

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

27 OCTOBER 2020 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: CLLR L HODGKINS - MAYOR
 CLLR E HOLICK – 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 DS Cope,
CLlr MJ Crooks, CLlr WJ Crooks, CLlr DJ Findlay, CLlr REH Flemming,
CLlr A Furlong, CLlr SM Gibbens, CLlr DT Glenville, 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, CLlr HG Williams and CLlr P Williams

Officers in attendance: Bill Cullen, Simon D Jones, Julie Kenny, Rebecca Owen, Sharon Stacey and Ashley Wilson

Mr Thompson, consultant, was also in attendance for item 14 (minute 544 refers).

533 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Boothby. It was noted that Councillor Lynch may be late due to technical problems and that Councillor Lay would need to leave the meeting early.

534 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

In presenting the minutes of the previous meeting, it was noted that there was a typographical error in that minute 464 resolution (ii) has the number 3 omitted before the comma of the second figure and should read “£3,769,668”. It was moved by Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bill and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September be approved with the abovementioned amendment.

535 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pendlebury declared a pecuniary interest in item 12b as a registered nurse working in the NHS.

Councillor R Allen declared a personal interest in item 12a as an employee of the Member of Parliament.

536 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor expressed her sadness at the recent death of former councillor and Mayor, Denis Bown. Other councillors spoke about Mr Bown and a moment of silent reflection was held.

537 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL'S POSITION STATEMENT

In presenting his statement, the Leader referred to the temporary closure of Cineworld, the A5 Partnership, climate change, Remembrance Day, local government reorganisation, the financial settlement and he sent best wishes to the streetscene operative who was recently injured in a traffic incident.

538 MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

The minutes of the Scrutiny Commission meeting held on 8 October 2020 were received for information.

539 COUNTYWIDE HOARDING PROJECT

Members were advised of a countywide hoarding project led by the borough council on behalf of the seven district councils and funded through the Disabled Facilities Grant element of the Better Care Fund. It was moved by Councillor Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Bray and

RESOLVED –

- (i) Participation in and hosting of the pilot project be endorsed;
- (ii) A supplementary income and expenditure budget for the value of the external funding of £315,000 be approved;
- (iii) A one-off reduction in the Disabled Facilities Grant budget of £45,000 be approved.

540 UPGRADE OF HOUSING MOBILE SOLUTION SOFTWARE

A report seeking approval for a new mobile solution software for housing repairs was presented to Council. It was noted that this would provide an improved service for customers as well as moving away from a paper-based system. It was moved by Councillor Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Bray and

RESOLVED –

- (i) The purchase of AccuServ to replace the current software be approved;
- (ii) A supplementary capital budget of £71,850 and an annual revenue budget of £10,015 be established.

Councillor Lay left the meeting at 7.13pm.

541 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR BRAY, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BILL

Councillor Bray, seconded by Councillor Bill, proposed the following motion:

“This Council notes:

1. The Residential Land Availability Monitoring Statement circulated to all members on which clearly states that the Council can demonstrate a 5-year land supply.
2. That the Council currently has an adopted Local Plan which goes up until the period of 2026.

Council further notes that:

1. The Member of Parliament for Bosworth erroneously stated in the House of Commons on the 8th of October that Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council does not have either a Local Plan or a 5-year housing supply which he subsequently repeated in the local press.
2. The MP for Bosworth made a clumsy attempt to partially correct his statement in the House but failed to fully correct his inaccuracies before being further rebuked by the Speaker.

Therefore the Council resolves to:

1. Deplore the MP for Bosworth for deliberately misleading the House of Commons, local residents and the press with his false statements.
2. Write to him to better inform him of the true position.

The Council further resolves to call upon both the MPs representing the Hinckley and Bosworth area to oppose:

1. The Conservative Government's proposals which will almost double the amount of housing development in the Borough from 452 per year to 889 per year, with the inevitable consequences this will have on already over-stretched services and loss of green space.
2. The Conservative Government's proposals to overhaul the planning system which lead to a reduced role in local decision making, reduce the opportunity for public participation and make it easier for developers to ride roughshod over local people in their desire to concrete over our Borough."

