

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
23 JUNE 2009 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. K. NICHOLS - MAYOR
MRS. S. FRANCKS - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. P.S. Bessant, 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, 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, Ms. W.A. Moore, Mr. K. Morrell, Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea, Mrs. J. Richards, Mr. A. J. Smith, Mrs. S. Sprason, Mr. B.E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward, Ms. B.M. Witherford and Mr. D.O. Wright.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S.J. Atkinson, Mr. A. Bottomley, Mr. D. Bunker, Mr. S. Kohli, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. T.M. Prowse.

61 PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Anthony Thacker of Hinckley Baptist Church offered prayer.

62 SILENCE

Members stood in memory of Peter Wilkes, a Council employee who had been tragically killed recently.

63 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence was submitted on behalf of Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. J.G. Bannister, Mr. C.W. Boothby and Dr. J.R. Moore.

Mr. Ladkin entered the meeting at 6.32 p.m.

64 MINUTES

Mr. Sutton, having highlighted the fact that his name had been omitted from the list of Planning Committee members (minute 9(1) of 19 May 2009) it was moved by Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Bown and

RESOLVED – subject to the inclusion of Mr. Sutton in the list of Planning Committee members the minutes of the meetings held on 28 April and 19 May 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

66 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

On behalf of the Council the Mayor presented Mr. Lay with a certificate for being 'highly commended' at the recent 'Good Scrutiny Awards Evening'.

The Mayor then referred to his recent visit to Le Grand Quevilly and to the forthcoming sports event in July, to be funded by European money.

67 QUESTIONS

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

- (a) Question raised by Mr. R. Ward under Council Procedure Rule 11.3 (a) and addressed to Mr. S. L. Bray

“While welcoming on behalf of the people of Hinckley and Bosworth the £500,000 revamp for the Leisure Centre how long will the revamp prolong the Centre’s life and will more money be needed?”

Does the Executive Member have the answer to these issues?”

Response from Mr. S. L. Bray

“The refurbishment work is aimed at maintaining the centre for a fixed period of five years.

The programme of work will include the refurbishment of customer facing areas on the ground and first floors; essential structural repairs and mechanical and electrical infrastructure consolidation; updating equipment in the gym and the installation of energy saving devices.

Extending the lifespan of the centre beyond five years would have a significant, immediate cost implication, requiring a re-scoping of work to include replacement boilers and electrical infrastructure and enhanced specifications for remedial works.”

In response to a supplementary questions Mr. Bray stated that he would arrange for the Director of Finance to provide information to Mr. Ward on management fees at the Leisure Centre.

- (b) Question raised by Mr. S.L. Bray under Council Procedure Rule 11.3 (b) and addressed to Mr. D.C. Bill

“Would the Leader please make a statement over the reports in the press over the weekend about the absurd claims made by David Tredinnick MP, and does the Leader agree with me that headlines like this damage the reputation of this area?”

Response from Mr. D.C. Bill

“Over the last few months I think we have all been appalled by the news coming out of the House of Commons and I agree that the news relating to our own Member of Parliament is no exception.

My main concern relates to the reputation of this Council and I very much hope that there will now be an end to inaccurate and false statements being put out by his office.”

In response to a supplementary question from Mr. Bray Mr. Bill expressed the view that he considered that Mr. Tredinnick might wish to review his position.

POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

In presenting this Mr. Bill highlighted a number of issues including:-

- The undertaking of work on the single Equality Policy/Plan and the Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- The Council's intention to make a Designated Public Places Order.
- Recognition of the Council's efforts by the award of gold in the Local Government Association Communications/Reputation Awards and silver in the Clean Britain Awards.
- The recent launch of Hinckley Club for Young People and the delivery of this facility with My Place Funding.
- The continued programme of parks and open space developments.
- The Council's priorities over the next two years.
- The continuance of local bus services.

At this juncture the Leader of the Conservative Group referred to the previous Friday's Rally of the Midlands event, from which it appeared that the Right Honourable David Tredinnick MP had been excluded. On the grounds that this issue was not part of this evening's agenda the Mayor declined to let the debate continue and, following a brief exchange, and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 22.2 stood up to signify that any Member speaking must stop and sit down. Having stated his intention to leave the Chamber Mr. Ward, together with Mr. Bessant, Mrs. Camamile, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Morrell, Mr. O'Shea, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Sprason and Mr. Sutton withdrew from the meeting at 6.53 p.m.

