

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
26 MAY 2010 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MRS. S. FRANCKS - MAYOR
MR. R. MAYNE - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mr. C. W. Boothby, Mr. J. C. Bown, Mr. S. L. Bray, Mrs R. Camamile, Mr. M. B. Cartwright, 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. K. Morrell, Mr. K. Nichols, Mr. L. J. P. O'Shea, Mrs J. Richards, Mrs. S. Sprason, Mr. B. E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward and Ms. B. M. Witherford.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S. J. Atkinson, Mr. A. Bottomley, Mr. B. Cullen, Mr. A. Killip, Miss R. Owen, Mrs. P. I. Pitt, Ms. S. A. Smith and Mr. S. Wood.

36 PRAYER

The Reverend Andrew Murphy, Barwell Methodist Church, offered prayer.

37 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mrs M. Aldridge, Mr. J. G. Bannister, Mr. D. C. Bill, Mr. D. S. Cope, Mr. C. G. Joyce, Dr. J. R. Moore, Ms. W. A. Moore, Mr. A. J. Smith and Mr. D. O. Wright.

38 MINUTES (C1)

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

40 HINCKLEY TOWN CENTRE AREA ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT - PROPOSED SUBMISSION DOCUMENT (C2)

Following consideration and endorsement by the Planning Committee Council agreement was sought to consult on this submission document and the sustainability appraisal.

In response to a Member's question the Chief Executive confirmed that Members were tonight only requested to consider the Hinckley Town Centre Action Plan. Although the Barwell and Earl Shilton Area Action Plan was referred to in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Community Direction) now before Members this was solely to put this into the context of being part

of the Local Development Framework. The Barwell and Earl Shilton Plan would be brought before Members at a later date.

In commending the planning team in producing this document, it was moved by Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and following a vote by means of a show of hands,

RESOLVED unanimously - the following be endorsed:

- (i) the undertaking of a six week period of consultation on the Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan proposed a submission document and sustainability appraisal during June and July 2010; and
- (ii) the submission of the Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan to the Secretary of State following analysis of the representations received during this six-week consultation period.

41 PETITION SCHEME (C3)

Circulated to Members at the meeting was copy of an addendum/revised recommendations to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) consequent upon consideration of the new requirements for petitions and a revised petition scheme by the Scrutiny Commission.

In his presentation the Leader paid tribute to the two officers involved in producing this report.

For clarification, Members were reminded that people could continue to submit petitions as now (ie not electronically) and it was acknowledged by officers that the Barwell Parish Council had been inadvertently omitted from the schedule to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction).

Members welcomed this initiative, which would encourage public participation in local democracy but were mindful of the Scrutiny Commission's view on proportionality for parish/town issues. The Leader referred to the intention to review the new scheme in the spring of 2011 and to amend annually, when the electoral roll was published, the numbers of signatures required. In response to a Member's question as to who would determine whether a petition was vexatious, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate, the Leader stated that this would be decided by the Petitions Officer (ie Chief Officer, Corporate and Customer Resources, Scrutiny and Ethical Standards).

On the motion of Mr. Lay, seconded by Mr. Lynch and following voting by means of showing hands

RESOLVED unanimously:-

The following be agreed:

- i) For local issues (issues within a parish or town) the number of signatures required for an officer to give evidence at the Scrutiny Commission or for a petition to be debated in Council be proportional to the size of the electorate of that parish or town as outlined in the schedule attached to the petition scheme;
- ii) The adoption of the scheme, subject to appropriate amendments, including the insertion within the schedule of Barwell, to affect (i) above;
- iii) The provision of an online petition facility from October 2010; and
- (iv) The Council's Constitution be amended to reflect the new scheme.

(the meeting closed at 6.53 pm)

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Ward referred to the need for Members to be kept fully informed with regard to the proposed Hawley Road development as an alternative long-term solution for the relocation of Council staff and other agencies. The Chief Executive reiterated the opportunities this presented and confirmed the intention to request Council at its 29 June meeting to make a final decision on this option. In the meantime the developer had given a commitment to take no action.

Further, the Chief Executive stated that he welcomed the opportunity to discuss this matter with Members as a whole, a group, or individuals. Additionally it would be helpful if a meeting of the Scrutiny Commission could be arranged to debate this in advance of the Council meeting.

MAYOR