

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

HINCKLEY AREA COMMITTEE

24 JANUARY 2011 AT 6.00 P.M.

Present: Ms. B.M. Witherford – Chairman
Ms W A Moore - Vice Chairman

Messrs. D.C. Bill, S.L. Bray, D.S. Cope, C.G. Joyce, K.W.P. Lynch and D.O. Wright

Officers in attendance: Mr. D. Bunker, Mrs. P. I. Pitt and Mrs. C. Roffey

429 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Mr. K. Nichols.

430 MINUTES (HAC3)

It was moved by Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Cope and

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Mr. Bill entered the meeting at 6.03 p.m.

431 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEMES – GRANT FINDING

Mrs. Jackie Saunt, Development Officer of Hinckley West Neighbourhood Watch attended by invitation for this item and reported on how that Body's grant funding had been spent in 2010/11 and how any future funding which was allocated might be used. Currently National Grid supported this Group by paying for the printing of its monthly newsletters, but it was uncertain how long this would continue. Members then considered alternative means of assisting with the production of the newsletter should National Grid need to withdraw its support.

Mr. Joyce entered the meeting at 6.10 p.m.

Various funding initiatives such as the Big Lottery and the Parish and Community Initiative Fund were then discussed, following which Members invited Mrs. Saunt on behalf of her organisation to submit a 'wish list' for consideration, via the Leader of the Council.

At the conclusion of the Presentation Members paid tribute to the working of Hinckley West Neighbourhood Watch and commended the group on its success.

432 HINCKLEY (SPECIAL EXPENSES) AREA REVENUE BUDGET 2011/12 (HAC4)

Circulated at the meeting was a slightly revised version of the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction). Prior to consideration by Council the Committee was presented with the revenue budgets and the Council Tax for 2011/12 for the Special Expenses Area of Hinckley. Although the officer's recommendation was for a zero increase (i.e. no increase in Council Tax) it was suggested by the Leader of the Council that the precept be reduced by 1%. Additionally, Members were agreed that the sum of £30,000 be set aside from the Special Expenses Area Reserve as a means of funding appropriate bids.

On the motion of Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Bray it was

RECOMMENDED – the sum of £30,000 be set aside from the Special Expenses Area Reserve in order to fund suitable projects and on the motion of Mr. Bray, seconded by Mr. Bill it was

RECOMMENDED – in so far as the Council Tax base is concerned there be a 1% reduction in the precept.

433 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 TO 2013/14 (HAC5)

Again, prior to consideration by Council, Members were called upon to consider the proposed capital programme for the Hinckley Special Expenses Area for the years 2010/11 to 2013/14. The appendix to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Corporate Direction) listed the proposed Hinckley Special Expenses Area capital schemes, together with costs and external fundings. The revenue consequences of such schemes would be included in future years' Hinckley Special Expenses Area revenue budgets. Briefly referred to was the fact that works on the Ashby Road cemetery extension were now complete and that the issue of the development of Brodick Road open space should now be addressed. It was suggested that this take the form of natural or semi-natural open space or community woodland. A steer from the public was essential and the Public Space Manager undertook to examine the options available, with a view to producing a plan which would form the basis of any consultation process. The Leader of the Council would be kept fully informed on the nature of this. Discussion arose regarding the intention, in consequence of the likely allocation of Section 106 monies, to undertake minor improvements to Queens Park. Brief reference was then made by officers to the Council's Section 106 Forum, whose role was to ensure that monies were being used in accordance with the Agreements. The Leader of the Council undertook to look into the standing of that Forum.

434 GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

The Committee was reminded that the Council had adopted this in 2005 and that the 5-year Action Plan with the Strategy had set out the proposed capital spending from 2005/06 onwards. Presented to Members at the meeting was a summary of the implementation of projects within the Action Plan. As previously referred to there was a need to develop the Brodick Road open space and the view was expressed that although removed

from the Capital Programme works to improve the Preston Road play area should be reinstated.

A new Strategy and Action Plan were being developed and would in part be based on the provisions of Planning Policy Guidance Note 17. Members were invited to suggest projects which they considered should be included in the new Plan.

Mr. Bill left the meeting at 7.12 p.m., returning at 7.14 p.m.

It was again acknowledged that they should be further improvements to Queens Park (possibly following engagement with the residents group) and that the issue of the development of the Brodick Park open space should be addressed. The Public Space Manager undertook to liaise with the Asset and Estates Team regarding the latter. Reference was made to the Big Society directive and to proposals to switch assets to community use. Although Members were familiar with these proposals there were concerns involving responsibility and liability and the Public Space Manager undertook to explore this further.

(The meeting closed at 7.20 pm)