69

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING (C3)

In presenting the minutes of the 7 May 2009 meeting Mr. Lay referred particularly to the need to secure hard evidence in order to deal effectively with the issue of concessionary travel by challenging the bus companies involved and the County Council.

70

FINAL OUTTURN 2008/09 (C4)

In presenting this and the following report the Executive Member for Finance and ICT referred to the positive movement in the Council's position and the time controls which operated and paid tribute to managers and to his fellow Executive members for their part in these achievements. Reference was made to the current underspend on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the request made that this be directed towards service improvements. Mr. Lynch responded that the provision of double glazed windows would be examined and referred to work commencing shortly on the next budget round.

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

RESOLVED – the following be approved:-

- (i) the General Fund Outturn for 2008/09 and the transfers to Earmarked Reserves and Balances outlined in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 of the report of the Director of Finance;
- (ii) the carry forward to 2009/10 of the specific underspend on the General Fund incurred in 2008/09 as set out in paragraph 3.9 and detailed in appendix 2 to the report;

- (iii) the transfer of the year end underspend on the HRA to the HRA Fund Balance, as set out in paragraph 3.10 of the report; and
- (iv) the recommendations in respect of the year end Outturn for the General Fund Programme and the HRA Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 3.11 of the report.

71 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09 (C5)

In accordance with the directive of the Account and Audit Regulations Council that each local authority prepare and approve a Statement of Accounts by 30 June each year, Council approval was sought to the above.

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

RESOLVED – the draft Statement of Accounts for the year 2008/09 be approved.

72 ANNUAL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (C6)

This statement, a key measure of the overall effectiveness of the Authority, was presented to Council for approval, following which it was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED – the Annual Corporate Governance Statement be approved.

Mr. Gould left the meeting at 7.23 p.m.

73 ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER, (DPPO) HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL (C7)

Following endorsement by the Licensing Committee and the outcome of a consultation process having demonstrated support for such an Order Council was called upon to make an Order, the extent of which would cover all areas of the Borough where the police had supplied evidence of anti-social behaviour through alcohol. The intention was to review arrangements and should the Council be satisfied, with other agencies, that there was evidence of nuisance and disorder, the Order could be extended to cover other areas. It was emphasised that the DPPO would not prohibit drinking in public places but would give a police officer or police community support officer the power to confiscate alcohol from anyone over the age of 18 considered to be causing a nuisance in a public place.

Mr. Gould returned to the meeting at 7.27 p.m.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) this Council is satisfied that the test under section 13(2) of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 has been met and that there is evidence that across the Borough nuisance or annoyance to members of the public or a section of the public or disorder has been associated with the consumption of alcohol; and

- (ii) an Order be made to be known as the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Order (No. 1) 2009.

74 APPOINTMENT OF THE MASTERPLANNERS TO PRODUCE THE EARL SHILTON AND BARWELL SUSTAINABLE URBAN EXTENSIONS AREA ACTION PLAN (C8)

Following endorsement by the Executive on 30 May 2009 the Council was requested to approve Capita Lovejoy as the Council's preferred partner in this initiative.

Mr. Smith left the meeting at 7.40 p.m., returning at 7.43 p.m.

The call was made that residents' opinion continued to be sought on any proposals and Members were reminded that Lanarca consultants had been appointed to assist in the development and delivery of a consultation and engagement process.

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

RESOLVED – approval be given to the appointment of Capita Lovejoy as the Council's preferred partners in taking forward the production of the Earl Shilton and Barwell Sustainable Urban Extension Area (SUE) Action Plan.

75 EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MASTERPLANNING CONSULTANTS (C9)

Members were informed of and updated on the successful bids for funding towards the SUE for Barwell and Earl Shilton and the Masterplanning Consultant Selection.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) the financial support for the development of the Masterplan for the Barwell and Earl Shilton SUE and the regeneration of Earl Shilton be welcomed; and
- (ii) the spending proposals outlined in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of the report of the Director of Community and Planning Services be approved.

76 BEACON ROUND 10 AWARD – “AFTER DARK” – MANAGING THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY (C10)

Mrs. Hall left the meeting at 7.50 p.m.

