

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
30 SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 6.00 P.M.

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

Mr. J.G. Bannister, 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. C.G. Joyce, Mr. C. Ladkin, Mr. M. R. Lay, Mr. K. W. P. Lynch, Mr. K. Morrell, Mr. K. Nichols, 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. S. Coop, Mr. B. Cullen, Miss L Horton, Mrs. B. Imison, Mrs J. Kenny, Mr. S. Kohli, Mrs. R. Owen, Mrs. P. I. Pitt, Mrs J. Puffett, Mrs. J. Stay and Mr. S. Wood.

242 PRAYER

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

243 PRESENTATION

Claire Shilton of Clockwise Credit Union, together with Jess Carnall, a volunteer member of Clockwise, attended to give Members a brief overview of the services available and achievements of that organisation over the last 12 months. Both were thanked for their presentation.

Messrs. Ladkin, Smith and Sutton entered the meeting at 6.03 p.m.

244 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. C.W. Boothby, Mr. D.W. Inman, Dr. J.R. Moore, Ms. W.A. Moore and Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea.

245 MINUTES (C21)

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

RESOLVED -

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

246 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

At this juncture the Mayor announced that immediately prior to the next scheduled Council meeting on 26 October 2010 there would be a presentation at 6.10 p.m. by a party of young people who had recently visited Germany.

247 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

By invitation of the Mayor Mr. Nichols announced that during his year as Mayor he had raised over £10,000 for his two charities (Derbyshire, Rutland and Leicestershire Air Ambulance and the Hinckley and District Branch of Multiple Sclerosis) and thanked everyone who had contributed to these causes.

248 PETITION

On behalf of Ms Witherford and himself Mr. Bray presented a petition relating to the possible introduction of a weight restriction order in Northfield Road and Westfield Road, Hinckley and requested that this be referred to the Hinckley Highways Forum

249 QUESTION

Question asked by Mr. M.R. Lay and addressed to Mr. S. L. Bray

"As Members will be aware, the Government's Planning Inspector has allowed the appeal by Jelson Homes to build 112 new homes on open countryside at Markfield. This is a major blow to the community at Markfield.

Can the Leader of the Council please explain why no educational provision is being made and though the Inspector has supported the provision of other community infrastructure, namely play and open space and affordable housing. Anyone with children at school in Markfield would argue there clearly is a need why has this not been demonstrated!"

Response from Mr. S.L. Bray

"I'm sure all Members will share my disappointment over learning of the recent Inspectors decision regarding the appeal by Jelson Homes, to build 112 new homes at Markfield.

Notwithstanding this decision, the Inspector agreed with the evidence and stance taken by the Borough Council in respect of the delivery of affordable housing, play and open space provision and sustainable transport initiatives. He rejected Leicestershire County Councils' request for contributions on the basis he was not satisfied that there was adequate evidence provided to justify the requirement. In fact, the County Council only sought contributions to unspecified improvements of Coalville Civic amenity site and to the Library service. There were no requirements sought for education or highways. In the Inspectors words, 'no analysis of the impact of the proposed development upon these services has been provided, not any description of how the contributions address those impacts contrary to guidance contained in para 335 of circa 05/2005'."

In response to a supplementary question from Mr. Lay, Mr. Bray indicated that he shared Mr. Lay's concerns and would endeavour to seek from the County Council the reasons for it choosing not to seek educational or highways contributions.

Mrs. Sprason entered the meeting at 6.20 p.m.

250 LEADER'S POSITION STATEMENT

The Leader began his presentation by referring to the award by Oak FM to Hinckley Leisure Centre as best fitness facility and to the award by the Fitness Industry Association of Leisure Operator of the Year to SLM. The Leader then went on to summarise the responses, following his approach to Eric Pickles' office, seeking clarification on a number of key planning issues arising from a recent announcement by the government, namely:-

- Review of housing targets
- Setting minimum and maximum housing targets
- Gypsies and travellers

Mr. Bessant entered the meeting at 6.27 p.m.

Referring to recent issues considered by the Executive the Leader highlighted its endorsement of the Leicestershire and Rutland Sport Annual Report and paid tribute to all those involved in securing the Council's success in promoting sport and physical activity. Additionally, the Executive had received a report on the continued improvements and significant achievements in service delivery and waste collection, street cleansing and grounds maintenance. The Executive had approved a revised version of the Council's Environmental Policy and the adoption of a new Housing Strategy 2010-13. Further work on the Masterplan options for Barwell and Earl Shilton had been endorsed and consultation would follow with members of the public and key stakeholders. The Leader reported on significant progress in dealing with the backlog of disabled facilities grants and paid tribute to the officers involved in securing progress of an agreed accelerated programme. The Leader then commended the performance of the Benefits Team and referred to the results of a recent benchmarking exercise which indicated that this Council had been one of the best performing authorities during 2009/10 in the processing of claims. Performance in the Revenues Section was similarly strong. Tribute was then paid to Belle Imison, who, amongst her many achievements whilst at the Council, had overseen the emerging Revenues and Benefits Partnership but was now leaving the Authority. Finally, Executive endorsement had been given to the joint submission with Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and North Warwickshire District Council to the government for support for a cross-border delivery partnership. The Leader concluded by referring to the opening of this week of the Atkins Building and to the impending opening of Greenfields Industrial Units and the Hinckley Club for Young People.

