

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
8 JULY 2008 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. J.G. BANNISTER - MAYOR

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.S. Bessant, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. C.W. Boothby, Mr. J.C. Bown, Mr. S.L. Bray, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mr. M.B. Cartwright, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mr. J.D. Cort, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. D.M. Gould, Mrs. A. Hall, Mr. P.A.S. Hall, Mr. D.W. Inman, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. C. Ladkin, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Mr. R. Mayne, Mr. K. Morrell, Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea, Mrs. J. Richards, Mr. A.J. Smith, Mr. B.E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward, Ms. B.M. Witherford and Mr. D.O. Wright.

Also in attendance: Mr. R. Birch, Chairman of the Standards Committee.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S.J. Atkinson, Mr. A. Bottomley, Mr. Michael Brymer, Mr. B. Cullen, Mrs. T. Darke, Mr. R. Palmer, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. T.M. Prowse.

88 PRAYER

The Reverend Canon B. Davis offered prayer.

89 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf Mr. P.R. Batty, Dr. J.R. Moore and Mr. K. Nichols.

90 MINUTES (C15)

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2008 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

Mr. Ladkin entered the meeting at 6.36pm.

91 ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Mayor indicated that, as previously circulated to Members, he had agreed to take as a late item a report (C20) of the Head of Business and Street Scene Services seeking a supplementary estimate to cover the cost of fuel increases.

92 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

93 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor referred to his numerous engagements recently and highlighted the 'Play in the Park' event at Hollycroft Park, paying tribute to the Council's events team involved in the organisation of this. The Mayor indicated that he would be absent from the next scheduled Council meeting since he had a planned visit to Lyre in Normandy which, because of its Priory, had links with this Council.

94 POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

In his presentation the Leader referred to the intention at tonight's meeting to select the preferred development partner to take forward the regeneration of the Hinckley Bus Station site. Also at tonight's meeting Members would be called upon to endorse the Council's submission to the Audit Commission for recategorisation under its Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) criteria. The Leader made reference to the recent significant rises in fuel costs and to the fact that Council would tonight be requested to agree a supplementary estimate to meet these rising costs. Arising from the employment situation at Caterpillar, the Leader emphasised the Council's intention, with partners, to participate in a major response initiative, the outcome of which would be conveyed to Members. In conclusion the Leader referred to his recent attendance, together with the Deputy Leader and the Chief Executive at the Local Government Association (LGA) Conference. Feedback on this conference was circulated separately to Members and accorded with the requirement within the Constitution for Members to report back on conferences and external meetings attended.

95 SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING - 12 JUNE 2008 (C16)

In presenting these Mr. Lay briefly referred to the Commission's review of out of hours health care, to an examination of the Local Strategic Partnership progress report and forward plan and discussions, arising from consideration of the Play and Open Space Supplementary Planning Document, on the levying of a 2% administration charge for Section 106 Agreements.

96 REGENERATION OF THE HINCKLEY BUS STATION SITE (C17)

In his introduction to this item, the Executive Member (Community, Regeneration and Planning) referred to the Council's ambition for this key Town Centre site, which was to significantly improve the retail shopping offer of the town, deliver a new state of the art multi-screen cinema and other leisure facilities and to secure a high quality, sustainable development with landmark buildings. He highlighted the major procurement process that had been undertaken to secure a preferred development partner, including the consultation process involving a five day exhibition and meetings with local residents, landowners and occupiers that had taken place in May.

Martin Herbert of Lambert Smith Hampton (the consultancy firm commissioned by the Council to provide specialist skills to assist in the evaluation of the appointment of a preferred development partner) attended for this item and to respond to Members' questions.

In proposing that the Council's preferred development partner to undertake the regeneration of the bus station site should be Tin Hat Partnership (Wilson Bowden/Ashcroft Estates) the Executive Member (Community, Regeneration and

Planning) thanked the other two short-listed developers, St. Modwen and Henry Boot for their submissions which were all of high quality. Reference was then made (as outlined in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the report of the Deputy Chief Executive) to the next stages and to key milestones once the preferred developer was selected.

Whilst recognising that certain issues still needed to be addressed, concerns were expressed that Members, residents and landowners should continue to be kept fully informed and that the development should complement the town centre to avoid adverse impact on the existing shopping area.

Mr. Lynch left the meeting at 7.42pm, returning at 7.43pm.

In addressing some Members' concerns regarding transport provision the Deputy Chief Executive referred to the study commissioned over 12 months ago to assess transport impact of key development sites in the Town Centre, (which had recently been approved by Planning Committee for consultation) the involvement of the Highways Authority in examining all of the submissions and on the intention to improve bus, rail and cycle provision.

Mrs. Francks left the meeting at 7.45pm returning at 7.48pm.