The Council was requested to approve the following:-

- The proposed Beacon Round 10 year programme for June 2009 – June 2010
- The proposed spending plan for the £125,000 awarded by the I&DeA jointly to this Council and Leicestershire County Council
- A revenue income and expenditure budget for such award

Discussion arose as to the current very effective partnership arrangements and reference was made to the fact that Inspector Martyn Ball would shortly be leaving to take up an appointment elsewhere. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Inspector Ball thanking him for his valuable contributions towards partnership working.

Mrs. Hall returned to the meeting at 7.52 p.m.

Having paid tribute to all of those involved in securing this award it was moved by Mr. Cope, seconded by Mr. Wright and

RESOLVED –

- (i) the Beacon Year programme 2009/2010 and spending plan as set out in Appendices A and B to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be endorsed;
- (ii) a supplementary budget of £125,000 for the financial year 2009/2010 be agreed; and
- (iii) a quarterly evaluation of the beacon year programme be undertaken through the Community Safety Partnership quarterly reporting process.

77 SINGLE EQUALITY POLICY AND PLAN (C11)

Following endorsement by the Personnel Committee on 27 May 2009 these documents were presented to Council for approval. In welcoming the consolidation of 4 equality policies and plans into one document it was moved by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Crooks and

RESOLVED – the Single Equality Policy and Plan be approved and adopted.

78 ANTI – POVERTY STRATEGY (C12)

In presenting this Mr. Lay, as Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission, paid tribute to the Head of Corporate and Scrutiny Services for her hard work on this project and to stakeholders for their support.

In endorsing the Strategy the Commission had recommended that a discounted leisure scheme be explored, had noted that a Credit Union approach was being explored and looked forward to Executive support for the other initiatives highlighted in the Action Plan.

Mr. Crooks left the meeting at 8.12 p.m. returning at 8.15 p.m.

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

RESOLVED – the draft Strategy and Action Plan be approved and adopted and the work undertaken to date be noted and endorsed.

79 UPDATE AND CURRENT VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES/OUTSIDE BODIES

Further to minute number 8 of 19 May 2009 the Chief Executive briefly provided an update and requested that Members determine tonight the issue of the current vacancies on certain Bodies. Mr. Lay moved and Mr. Bown seconded that the Constitution be amended to provide for proportionality on seats for single-

member groups. Members being mindful of the need to resolve the allocation of seats this evening it was moved by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mr. Bill that this meeting be adjourned to allow for individual group discussions. The meeting reconvened at 8.38 p.m., at which time an amendment was moved by Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Bill that Mr. Batty fill the current vacancies on the Licensing and Regulatory Committees, Scrutiny Commission, Finance and Audit Services Select Committee and Bradgate Landfill Liaison Committee. Mr. Lay then withdrew his motion calling for proportionality within the Constitution and it was thereupon

RESOLVED – the current vacancies on the Licensing and Licensing Regulatory Committees, Scrutiny Commission and the Bradgate Landfill Liaison Committee be filled by Mr. Batty and that one of the two vacancies on the Finance and Audit Services Select Committee be also filled by Mr. Batty.

80 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) Mrs. Camamile, at her request, be replaced by Mrs. Sprason on Desford Brickworks Liaison Committee; and
- (ii) Mr. Bray and Mrs. Richards be replaced on the Hinckley Highways Forum by Ms. Witherford and Mr. Ward respectively and that the named substitute for the former be Mr. Mayne.

81 FEBRUARY 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

To accord with the County Council's budget timetable it was moved by Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED – the Council meeting scheduled for 23 February be held instead on Thursday 25 February 2010.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Mayor announced that application forms were now available for nominations of the Citizen of the Year Award. Additionally, in response to a request from officers, the Mayor advised Members that the Corporate Operations Board had decided that, with immediate effect, and to aid paper reduction only members on a particular committee and group leaders would receive a copy of the full agenda papers. Other members would only be sent the agenda fronts which list the items for discussion. As members were aware agendas and public reports were published on the Council's website and may be accessed in the Members' room via the intranet. Full sets of papers would still be available, on request, from democratic services and would be provided to substitutes, again on request.

(The meeting closed at 8.43 p.m.)