

HINKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2004 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. B.H. EDWARDS - MAYOR  
MR. J.C. BOWN - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mr. P.T. Andrews, Mr. M.O. Bevins, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. D.R. Bown, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mrs. C.M. Claridge, Mr. J.F. Collins, Mrs. M.A. Cook, Mrs. M.J. Crooks, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mr. N.B.L. Davis, Mr. R.D. Ellis, Mrs. D. Finney, Mr. R.J. Furniss, Mr. M.A. Hall, Mr. K.A.J. Hunnybun, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Ms. J.E. Price, Mrs. M.L. Sherwin, Mr. J.E. Stanley, Mr. D.W. Thorpe, Mr. K. Vessey, Mr. R. Ward and Mrs. R.W. Wright.

Officers in attendance: Ms. M. Backes, Mr. K.G. Bray, Mr. P. Cash, Mr. B. Cullen, Mrs. P.I. Pitt, Mr. T.M. Prowse, Mr. R.A. Sargent, Mrs. D. Snow and Mr. R.M. Tobin.

59 PRAYER

Dr. Robert Stephen offered prayer.

60 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mr. D.E. Hinton and Mrs. E.A. Spencer.

61 MINUTES (C3 & C4)

It was RESOLVED -

- (i) on the motion of Mrs. Sherwin, seconded by Mr. Stanley the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2004 (C3) be confirmed and signed by the Mayor; and
- (ii) on the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Ellis the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2004 (C4) be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

62 ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Mayor confirmed that as previously notified to Members he would take as additional items of business two reports, namely, C19 and C20. The first related to a Cabinet vacancy and the reason for the urgency was the need to ensure continuity in the representation on the Cabinet of rural area issues. The second related to the review of car parking charges at Thornycroft Road car park and the need to provide much-needed short stay parking at the upper end of Castle Street.

63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

64 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor extended congratulations to Mr. Bill on being appointed Vice-Chairman of Leicestershire County Council and to Mr. and Mrs. Lay following the birth of their baby.

Additionally, on behalf of Amanda Wright Kruger of Pennsylvania the Mayor presented a silver bullion coin to Mr. Stanley in recognition of his efforts as former Mayor of this Borough.

65 PETITIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.12 petitions were presented as follows:

- (a) Mr. Bill on behalf of tenants in the King George's Way area, Hinckley relating to disturbance to residents.

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

RESOLVED - this petition be referred to the Housing Department.

- (b) Mrs. Crooks on behalf of residents in Newbold Verdon relating to the refuse collection service.

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

RESOLVED - this petition be referred to the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder.

66 QUESTIONS

The following question and reply were received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2:-

Question raised by Mr. Crooks and addressed to Mr. Bevins

"A recent newspaper front-page article stated that the Council Offices needed £8m to bring the building up to a stable and fit for use condition.

Could I ask

1. Have building experts (surveyors and engineers) been called in to survey the building and cost out the work or is it, as usual, a guesstimate?
2. If the building is so unstable should we be seeking to move staff out immediately?"

Reply given by Mr. Bevins

1. "The front page article read 'to repair and extend to meet modern standards' and not as suggested by Councillor Crooks 'to bring the building up to a stable and fit for use condition.' The first element of the £8m quoted referred to improvements to the existing building based on an independent survey commissioned by this Council in 2000 and carried out by Leicestershire County Council. The report suggested that to give the building a lifespan till

2028, a sum of £2.4m would need to be spent. This excluded issues such as staff displacement, temporary offices, working hours' restrictions etc., which would increase costs substantially as indicated in the report. With current costs, and considering the disturbance factors, the revised budget costs could be in the order of £3.5m.

The second element of the £8m quoted relates to the possibility of extending the existing building to consolidate all staff on one site and remove the leasing cost associated with staff currently sited in other offices. This element is an estimation and in reality depending on the scope and size of any extension is far more likely to be an under estimation of costs."

