

HINKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SPECIAL EXPENSES AREA COMMITTEE

31ST JANUARY 2007 AT 6.30 P.M.

Present: Mr. D.W. Thorpe - Chairman
Mr. D.E. Hinton - Vice-Chairman

Mr. D.C. Bill, Mrs. M.A. Cook, Mr. N.B.L. Davis, Mrs. S. Francks,
Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Mrs. E.A. Spencer, Mr. J.E.
Stanley and Mrs. R.W. Wright

Officers in attendance: Mr. M. Donovan, Ms. C. Lambert and Mrs.
P.I. Pitt.

470 MINUTES (SEAC4)

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2006 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

471 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

472 MEMORIAL SAFETY

Guidance was sought from Members as to officers' proposed actions with regard to 350 unsafe memorials in the 'New Section' at Ashby Road Cemetery. The intention was that staff be trained to lay these down, i.e. at a shallow angle, by separating the base from the plate of the headstone. It was emphasised that this proposal, which would be widely advertised, was in accordance with L.A.C.O. guidance. Although memorials remained the owners' responsibility only some 50% of owners had been traced, of whom most were willing to pay for the works done to make the memorial safe. Stonemasons now had to be registered to work in the cemetery and to work in accordance with the N.A.M.M. Code of Working Practice by providing a 30 year stability guarantee for memorials.

It was moved by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mrs. Wright, and

RESOLVED –

- (i) the Greenspace Manager request that Cabinet give consideration to any monies allocated for memorial safety remaining in the current budget being carried forward to the next financial year;
- (ii) a press release be issued at the appropriate time indicating the Council's intention to commence these works on memorial safety at Ashby Road Cemetery; and
- (iii) lists be prepared of memorials to be laid flat and 3 months notice be given for owners to come forward. After this time those memorials will be laid flat in a sympathetic manner.

473 BARWELL CEMETERY

The Greenspace Manager indicated that the fence was now installed that the £13,000 remaining in the budget would be used towards improving pathways at this cemetery. After some debate as to whether any of these monies should be used on memorials Members agreed that the money be spent on improvements to the pathways.

474 SPECIAL EXPENSES AREA AND BARWELL PARISH REVENUE BUDGETS 2007/08 (SEAC5)

The Committee considered options for the revenue budgets and council tax for 2007/08 for the current special expenses area, including the new parish of Barwell.

Mr. Stanley left the meeting at 7.12 p.m.

A lengthy debate ensued, particularly with regard to the position involving the creation of Barwell Parish Council and also regarding the future of the Special Expenses Area without Barwell. In order to allow the new Council for Barwell to decide on its own growth items in the future after it had been established it was moved by Mr. Hinton, seconded by Mrs. Francks and

RECOMMENDED – in order to increase the council tax levels in line with inflation, the budget shown as option 2 in the report of the Head of Finance & ICT be approved for the remaining Special Expenses Area of Hinckley (i.e. including growth of £15,110 and a 3.75% increase in council tax) and the budget shown as option 1 in the report be approved for the parished area of Barwell (i.e. including no growth and a 3.36% increase in council tax).

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

RESOLVED – Cabinet be requested to revisit the issue of the future of the Special Expenses Area in the light of the creation of the parish of Barwell.

475 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2007/08 (SEAC6)

Members considered a report of the Head of Finance and ICT setting out the proposed fees and charges for 2007/08 relating to the current Special Expenses Area. Once established, Barwell Parish Council would be able to review its own relevant fees and charges.

At this junction Mr. Bill declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest as a friend of Hollycroft Park.

Discussion arose as to the use of parks and open spaces and the bandstands at Hollycroft Park and Argents Mead and to the use of these facilities for corporate events and by schools and registered charities. Reference was made to the procedures which applied to hirers, including risk assessment and the impact on residents living adjacent to the parks, etc.

As a Chairman of Governors at a school which uses these parks, Mr. Thorpe declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in this item.

It was agreed to recommend that schools using these recreational facilities for events should be exempt from charges and that the Greenspace Manager, when an application for use by a school was received, establish whether this was a PTA event.

It was then moved by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Mr. Joyce, and

RECOMMENDED – subject to schools using the parks/bandstands, etc, for events being made exempt from charges the fees and charges outlined in the appendix to the report of Head of Finance and ICT be approved.

476 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/07 TO 2009/10 (SEAC6)

Consideration was given to the proposed capital programme for the Special Expenses Area. Projects included in the draft programme had been assessed by Members and Officers and were compliant with the Council's priorities with regard to the Corporate Performance Plan and the Corporate Asset Management Strategy.

Reference was made to remedial work to St. Mary's Churchyard wall which would be undertaken over a 5 year period and to improvements following public consultation to the Richmond Park play area and Brodick Road/Langdale Road recreation area. The need was emphasised to improve facilities at these locations for teenagers, as had been identified in the Greenspace strategy.

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

RECOMMENDED – the capital programme for 2006/07 to 2009/10 for the Special Expenses Area as set out in the report of the Head of Finance and ICT be approved.

(The meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.)