

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

30 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: CLLR E HOLLICK - MAYOR
 CLLR DT GLENVILLE – DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr CM Allen, Cllr RG Allen, Cllr DC Bill MBE, Cllr SL Bray,
Cllr MB Cartwright, Cllr JMT Collett, Cllr MA Cook,
Cllr MJ Crooks, Cllr WJ Crooks, Cllr DJ Findlay,
Cllr REH Flemming, Cllr A Furlong, Cllr SM Gibbens,
Cllr C Ladkin, Cllr MR Lay, Cllr KWP Lynch, Cllr K Morrell,
Cllr LJ Mullaney, Cllr MT Mullaney, Cllr K Nichols,
Cllr LJP O'Shea, Cllr A Pendlebury, Cllr RB Roberts,
Cllr MC Sheppard-Bools, Cllr H Smith, Cllr BR Walker,
Cllr R Webber-Jones and Cllr P Williams

Officers in attendance: Matthew Bowers, Bill Cullen, Julie Kenny and Rebecca Owen

253 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Boothby, Cope, Hodgkins and H Williams.

254 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that the heading of minute 179 referred to Councillor Findlay seconding the motion but this should have read Councillor Pendlebury as recorded in the body of the minute.

It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bill and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record subject to the abovementioned amendment.

255 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Findlay declared a personal interest in item 11(a) as an employee of a bank.

256 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor led a short silence in memory of former councillor and mayor Pam Wills who passed away in early November.

The Mayor reported on recent events that he had attended including Christmas lights switch-on events. He also congratulated John McGowan, tennis coach and member of Hinckley Town Tennis Club, on winning the BBC East Midlands Sports Personality of the Year Unsung Hero award for 2021.

257 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT

In his position statement, the leader referred to:

- The Levelling Up bid success, securing almost £20m for a new national science and conservation centre at Twycross Zoo
- The refreshed climate change strategy in response to COP26
- The government's spending review announcement
- The launch of a further round of COVID business support funding
- The Parish & Hinckley Community Initiative Funds
- Green flag awards
- The successful Remembrance Sunday and other events
- Disappointment and concern about the county council's recent article in the Hinckley Times following its Cabinet report in relation to the local plan review.

258 HINCKLEY NATIONAL RAIL FREIGHT INTERCHANGE

Members were updated on the progress being made in relation to the pre-application and application for a Development Consent Order for the Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange (HNRFI), advised on the statutory process and requested to consider a scheme of delegation in order to respond and engage effectively in that process.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The timescale for the HNRFI was unknown but it appeared that venues for consultation events were being booked from January onwards
- Funding would support the authority's position to defend its position
- The number of additional vehicle movements that would result from this would have a huge impact on the road network.

It was moved by Councillor Bill, seconded by Councillor P Williams and unanimously

RESOLVED – authority be delegated to the Director (Environment & Planning) in consultation with the Executive member for Planning and chair of the Member Working Group to respond on behalf of the Council on all matters pertaining to the HNRFI as outlined in the report.

259 RECRUITMENT OF ADDITIONAL POSTS: HGV DRIVERS AND DRIVER TRAINING FOR WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report which sought support for recruitment of two additional HGV drivers and for the training of two existing staff as HGV drivers for the waste collection service. It was moved by Councillor W Crooks, seconded by Councillor Bray and unanimously

RESOLVED –

- (i) The request for the recruitment of two permanent HGV drivers and training of two existing staff as HGV drivers for the waste collection service be endorsed;
- (ii) A supplementary budget of £87,000 in 2022/23 and £17,000 in 2021/22 for the part year impact be approved;
- (iii) The £60,000 for the estimated additional agency costs in 2021/22 be noted.

260 MOTIONS RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 17

- (a) Motion proposed by Councillor M Mullaney and seconded by Councillor Pendlebury

“Council notes the recent closures of the Santander and Halifax bank branches in Hinckley as part of a wider spate of bank closures across the country.

Council further notes that whilst many people are comfortable and able to bank online some, often elderly, residents still rely on banking in person. Closing the local branch will mean them having to travel substantial distances when many are unable to drive.

Council calls on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give the Financial Conduct Authority more powers to prevent large bank companies carrying out anti-social large scale closures of local branches without adequate alternative provisions.”

During debate on the motion, the following points were raised:

- Not all residents used online banking
- It was often difficult for elderly or disabled residents to travel to banks in other towns, particularly if they had to rely on public transport
- The Post Office provided financial services on behalf of several banks, although it was acknowledged that many of these had also closed in recent years
- The presence of services such as banks was important for the continued vibrancy of town centres.

Councillor Bray and seven further councillors stood to request the vote on the motion be recorded.

The vote was taken as follows:

Councillors Bill, Bray, Cartwright, M Crooks, W Crooks, Flemming, Furlong, Gibbens, Glenville, Hollick, Lay, Lynch, L Mullaney, M Mullaney, Nichols, Pendlebury, Sheppard-Bools, Walker, Webber-Jones and Williams voted FOR the motion (20);

Councillors C Allen, R Allen, Collett, Ladkin, Morrell and Roberts voted AGAINST the motion (6);

Councillors Cook, Findlay, O'Shea and Smith abstained from voting.

The motion was therefore declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED – the Chancellor of the Exchequer be called upon to give the Financial Conduct Authority more powers to prevent large bank companies from carrying out anti-social large scale closures of local branches without adequate alternative provisions.

- (b) Motion proposed by Councillor Ladkin and seconded by Councillor Morrell

It was noted that this motion had been withdrawn.

261 MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

On the motion of Councillor Hollick seconded by Councillor Bill, it was

RESOLVED – in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act noted under each item.

262 BUILDING CONTROL SERVICE

This item was exempt under paragraphs 1, 2 and 10.

Members received a report on the Building Control service. It was moved by Councillor Bill, seconded by Councillor Lynch and

RESOLVED – the recommendations in the report be approved.

263 HORIBA MIRA INVESTMENT UPDATE

This report was exempt under paragraphs 3, 5 and 10.

Council gave consideration to an investment opportunity. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Lynch and unanimously

RESOLVED – the recommendations within the report be approved.

(The Meeting closed at 8.18 pm)

MAYOR