

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
20 APRIL 2010 AT 6.30 P.M.

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

Mrs M. Aldridge, Mr. J. G. Bannister, 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. Ladkin, Mr. M. R. Lay, Mr. K. W. P. Lynch, Mr. R. Mayne, Ms. W. A. Moore, Mr. K. Morrell, 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. B. Cullen, Miss L. Horton, Mr. S. Kohli and Mrs. P. I. Pitt.

517 **PRAYER**

The Reverend John Hall offered the prayer.

518 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. C. W. Boothby, Mr. C. G. Joyce, Dr. J. R. Moore and Mr L. J. P. O'Shea.

At this juncture the Mayor referred to the recent untimely death of Mr. Barry Jackson, who had been a stalwart of the local community and on behalf of Members expressed condolences to Mrs Jackson. The Mayor also referred to the fact that Mrs S.L. Joyce, the wife of Councillor Joyce, was currently unwell.

519 **MINUTES (C61)**

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

520 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared at this stage.

521 **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor referred to the recent Civic Ball and thanked those members who had attended for supporting this. Having attended a civic function at the new display centre at Bosworth Battlefield recently and been involved in discussions with English Heritage on grant funding the Mayor suggested that this potential source of funding for local schemes should be explored. Finally the Mayor indicated that Mr Joe David, who had been engaged on occasions as the Council's town crier, was to retire shortly after some 15 years' service.

At this juncture a Member referred to a visit to the site of Groby Old Hall by television's 'Time Team' and the intention to screen the recording of this at some point in 2011.

522 LEADER'S POSITION STATEMENT

Following a tribute earlier by the Mayor the Leader referred to the recent death of Mr. Barry Jackson, a former high sheriff of Leicestershire and, locally, an active member of both the Hinckley Local Strategic Partnership and Town Centre Partnership.

The Leader was pleased to report a small anticipated underspend in the Council's budget for 2009/10.

Corporate Service performance remained high despite increasing financial pressures and a reduction in staffing levels over the last year by some 5%. For the third year running sickness absence had continued to reduce and now stood at 7.8 days lost per employee.

The Leader referred to progress on the Council's major capital projects and to recent decisions of the Executive to approve the Leicestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, a Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy, a Sub-Regional Choice-Based Lettings Scheme and a Local Lettings Policy for the Maughan Street/Almeys Lane areas of Earl Shilton.

In conclusion reference was made to the small underspend of £5,716 within the Parish and Community Initiative Fund which would be carried forward to the next financial year. In future years rather than a 50% contribution by both the Borough Council and Parish/Town Councils towards improvements the Borough Council would commit 55% towards funding and 45% would be required from the Parish/Town Councils. Additionally, the maximum grant per Parish/Town would be increased to £12,000.

523 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETING - 4 MARCH 2010 (C62)

In his presentation of these Mr Lay referred to the Commission's reviews of registered social landlords operating in the Borough and affordable housing in the Local Development Framework.

Mr. Bray left the meeting at 6.52 pm.

524 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION (C63)

Further to minutes nod. 204 and 389 of 15 September 2009 and 26 January 2010 respectively and the approval of the Council's new management structure, presented to Members were suggested changes to the Constitution to reflect the consequential revised operational staffing arrangements.

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

RESOLVED -

The changes detailed in paragraph 3 of the report of the Head of Corporate and Scrutiny Services/Monitoring Officer be approved.

525 PEOPLE STRATEGY 2010 - 2012 (EXEC 64)

Following endorsement by the Personnel Committee and the Scrutiny Commission this document was presented to Council for approval.

Mr. Bray returned to the meeting at 6.58 pm.

The Chief Officer (Corporate and Community Resources, Scrutiny and Ethical Standards) confirmed that the issues raised at the Personnel Committee, namely emphasising that this was a live document, the identification of Members' individual training needs and resourcing of a training plan by a percentage of the Council's budget had been noted and would be addressed.

In response to a Member's question relating to the Council's target for attendance management the Chief Executive indicated that the most recent figures indicated an absence rate of 7.8% per employee and that the Authority would always strive to be in the top quartile.

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

RESOLVED -

The People Strategy 2010-1012 and Action Plan be approved.

526 COMMUNITY PLAN 2010-15, CORPORATE PLAN 2010-15 AND BUSINESS DELIVERY PLANS 2010-13 (C65)

Following extensive consultation the Community and Corporate Plans, which reflected national, regional and local priorities, were presented to Council for approval. In turn Business Plans indicated how each service would contribute to the achievement of the Council's strategic aims and ambitions over a 3-year period. Although fully supportive of these documents the suggestion was made that it might be more appropriate for reference to the Credit Union to be included under the aim of a 'thriving economy' as against 'strong and distinctive communities'. Additionally the call was made for the provision of fit for purpose leisure facilities within Barwell to be examined, with support for this sought via the Parish and Community Initiatives Fund in a similar way to the provision made at Markfield Community Centre and elsewhere.

Having commended officers on the production and conciseness of the Corporate Plan the Executive Member for Corporate Services and Equalities indicated that the current membership of Hinckley and Bosworth Local Strategic Partnership would be updated and, if possible, Members' suggestions relating to the Credit Union and the examination of leisure facilities within Barwell be incorporated.

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

RESOLVED -

the following be agreed:-

- (i) The Community Plan 2010-13; and
- (ii) The Corporate Plan for 2010-15, together with the underlying Business Delivery Plans 2010-13.

527 CAPITAL PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2010/11 (C66)

This report to Council fulfilled four key legislative requirements, namely:-

- The reporting of the prudential indicators setting out the expected capital activities.
- The production of a Minimum Revenue Provision Policy.
- The production of a treasury management strategy statement.
- The production of an investment strategy.