2. "The building is not unstable and no such suggestion has been made by members or officers. Some of the external faces of the concrete columns have recently been repaired; however to suggest that the building is unsafe and question whether staff should be moved out is simply ridiculous."

#### 67 REVENUE OUT-TURN FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2003/04 (C5)

Prior to consideration of this item Mr. Bevins indicated an amendment to the amount of underspend stated in recommendation 2.1.2 of the report of the Head of Finance.

Comparison was provided of the actual net expenditure for 2003/04 with the original and revised budgets in respect of the general fund services and housing revenue account. Significant variations were identified with explanations. The report emphasised that these figures were provisional and subject to Audit Commission approval. On the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mrs. Sherwin it was

RESOLVED - approval be given to:-

- (i) underspends of £182,940 for general fund budget transfers to general fund balances;
- (ii) overspends of £60,940 for housing revenue account transfer from housing revenue account balances;
- (iii) supplementary estimates as detailed in appendix D to the report of the Head of Finance being met from general fund balances; and
- (iv) virements between budget headings as detailed in appendix E to that report.

#### 68 COMPARISON OF REVISED CAPITAL BUDGET 2003/04 WITH ACTUAL OUTTURN (C6)

Mr. Bevins, in presenting this report, indicated that the years referred to in lines 2 and 3 under "Purpose of Report" should read 2003/04 and 2004/05 respectively.

A report and statement was submitted of actual expenditure for 2003/04 compared with the revised budget and seeking certain adjustments to the 2004/05 budget. On the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Collins it was

## RESOLVED

- (i) the expenditure incurred in 2003/04 be agreed; and
- (ii) adjustments be made to the 2004/05 budget of the following projects:-

INCREASES in 2004/05 (to match the decreases in 2003/2004)	£
<u>Section 1</u>	
Hinckley War Memorial - Refurbishment	13,000
Hill Hole Quarry Markfield	8,311
Parish & Community Initiatives	5,000
Community Park : Richmond Park, Hinckley	10,000
Clarendon Park / Queens Park Project	6,000
<u>Section 2</u>	
Borough Improvements	41,848
Gopsall Estate Rural Area Scheme	20,655
Historic Buildings Enhancements, Regent Street, Hinckley	6,708
SRB6 Historic Towns Project	12,088
SRB6 Blue Boar Yard	5,900
HERS Markfield/Barwell/Market Bosworth	20,000
Druid Quarter : Factories & Commercial Buildings HERS	39,783
Pay and Display : Machine Replacement	2,788
Pedestrian Direction Signs	1,881
Flooding and Land Drainage Scheme	12,540
Bus Station Redevelopment : Fees	38,389
<u>Section 3</u>	
Asset Management Enhancement Works	9,036
Council Offices Alterations (Concrete Frame & Roof)	14,400
Rolling Server Review	30,000
Citizen Portal & E-OGIF compliance	4,789
Electronic Data Management System	156,248
Broadband & Mobile Network Development	3,524
E-Payments / E-Commerce	45,445
Online Forms, Booking & Services (incl Planning online)	8,312
Intranet Democratic Information System & Member Services	24,695
Land / Property Gazetteer (including land Charges)	20,765
Council Services Web Site : Further Development	23,872
Planning Community Portal Project (Hardware)	49,065
<u>Housing Investment Programme</u>	
Kitchen Improvements	10,163
Low Maintenance Doors	11,665
	<hr/>
	656,870
<hr/>	
REDUCTIONS in 2004/05 (to match the increases in 2003/2004)	
<u>Section 2</u>	
Druid Quarter : Historic Jitties	(9,294)
Dodwells Bridge Industrial Estate : Develop Plot 8	(22,662)
Pedestrian Preference, Regent Street, Hinckley	(28,538)
<u>Section 3</u>	
Council Offices : DDA Alterations (Phase 2)	(27,496)
	<hr/>
	(87,990)
	<hr/>

MOVEMENT OF 2005/2006 BUDGET into 2004/2005 (To deal with change in project expenditure flow shown in the 2003/2004 outturn)

Section 2

Pedestrian Preference, Regent Street, Hinckley 34,000

Section 3

Council Offices : DDE Alterations (Phase 2) 37,000

71,000

69 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2003/04 (C7)

The Head of Finance presented members with a copy of the above. This statement had yet to be 'signed off' by the Audit Commission as the audit was to commence on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2004, with publication of the accounts expected in October/November following Audit Commission approval.

