

COUNCIL
13 JULY 2016
7.30 - 8.55 PM



Present:

The Mayor (Councillor Tony Virgo), Councillors Mrs McKenzie-Boyle (Deputy Mayor), Allen, Mrs Angell, Angell, Dr Barnard, Bettison OBE, D Birch, Mrs Birch, G Birch, Brossard, Finnie, Ms Gaw, Harrison, Mrs Hayes MBE, Ms Hayes, Heydon, Hill, Mrs Ingham, King OBE, Leake, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, Mrs McKenzie, McLean, Mrs Mattick, Ms Merry, Ms Miller, Peacey, Phillips, Porter, Mrs Temperton, Thompson, Tullett, Turrell, Wade and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Brunel-Walker, Dudley, Mrs Hamilton and Skinner

9. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the three Council meetings held on 27 April 2016 and 18 May 2016 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

10. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Birch declared an interest in item 5, Executive Report, by virtue of being on the Board of Trustees for Involve.

11. Mayor's Announcements

Berkshire Army Cadet Force presentation

The Mayor welcomed Major Eamonn Coogan MBE, Cadet Executive Officer and Cadet Sergeant Major Holly Chamberlain and Cadet Sergeant Major Rees George, to the meeting to explain the benefits of the cadet programme for both the young people taking part and adult volunteers. It was explained that young people could join from age 12 or Year 8 at school and would leave when they reached 18. In response to a question about whether the overseas visits were reciprocated it was confirmed that Norwegian cadets had visited the local branch. The cadets explained that the best thing about being in the programme was increasing confidence, discovering self discipline and forming strong friendships. It was clarified that although the cadets had given the Police Cadets access to their training base there was currently no cohesion as their programme was relatively new.

Recognition of achievement

The Mayor invited Sam Mogridge, Civil Enforcement Officer to attend the Council meeting to congratulate him on his successful efforts to help save an individual's life when he found him on the ledge of one of the town centre's car parks. Sam works for Indigo who are responsible for the management of the Council's car parks and he was able to distract the individual for long enough for the Police to be able to stop him jumping. The Members present joined the Mayor in showing their appreciation for his efforts.

The Mayor also invited Jake Walker, an art student from Licensed Victuallers School to congratulate him on his achievement as his work was selected out of 100s of entries for young artists to coincide with the opening weekend of the Tate Modern extension. His work was screened in the turbine hall. His work is based on the human body and his investigation of cells, internal structures and skin. He made a cast of his body and also a cast of his fingers and then projected his drawings onto the sculptures. Tate Modern displayed the video of his fingers at the opening. The Mayor shared the films and the Members present congratulated Jake on his significant achievement.

Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning

Councillor Dr Barnard asked the meeting to join him in thanking Janette Karklins for her hard work over the last 6 years as Director of Children, Young People and Learning. He stated that all maintained schools in the borough were good or outstanding and although the report from the Safeguarding inspection on Children's Services was not yet available the feedback from peers was that the service was good and solid due to clear strong leadership. On behalf of the borough's headteachers and partners he wished her well with her future retirement and travelling plans.

Civic Service

The Mayor thanked everyone who had joined him at his Civic Service which was held on Sunday 19th June at The Church of Jesus Christ Ascot Priory. He was pleased to see the chapel full of friends and colleagues.

Citizenship Ceremony to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II official 90th birthday

The Mayor reported that the special Citizenship Ceremony held on the 8th June to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II official 90th birthday was a wonderful occasion. Suzannah Nash from Crowthorne Church of England Primary School won a competition to design a special certificate given to people becoming citizens that day together with a special commemorative coin. The Mayor was visiting the schools which had taken part in the competition to reward all entrants with a commemorative coin.

Charity Polo Event

The Mayor was pleased to announce that his Charity Polo event had been very successful and they had raised £3,500. He thanked the Royal County of Berkshire Polo Club and his charity Sebastian's Action Trust for their hard work to make it such a memorable event.

Executive Member for Planning and Transport

Councillor Turrell reported that the LED lighting project was being rolled out across the borough starting on major routes before moving onto estate roads. This would make a significant change providing both energy and financial savings. He thanked everyone who had worked to get the project to this point.

Leader of the Council

Councillor Bettison OBE asked the Council to join him congratulating the RtHon Theresa May MP on her appointment as Prime Minister. He noted that it had been a long time since the country was lead by someone who had experience as a local councillor.