251 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMISSION MEETINGS – 1 JULY AND 5 AUGUST 2010

In presenting these Mr. Lay indicated that he had nothing to add.

252 REVENUES AND BENEFITS SHARED SERVICE (C24)

Formal approval was sought to the formation of a shared service with Harborough District Council and North West Leicestershire District Council and the entering into further formal consultation on this proposal with trade unions and staff. Members were advised that a decision on the proposed arrangements was required by 30 September 2010 and that the other two Council's had given their approval in the previous week.

Mr. Bray left the meeting at 6.48 p.m., returning at 6.49 p.m.

In commending this initiative to Members which the Executive Member for Finance emphasised, needed the endorsement of all three Councils it was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bray and

RESOLVED –

- (i) subject to consultation with staff and unions the formation of a proposed shared service for Revenues and Benefits with Harborough District Council and North West Leicestershire District Council be approved;
- (ii) the proposed staffing structure (appendix E to the report of the Chief Officer, Transformation) subject to consultation with staff and union be noted;
- (iii) the government's arrangements for the proposed partnership, which would be a joint committee, with a lead authority within 12 months of commencement of a shared service (appendix G to report indicates options) be agreed;
- (iv) the location of the proposed partnership at the Atkins Building in Hinckley be confirmed; and
- (v) Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Contract Procedure Rules be utilised for the proposed partnership until agreement is reached on the Lead Authority.

253 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS – RESCHEDULING

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

RESOLVED – in order to allow for site visits on the preceding days the Planning Committee meetings scheduled for 4 January and 26 April 2011 be now held on 5 January and 27 April, respectively.

(i) From Mrs. J. Richards

"There is growing evidence suggesting that the proliferation and accessibility of sexualised content may be jeopardising the mental and physical well-being of young people in the UK and that this sexualisation of children has further serious cultural and social implications.

The indiscriminate availability of sexualised images via the Internet, email accounts and mobile phones together with the messages sent out by the marketing of some children's toys, computer games and clothing indicate a wider culture of confusion within society about these matters.

As Hinckley & Bosworth works to support the Every Child Matters Agenda this Council moves that in partnership with Government and other appropriate agencies there should be national campaigns of education and awareness directed at this issue in order to assist parents in combating the associated problems."

Messrs. Nichols and Smith left the meeting at 6.54 p.m., returning at 6.57 p.m.

On a show of hands it was unanimously agreed that the aforementioned motion from Mrs. Richards, seconded by Mr. Ladkin, be supported.

(ii) From Mr. S.L. Bray

"This Council notes with deep anger the recent planning inspector's decision for the London Road, Markfield site.

The Council resolves to express its dissatisfaction and anger with the decision to the Secretary of State and urges him to overturn the decision."

Circulated at the meeting and as included on the supplementary agenda was an amendment by Mr. Lay to that printed on the main agenda, namely that an additional paragraph be added to Mr Bray's Motion, as follows:

'Further the Council will seek leave to a judicial review of the decision in order to protect the interests of the residents not just of Markfield but the wider Borough'.

Mr. Lay outlined the reason for this amendment, namely that housing numbers were of concern, there was a requirement to protect communities and a need for a judicial review in an attempt to determine whether the inspector had acted incorrectly. Mr. Bray indicated that he was happy to accept this, subject to the words 'subject to sound legal advice' being inserted after the words 'decision' in the first line of the amendment'. Following

clarification from Mr. Bray that such advice would be sought from both within the Council and externally Mr. Lay indicated that he was happy to accept the addition of the reference to legal advice. The following amended motion was then put to the Council.

This Council notes with deep anger the recent planning inspector's decision for the London Road, Markfield site.

The Council resolves to express its dissatisfaction and anger with the decision to the secretary of State and urges him to overturn the decision.

Further, Council will seek leave to pursue a judicial review of the decision subject to sound legal advice in order to protect the interests of the residents not just of Markfield but the wider Borough'.

It was unanimously agreed, by means of a show of hands, that subject to the addition to the first line of Mr Lay's amendment the Motion proposed by Mr. Bray and seconded by Mr. Crooks be fully supported.

(iii) From Mr. J.C. Bown

"Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council request that the National Westminster Bank in Earl Shilton remains open 5 days a week, as the only high street bank trading in the town.

They have announced that they only intend to trade 3 days a week, 12 hours per week from October 10.

How can we regenerate the town with 2,000 new houses planned for the future town need? These hours are inadequate a facility. I urge the Council to write and meet with the area manager of the bank to try and reinstate a full banking service to Earl Shilton".

A question followed from Mr. Lynch as to who would action this, since Members were fully supportive of making representations against the proposed reduction in banking hours. It was agreed that the Chief Executive convey the views of the Council, as appropriate. On a show of hands it was unanimously agreed that the aforementioned Motion from Mr. Bown, seconded by Mr. Lay, be supported.

The meeting closed at 7.34 pm