On the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Collins, it was

RESOLVED - the statement of accounts for 2003/04 be approved.

70 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2004/05 (C8)

Members were advised of the content of the above. On the motion of Mrs. Claridge, seconded by Mrs. Sherwin, it was

RESOLVED - the Best Value Performance Plan 2004/05 be approved for final publication and distribution.

71 PETITION FOR PARISH COUNCIL FOR BARWELL (C9)

Details of a petition from residents of Barwell for the formation of a Parish Council were reported together with a number of financial and legal implications. Consultation with various bodies and members had been undertaken and no objections had been received. The request would now be forwarded to the Secretary of State, along with this Council's comments.

On the motion of Mrs. Claridge, seconded by Mr. Bevins it was

RESOLVED - subject to any transfer arrangements being to the Council's satisfaction the proposal for the formation of a parish council for Barwell be supported.

72 SALE OF ASSETS AT MONTGOMERY ROAD, EARL SHILTON (C10)

Members were invited to consider opportunities relating to the above and to the consequential use of assets derived from the sale. On the motion of Mrs. Claridge, seconded by Mr. Bevins, it was

RESOLVED -

- (i) the Council give its formal commitment to utilising the assets derived from the sale of Montgomery Road, Earl Shilton for affordable housing and regeneration projects within the Borough;

- (ii) the existing capital programme be reviewed to include specific commitments to affordable housing and regeneration projects to be funded from the sale of the Montgomery Road site; and
- (iii) £9 million on regeneration/affordable housing projects be included in the Borough Council's capital programme.

73 THE PLANNING DELIVERY GRANT (C11)

Consequent upon the Government's decision to provide additional funding to local authorities with the introduction of a Planning Delivery Grant scheme Members were requested to consider the most appropriate use of such resources to improve the planning service.

On the motion of Mrs. Claridge, seconded by Mr. Bevins it was

RESOLVED -

- (i) the proposed planning service improvement initiatives contained in section 5 of the report of the Head of Planning & Leisure be funded from the grant;
- (ii) supplementary estimates totalling £364,500 be approved to fund those initiatives - £322,800 to be funded from the Government's planning delivery grant 2004/05 and £41,700 from general fund balances;
- (iii) any expenditure on these initiatives not completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 be included in the budget for 2005/06;
- (iv) if any of these initiatives cannot be carried out for reasons beyond the Council's control or funding for them is identified elsewhere, the funding allocated to them be used to fund other initiatives which will improve performance in the delivery of planning services;
- (v) a further report be made to Members at the end of the financial year as to how the grant has been spent and improvements in the service achieved; and
- (vi) the Acting Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio holders for Planning and Human Resources, be authorised to determine a staff retention and performance award scheme for key planning staff and some specialist posts as detailed in the report.

Mr. Bevins left the meeting at 7.48 pm., returning at 7.49 pm.

74 DATES OF CABINET MEETINGS (C12)

Following a request from Cabinet the Council was requested to agree that, with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2004, formal meetings of Cabinet be on a six weekly, rather than a monthly basis. On the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Collins, it was

RESOLVED - the dates of formal Cabinet meetings for the remainder of the municipal year be as set out in the report of the Director of Resources.

75 PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING SPACES - CHURCH WALK, HINCKLEY (C13)

Consideration was given to proposals to provide additional car parking spaces within the above car park and how this scheme should be funded from within the existing approved Capital Programme.

