the context of the 5-year Corporate Plan. The Leader emphasised that these challenges would be based on full and effective consultation and engagement with the local community.

Although Members were generally supportive of the Leader's comments, reservations were expressed regarding the delivery of developments on the 'bus station and the Atkins sites and about the performance of the Local Strategic Partnership.

(c) Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission (C4)

Following a tribute to the Chairmen of the Council Services and Finance & Audit Services Select Committees and officers, Councillor Lay, in presenting the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2007/08, briefly outlined the objectives of the scrutiny function and then highlighted areas examined by the Commission and the 2 Standing Select Committees.

Discussion arose on the way in which the Scrutiny Commission fed into the policy-making process and the Chairman again referred to the "critical friend" challenge to the Executive in that the Commission had the opportunity to receive reports before decisions were taken. Despite its success the Chairman emphasised the need for the Commission to move forward to explore other areas and meet the challenges arising from policy development.

On the motion of Mr. Lay, seconded by Mr. Lynch was

RESOLVED - the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2007/08 be endorsed.

(d) Voluntary Sector

In his presentation Gregory Drozd, Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Hinckley & Bosworth, referred to four key messages under the heading: "Our Local Voluntary Sector: The State We Are In". Mr Drozd referred to his organisation's developing relationship with this Council and to the marrying of income streams to the mutual benefit of both parties.

On behalf of Members, the Mayor paid tribute to the work of all volunteers and in order to facilitate a greater understanding of the workings of the organisations to which the Council appointed representatives, the requirement in the Constitution that intermittently Members feed back details of meetings they had attended was reinforced.

Mr Bray left the meeting at 8.00pm.

33 ANNUAL REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER 2008 (C5)

In presenting this to Members the Monitoring Officer referred particularly to the fact that during the last twelve months only four complaints regarding Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Councillors had been made to the Standards Board for England (SBE) and that there had been no findings of breach of the Code of Conduct. In consequence of the new local filter process complaints needed to be made to this Council rather than the SBE, as previously.

Members noted the contents of the report.

34 MATTER ON WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

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

RESOLVED - in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the under-mentioned item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 10 of part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of that Act.

35 AUCTION OF LAND AT FLAMVILLE ROAD, BURBAGE AND ELWELL AVENUE, BARWELL (C6)

Following consideration by the Asset Management Strategy Working Group, Council approval was sought to the sale of land at the above locations. The Director of Finance reminded Members of the Council's previously-agreed ambitious Capital Programme and referred to the importance of generating Capital Receipts to support this in the relevant years.

It was agreed that Ward Members should be kept informed of areas of under-utilised land, and be provided with a site plan and information as to area and proposed use if a sale proceeded. There was also strong support for such items in future being addressed more speedily than by reference to full Council.

Members being fully supportive of this concept it was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mrs Francks and

RESOLVED - in accordance with discussions at, and instructions received from, the Asset Management Strategy Working Group the sale by auction of the two sites referred to in the report of the Director of Finance be approved.

(The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.)