Having stated that the Conservative group would take no part in the debate or vote on this item, Councillors C Allen, Collett, Cook, O'Shea, Roberts and H Williams switched off their camera or moved away from their seat at 7.12pm and were therefore deemed to have left the meeting. Councillor Ladkin moved away from his seat at 7.13pm. Councillor R Allen switched off his camera at 7.17pm and back on at 7.30pm.

Councillor Bray, supported by at least four further councillors, requested that voting be recorded. The vote was taken as follows:

Councillors Bill, Bray, Cartwright, Cope, J Crooks, W Crooks, Findlay, Flemming, Furlong, Gibbens, Glenville, Hodgkins, Hollick, Lynch, L Mullaney, M Mullaney, Nichols, Pendlebury, Sheppard-Bools, Walker, Webber-Jones and P Williams voted FOR the motion (22);

Councillors C Allen, R Allen, Collett, Cook, Ladkin, Morrell, O'Shea, Roberts, Smith and H Williams abstained from voting.

The motion was therefore declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) The MP for Bosworth be deplored for deliberately misleading the House of Commons, local residents and the press with his false statements;

- (ii) HBBC writes to the MP to better inform him of the true position;
- (iii) Both MPs representing the Hinckley & Bosworth area be called upon to oppose:
 - a. The Conservative Government's proposals which will almost double the amount of housing development in the Borough from 452 per year to 889 per year, with the inevitable consequences this will have on already over-stretched services and loss of green space;
 - b. The Conservative Government's proposals to overhaul the planning system which lead to a reduced role in local decision making, reduce the opportunity for public participation and make it easier for developers to ride roughshod over local people in their desire to concrete over our Borough.

Councillors Collett and O'Shea returned to the meeting at 7.42pm.

542 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MULLANEY, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WEBBER-JONES

Having declared a pecuniary interest in this item, Councillor Pendlebury left the meeting at 7.43pm.

Having stated that members of the Conservative group would take no part in discussion or voting on this item, Councillors C Allen, Cook, Ladkin, O'Shea, Roberts and H Williams remained absent from the meeting either by turning off their camera or leaving their seat.

Councillor M Mullaney, seconded by Councillor Webber-Jones, proposed the following motion:

"Council recognises the tremendous work carried out by nurses, carers and other health workers here in Hinckley and Bosworth and across Britain during the coronavirus crises.

Council is appalled at the fact that hard working nurses who did so much during the coronavirus crisis will be denied a pay rise until April 2021 - while MPs will receive significant pay rises.

Council requests the Chief Executive writes to the Prime Minister to urge the government to reconsider its decision not to raise NHS nurses pay. Nurses here in Leicestershire and across Britain deserve more than applause they deserve proper payment for the essential work they do."

At this juncture, Councillor Flemming declared a personal interest in the item as he was previously a registered nurse and was a member of the Royal College of Nursing, which had been mentioned during discussion. He said he would abstain from voting on the item.

Councillor O'Shea returned to his seat at 7.58pm.

Councillor Webber-Jones, supported by at least four further members, requested that voting on the motion be recorded. The vote was taken as follows:

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

Councillors C Allen, R Allen, Collett, Cook, Flemming, Ladkin, Morrell, O'Shea, Roberts, Smith and H Williams abstained from voting.

The motion was therefore declared CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED – the Chief Executive writes to the Prime Minister to urge the government to reconsider its decision not to raise NHS nurses pay.

Councillors Cook, Ladkin, Pendlebury, Roberts and H Williams returned to the meeting at 8pm.

543 MATTERS FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

On the motion of Councillor Bray 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

544 HINCKLEY LEISURE CENTRE

A report on the impact of Covid-19 on the leisure centre operations was presented to Council. It was noted that the report had been considered by the Scrutiny Commission who had requested an update in three months. It was noted that some questions asked would be answered outside of the meeting. In response to a question from a member, it was explained that the report was being taken in private session due not only to commercial sensitivity but also so as not to prejudice ongoing negotiations.

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

RESOLVED – the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

(The Meeting closed at 8.32 pm)

MAYOR