

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

12 APRIL 2016 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: MRS J RICHARDS - MAYOR
MR RG ALLEN – DEPUTY MAYOR

Mr PS Bessant, Mr DC Bill MBE, Mr CW Boothby, Mr SL Bray,
Mrs R Camamile, Mr MB Cartwright, Mrs MA Cook, Mr WJ Crooks,
Mr MA Hall, Mr E Hollick, Mrs J Kirby, Mr C Ladkin, Mr MR Lay,
Mr KWP Lynch, Mr K Morrell, Mr K Nichols, Mr M Nickerson,
Mr RB Roberts, Mrs H Smith, Mrs MJ Surtees, Mr BE Sutton,
Miss DM Taylor, Mr R Ward, Mr HG Williams and Ms AV Wright

Officers in attendance: Steve Atkinson, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen, Rob Parkinson,
Caroline Roffey, Sharon Stacey and Nic Thomas

469 PRAYER

Reverend Martin Castle offered prayer.

470 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mr Cope, Mrs Cope,
Hodgkins, O'Shea, Rooney, Wallace and Witherford.

471 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Morrell and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February be
confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

(Councillor Bray was absent during voting on this item).

472 ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Mayor had agreed to accept three items of urgent business which would be taken at
the end of the published agenda.

473 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

474 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor presented community awards to Bosworth in Bloom, Earl Shilton in Bloom
and Friends of Hollycroft Park, in recognition of their work in the area.

475 QUESTIONS

Question from Councillor Nichols to the Executive member for Neighbourhood Services:

“At the beginning of March, I received my Council Tax Demand Notice and in with it
was another piece of paper, headed Garden Waste Collection Service. Upon reading
that document I was extremely shocked and amazed to see on page 2 a STEALTH

INCREASE in charges, under the heading “What is the cost?”, the words “£24 per brown garden waste bin”.

- 1 Where was it stated in any of the documents issued to Councillors at the Budget Meeting of the Council, that the cost of a second Brown Bin would be going up to £24, or that the cost would be £24.00 per bin, and how can you justify a 60% rise in the cost of a second bin, from £15 to £24, when there are no additional transport costs or personnel costs, as the vehicle and men are already there collecting the first bin? The £24.00 charge equates to a 16.86% increase in the Borough Council’s Council Tax, so for both bins this equates to a 33.72% increase
- 2 Have you any figures to show the number of times in a year that the second bin is collected?
- 3 In view of the above comments, will this Council now review the additional charge for the second Brown Bin and bring it back to a more affordable and representative cost and could a report be brought to the next available Scrutiny Commission with :-
 - a) The number of single Brown Garden Waste Bins issued to householders up to 1st March 2016, since the original scheme began.
 - b) The number of second Brown Bins issued in the same period.
 - c) The number of single Brown Bins issued under the new charging scheme.
 - d) The number of second Brown Bins issued under the new charging scheme.
 - e) The expected cost of collecting the Brown Bins not paid for.
 - f) The expected cost of storage, if any.
 - g) The expected cost of disposal.”

Response from the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services:

“May I thank Cllr Nichols for his questions,

1. I would refer him to Page 8 of the Scale of Fees and Charges 2016-17 agreed by Council on 18 February 2016 which details £24 per bin as a new charge. The costs of servicing additional bins either from the same or adjacent premises is not significantly different and is still very good value as demonstrated by the 20,881 households already signed up (6.4.16) for over 21,800 bins, including 913 households who have signed up for more than one bin. One has even signed up for 7. Where other authorities have reduced charges for a second bin, the initial charge is often higher for example Rushcliffe BC at £30 along with higher district council tax charges than with this Council. Many also charge the same for additional bins e.g. Harborough £40 for fewer collections per year.
2. No details are collected relating to second bin emptying as it will depend on whether residents choose to present the second bin and varies wildly throughout the year due to seasons and weather.
3. This Council has recently set the fees and charges for this year and sees no need to revise them for this year. The fees and charges for next year will be reviewed and presented to Council in February 2017. I understand Scrutiny has already included in their timetable a report on waste and I am sure officers would be happy to report on the success of the scheme which as of 6 April has 43% of the borough’s households signed up to continue receiving the valued service.”

As a supplementary question, Cllr Nichols asked how the cost for emptying a second bin was justified, bearing in mind that the crews were already at that location. In response,

the Executive member reminded Council that the charge was as agreed by Council on 18 February. Councillor Nichols stated that he would seek a further written response via the Chief Executive.

476 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT

In presenting his position statement, the Leader of the Council referred to the balanced budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy, improvements to information provision to members in relation to planning, events to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday, and the major developments in Hinckley.

477 MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

The minutes of the Scrutiny Commission were noted.

478 RURAL STRATEGY

The proposed rural strategy was presented to Council and welcomed by members. The importance of Neighbourhood Plans and working with parish councils was highlighted. It was moved by Councillor Morrell, seconded by Councillor Wright and

RESOLVED – the rural strategy be adopted.

479 RENEWAL OF LEASE FOR REAR OF CASTLE STREET CAR PARK

Consideration was given to the renewal of the lease for the Castle Street Car Park for five years. It was moved by Councillor Ladkin, seconded by Councillor Roberts and

RESOLVED –

- (i) the renewal of the lease for Castle Street Car Park from 1 May 2016 for five years for £15,500 per annum (increased by 1.5%pa) be approved;
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Chief Officer (Environmental Health) and the Estates and Asset Manager to approve the terms on which the lease is to be granted.

480 DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE

Members received a report which proposed revisions to the decision-making structure of the authority. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the item be deferred for consultation with senior members and with the Scrutiny Commission at its next meeting.

481 PLANNING PRE-APPLICATION CHARGING REGIME

Council received a report which proposed a new charging regime for pre-application advice. It was noted that charges must only cover costs. On the motion of Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Surtees, it was

RESOLVED – the new pre-application charging regime be approved.

482 BUILDING CONTROL FEES & CHARGES

Consideration was given to a report on the setting of building control fees for 2016-17. The Leader advised that, in moving the report, he was proposing an amendment to the recommendation in that the setting of fees be delegated to the Executive members for Planning and for Finance, ICT & Asset Management in conjunction with the Deputy Chief

Executive (Community Direction) and the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction). It was noted that, from 2017/18, the building control fees would be presented to Council as part of the Scale of Fees & Charges.

It was noted that 70% of building control work was brought to the Council over external providers and that the proposed charges remained competitive. It was moved by Councillor Hall, seconded by Councillor Ward and

RESOLVED – Authority be delegated to the Executive member for Planning and the Executive member for Finance, ICT & Asset Management in conjunction with the Deputy Chief Executive (Community Direction) and the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) to set fees for chargeable building control work for the year to 31 March 2017.

483 SYRIAN VULNERABLE PERSONS RELOCATION SCHEME

Council was asked to support participation in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme which, it was explained, would provide accommodation in the private rented sector for two families (up to ten persons) per year for the next five years. Members expressed the importance of recognising the difference between economic migrants and genuine refugees. It was moved by Councillor Boothby, seconded by Councillor Hall and

RESOLVED –

- (i) Participation in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPR) be approved;
- (ii) The provision of two properties per year (10 people) in the private rented sector for the next five years, to support the SVPR, be approved;
- (iii) An initial supplementary income and expenditure budget of £85,200, financed from the Home Office, be approved;
- (iv) Authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive (Community Direction) to approve an additional increase in the income budget up to a maximum of £85,200 and matching expenditure budget up to a maximum of £85,200 financed from the Home Office, if there is additional demand for the scheme.

(The Meeting closed at 7.57 pm)

MAYOR