Revisions to the CIPFA Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code of Practice had been incorporated into the report and in consequence Members' responsibility to effectively scrutinise treasury management strategies and policies would be increased. Such additional responsibility would necessitate amendments to the Constitution, as set out in appendix 3 to the report.

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

RESOLVED -

the following be approved:-

- (i). the Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2010/11 to 2012/13 contained within Section 3A of the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction);
- (ii) the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement contained within section 3A of the report which sets out the Council's policy on MRP;
- (iii) the Treasury Management Strategy 2010/11 to 2012/13, and the Treasury Prudential Indicators contained within Section 3B;
- (iv) the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator;
- (v) The Investment Strategy 2010/11 contained in the treasury management strategy (Section 3B B), and the detailed criteria included in Appendix 1;
- (vi) the revision to the Council's Constitution at Appendix 3. (This revision nominates the Finance and Audit Services Select Committee to ensure effective scrutiny of the treasury management strategy and policies).

528 OADBY AND WIGSTON 2009/10 AND 2010/11 BUDGET INCREASE (C67)

Having been endorsed by the Executive the Council was now called upon to approve an increase in budget provision in respect of costs for the shared ICT services with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council. The Executive Member for Finance and ICT emphasised that such expenditure would be fully recharged to Oadby and Wigston and had no impact on the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council revenue budgets.

In commending this successful partnership arrangement Mr. Lynch moved, Mr. Bray seconded, and it was

RESOLVED -

The budget increases set out in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) be approved.

529 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Deputy Leader presented updated reports on the following:-

- Community Safety Partnership (C68)
- Local Strategic Partnership (C69)
- Local Government Association (C70)
- East Midlands Regional Assembly (C71)

Mr. Gould left the meeting at 7.22 pm and returned at 7.25 pm.

It was agreed to note the very positive outcomes arising from these reports.

530 ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Mayor requested that Members note that there was to be an additional Council meeting on Tuesday 1 June 2010.

531 MOTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13

Mr. Bown left the meeting at 7.45 pm, returning at 7.47 pm.

(a) Motion for Mr. S. L. Bray

Circulated at the meeting were two amendments to that printed on the agenda, as follows:-

- From Mrs Sprason, and as contained in the supplementary agenda,

“This Council recognises that the Westfield Centre provides an invaluable service to many hundreds of people in Hinckley and this Authority wishes to join Leicestershire County Council’s constructive efforts to assist the Westfield Centre in achieving charitable status by 2012 whilst also helping the Centre to work towards developing a robust business plan for a sustainable future and that,

Subject to the Westfield Centre achieving charitable status and in recognition of the centre's excellent work within the town, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council commits to supporting the activities of this valued Hinckley community centre by awarding it an annual grant".

- From Mr. S. L. Bray

"This Council deplores the decision by the County Council to cut the funding to the Westfield Centre from April 2012, recognising the invaluable service it provides to many hundreds of people in Hinckley and the surrounding area. This Council, therefore will promote and engage constructively in the discussions which the County Council has indicated will take place, both with the County Council and centre users, in order to secure a solution which will sustain the effective life of the centre and its services well beyond 2012".

Also contained within the supplementary agenda were copies of correspondence dated 23 March and 20 April 2010 relating to the Westfield Centre.

Following a lengthy debate, the amendment having been moved by Mrs Sprason was seconded by Mr. Ward and voted upon by means of a show of hands, with 9 members present voting for the amendment and 16 voting against. The amendment was declared LOST.

Mr. Ladkin left the meeting at 8.12 pm, returning at 8.14 pm.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.4 five members present called for a recorded vote on the amendment submitted by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mr. Wright. This was then taken, recorded as follows:-

For the Amendment

Mrs S. Francks, Mr. J. G. Bannister, Mr. D. C. Bill, Mr. J. C. Bown, Mr. S. L. Bray, 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. M. R. Lay, Mr. K. W. P. Lynch, Mr. R. Mayne, Ms. W. A. Moore, Mr. A. J. Smith, Ms. B. M. Witherford and Ms. D. O. Wright (18 votes).

Against the Amendment

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mrs R. Camomile, Mr. M. B. Cartwright, Mr. C. Ladkin, Mr. K. Morrell, Mrs J. Richards, Mrs S. Sprason, Mr. D. E. Sutton and Mr. R. Ward (9 votes).

The amendment by Mr. Bray was declared CARRIED.

- (b) Motion from Mr. D. C. Bill

It was moved by Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Inman that

'This Council notes with great concern, a number of recent planning applications which contained schemes, that if given the go ahead and were built, would not come up to adoptable standards for the Highways and Sewers Authorities.

The Council further notes the terrible problems that residents have in streets in the Borough that are unadopted, due to lack of maintenance of the roads and footways.

This Council calls on the County Council to consider the revision of the Environment and Transport Department's policy on highways adoptions. This will ensure that new housing schemes, which provide innovative highway solutions in accordance with the Government's Manual for Streets Guidance for new housing development, can be adopted. This will not only secure the delivery of high quality new housing developments in Leicestershire generally, but give the communities who live within them the confidence that future maintenance of highways, sewers and lighting will be undertaken.'

Although generally supportive of this Motion reference was made to a recent decision at the Planning Committee that a letter be sent to the Highway Authority expressing concerns at inconsistent advice received and it was suggested that that consideration of this Motion be deferred until a response was received to that letter. The point was made that since the tone of the Motion was not critical but merely calling for the adoption of universal standards it should be debated tonight.

Mrs Aldridge left the meeting at 8.35 pm.

On a show of hands with the majority (23) of those present voting in favour of the Motion it was declared CARRIED.

At this juncture the Mayor indicated that this had been the last business meeting at which he would preside and thanked Members for their attendance and support over the last 12 months.

(the meeting closed at 8.35 pm)