At this juncture the Executive Member for Community, Regeneration and Planning read out a statement from Wilson Bowden advising on their commitment to the development and providing reassurance over the company's position.

Members were agreed that compulsory purchase should only be used as a last resort and that every encouragement should be given to those businesses affected to consider relocation within the Borough. The view was expressed that it was hoped that the proposed development would stimulate the existing retail units in the area.

Following a call from the Mayor and in accordance with the Constitution five Members requested that voting on the recommendations contained in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be recorded. A vote was therefore taken and recorded as follows:-

For the resolution:-

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.S. Bessant, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. C.W. Boothby, Mr. J.C. Bown, Mr. S.L. Bray, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mr. M.B. Cartwright, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mr. J.D. Cort, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. D.M. Gould, Mrs. A. Hall, Mr. P.A.S. Hall, Mr. D.W. Inman, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. C. Ladkin, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Mr. R. Mayne, Mr. K. Morrell, Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea, Mrs. J. Richards, Mr. A.J. Smith, Mr. B.E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward, Ms. B.M. Witherford and Mr. D.O. Wright (29).

Against the resolution = 0

(the Mayor did not participate in the recorded vote).

On the motion of Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Bill, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** - the following be endorsed:-

- (i) The proposal to select the Tin Hat Partnership (Wilson Bowden/Ashcroft Estates) as the Council's preferred development partner in taking forward the regeneration of the Hinckley Bus Station site;
- (ii) The continued support of an external resource to provide specialist skills in regenerating the site; and
- (iii) The promotion and delivery of high quality "award winning" sustainable mixed use development, based on the concept submitted by the Tin Hat Partnership.

Mrs. Aldridge and Mr. Morrell left the Chamber at 8.09pm, returning at 8.11pm and 8.12pm, respectively. Mr. Gould left at 8.10pm and Mr. Bessant at 8.11pm.

97 CPA - SUBMISSION FOR RECATEGORISATION (C18)

Circulated to Members at the meeting was a paper updating the Achievements and Improvement section of the submission.

In their support of this Members referred to the significant improvements and achievements of the Council following the appointment of a new Chief Executive and to improved staff morale. Tribute was paid to Members and to staff for their contributions towards improved service delivery and continuous improvement.

Messrs. Bessant and Gould returned at 8.14pm. Mr. Bray left at 8.15pm returning at 8.17pm.

In acknowledging this comprehensive submission Members were agreed that reference to "every child matters" and the valuable contribution made by the Youth Council should be included. The Chief Executive undertook to include this in the submission and emphasised that the achievements and improvement section within the document were the most significant part of the submission.

Mr. Bray left at 8.27pm returning at 8.29 pm.

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

RESOLVED -

- (i) the submission to the Audit Commission for CPA recategorisation be supported and approved; and
- (ii) The Chief Executive and Leader of each political group be granted delegated authority to make any final revisions (including references to children/young people/the Youth Council) to the submission.

98 PLAY AND OPEN SPACE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD) - ADOPTION (C19)

Prior to seeking Members' endorsement to this, circulated at the meeting was an addendum relating to proposed on-going discussions with regard to the 2% monitoring fee and the interest earnings retained by this Council. In its consideration of this issue the Scrutiny Commission had expressed concerns with

regard to the 2% charge and had undertaken to investigate the issue of interest on Section 106 contributions.

Mr. Crooks left the meeting at 8.40pm.

Some Members were sympathetic to the view that Parish Councils should have full control of Section 106 contributions relating to developments within their areas and it was moved as an amendment by Mr. Boothby and seconded by Mr. O'Shea that this arrangement apply. However after receiving further information and re-assurance from the Executive Member for Community, Regeneration and Planning and the Director of Community and Planning Services that, in the light of Members' concerns, these provisions would be fully examined at the cross-party members' budget working group on 10 July 2008 with a report being brought back to Members in due course.

It was then moved by Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED -

- (i) The adoption of the Play and Open Space Supplementary Planning Document and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal as part of the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Development Framework be endorsed; and
- (ii) The addendum to the report (providing for full examination of the proposed 2% localised monitoring fee and the retention of interest earnings by the Borough Council) be agreed.

99 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE - COST OF FUEL (C20)

Circulated to Members at the meeting was an additional recommendation to this urgent report of the Head of Business and Street Scene Services. Members being called upon to agree a supplementary estimate to cover the global increase in fuel costs, it was moved by Mrs. Francks, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED -

- (i) A supplementary estimate of £65,000 be funded from the Waste Management reserve for fuel expenditure related to 2008/09;
- (ii) The LGA be approached to lobby for local government activities in relation to statutory duties to be exempt from fuel excise duties; and
- (iii) The urgent representations being considered by Leicestershire County Council to the Government to ring-fence the increase in its revenue from VAT and North Sea oil taxes to offset the additional cost falling on vital public services be supported.

(The meeting closed at 9.10pm)