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

RESOLVED -

- (i) the works to Church Walk car park, outlined in paragraph 4.4 of the report of the Head of Environmental Services be included in the Council's capital programme for 2004/05; and
- (ii) the appropriate indemnity insurance be taken out to change the use of the land identified on the plan attached to the report from public open space to car park use.

76 CHILD PROTECTION POLICY (C14)

In considering this policy Members were reminded that in addition to this document governing child protection issues, it needed also to respect and promote the rights of vulnerable adults.

On the motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Sherwin, it was

RESOLVED - subject to the title of this policy being extended to include vulnerable adults, this document be adopted and approval be given to the required expenditure for the training of appropriate staff and Members.

77 HACKNEY CARRIAGE (TAXI) BYELAWS (C15)

Approval was sought to the making of byelaws to regulate taxis within Hinckley & Bosworth.

On the motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Lay, it was

RESOLVED - byelaws in the form set out in the report of the Director of Resources be made to regulate taxi cabs and their drivers within the Borough.

78 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003 - REGULATION OF COSMETIC PIERCING AND SKIN-COLOURING BUSINESSES (C16)

Members were informed of the provisions of Section 120 and Schedule 6 of the above legislation, which amended Section 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

On the motion of Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Crooks, it was

RESOLVED -

- (i) the model byelaws produced by the Department of Health attached as Appendices 1 & 2 to the report of the Head of Environmental Services be adopted;

- (ii) the necessary legal procedures be carried out to ensure that the model byelaws relating to cleanliness of premises registered under Section 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, practitioners and equipment, are adopted; and
- (iii) the registration fee for cosmetic piercing and skin colouring be set at £60 for a person and £72 for premises for the 2004/05 financial year.

79 PROPOSED ELECTED MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORTING PEOPLE INITIATIVES (C17)

Further to minute no. 358 of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2004, consideration was given to an invitation to appoint an additional representative to the Supporting People Elected Members Reference Panel. Mr. Bill moved and Mr. Crooks seconded that Mrs. Crooks be selected to this Panel but, upon being put to a vote, this failed to receive the necessary support. It was thereupon moved by Mr. Thorpe, seconded by Mr. Bevins, and

RESOLVED - Mr. Collins be appointed as this Council's third representative on this Panel.

80 CABINET VACANCY (C19)

Consideration was given to the recommendation of Cabinet that a vacant position which had arisen on the Cabinet be filled. It was moved by Mrs. Claridge, and seconded by Mr. Bevins, that the position be filled by Mr. Boothby. Upon being put to a vote this was declared LOST and on the motion of Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Lay, it was

RESOLVED - this vacancy be not filled.

81 REVIEW OF CAR PARKING CHARGES AT THORNYCROFT ROAD, HINCKLEY CAR PARK (C20)

Members' approval was sought to changes to the current parking tariffs at the above. Whilst in support of this, discussion arose regarding the possibility of introducing free parking for residents of Thornycroft Road.

RESOLVED -

- (i) On the motion of Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Claridge, approval be given to the addition of short stay tariffs for one hour and up to two hours at 40p and 80p respectively at Thornycroft Road car park; and
- (ii) on the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mrs. Sherwin, free parking after 4.30 p.m. for a period of one year be made available to all at Thornycroft Road car park.

Mr. Andrews left the meeting at 8.35 p.m. and returned at 8.40 p.m.

82 MATTER FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

On the motion of Mr. Bevins, seconded by Mr. Davis, it was



RESOLVED - in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remaining item of business on the ground that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act.

Mr. Stanley left the meeting at 8.47 p.m.

83 FREEHOLD SALE OF PLOT 12, DODWELLS BRIDGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, HINCKLEY (C18)

Approval was sought to the above and on the motion of Mr. Lay, seconded by Mrs. Claridge, it was

RESOLVED - the freehold sale of this plot be approved whilst having regard to the Cabinet recommendation as set out in paragraph 8.1 of the report of the Head of Planning & Leisure.

(The meeting closed at 8.48 p.m.)