Councillor Bettison OBE congratulated Councillor Finnie on his 40 years service as a continuous member of the authority since being elected in May 1976 and presented him with a cake made in his honour.

Congratulations to Leader of the Council

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Bettison OBE on his new role at the Local Government Association as Unitary Council Executive Member. He also asked those present to join him in congratulating him on his special award in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2016 of an Order of the British Empire to recognise his services to local council but more particularly as Leader of Bracknell Forest Council.

Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing

Councillor Birch was proud to report that the Public Health team had been nominated for a national award by Health England for its excellent work on falls prevention. Councillor Birch asked the Director to take back their thanks to the team.

He was pleased to advise the meeting that Lisa McNally, Consultant in Public Health, had been asked to advise a Central Government working group on the Council's success on smoking cessation.

12. **Executive Report**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Bettison OBE, presented his report on the work of the Executive since that reported at the Council meeting on 27 April 2016. The Executive had met on twice on 10 May and 14 June 2016.

The Leader highlighted the following matters that had been considered:

- Following the unexpectedly large reductions in Government support through the Local Government Finance Settlement the budget had been based upon £4.5m savings and £5.161m from reserves. The use of reserves is unsustainable therefore further savings were agreed for consultation.
- The Executive considered the additional savings proposals including revenue savings totalling £3.4m and capital savings of £2.7m together with the consultation responses received (252 on-line and 44 letters/emails). The savings proposals were recommended to Council.
- The 2016/17 Integrated Transport Capital programme was agreed which supports delivery of Local Transport Plan and includes £5.8m of highway work to facilitate the town centre regeneration.
- The Comprehensive Local Plan (CLP) – Issues & Options consultation was agreed to establish with the community 'what sort of Borough do we want?'. The

CLP sets planning framework, including housing sites for period up to 2036 but site allocation was not included at this stage.

- The Overview & Scrutiny Review of Planning had been undertaken to review of the planning application process and enforcement. The majority of the recommendations were accepted and the Working Group were thanked for their positive review.
- The Emotional Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2016 – 19 was ratified and its underpinning action plan was agreed.
- The successful first phase of the Family Focus programme had led to an invitation to participate as an early starter for phase 2. The planned programme was approved.
- The Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) strategies were endorsed.
- The 'requires improvement' outcome of the Ofsted Community Learning Inspection had been noted and an action plan was agreed including a restructure which had already been implemented.
- The contract for the Coral Reef refurbishment and new flume improvements had been agreed and work was underway for the facility to reopen in Summer 2017.

General Revenue Budget 2016/17 – Further Savings Proposals

On the proposition of Councillor Heydon, Executive Member for Transformation and Finance and seconded by Councillor Allen the recommendations as set out in the agenda report were moved.

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Temperton and seconded by Councillor Bettison OBE an amendment was put to the meeting that the saving proposals set out in Annexes A to D be approved and the Commitment budget be amended to reflect this, with the following exceptions:

- No £30k reduction in funding to Homestart;
- Retention of £17k towards the provision of universal services for young people; and
- No deletion of the post to develop and support Childminders which was a proposed saving of £23k

The following alternative savings were proposed:

- £30k saving by postponing the Residents Survey until the Town Centre is completed;
- £20k saving by starting the move to a paper-light Council; and
- £20k saving by putting Town & Country on-line with paper copies available in libraries and public places only

On being put to the meeting the amendment fell.

The meeting considered and voted upon the substantive motion and it was therefore

RESOLVED that the savings proposals set out in Annexes A to D of the agenda report be approved and that the Council's Commitment Budget be amended to reflect the savings proposals contained in the agenda report.

13. **Employee Code of Conduct Amendment**

The Council considered the report to endorse an amendment to the Employee Code of Conduct introducing a requirement for all Council employees to declare the existence of criminal charges, cautions and convictions to their directorate lead for HR or the Chief Officer :HR.

On the proposition of Councillor McCracken, Executive Member for Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection, seconded by Councillor Allen, it was:

RESOLVED that

- i) the provision outlined in paragraph 5.5 of the agenda report be added to the Employee Code of Conduct;
- ii) as a consequence to the proposed changes above, an additional offence (of failing to disclose) as detailed in 5.8 of the agenda report be added to the Disciplinary Procedure as an instance of potential serious misconduct and
- iii) recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 have retrospective effect from 1 July 2015 (ie from the point at which DBS rechecks ceased to be undertaken).

14. **Membership of Committees**

The Council considered the report on the revised position regarding the appointment of Members to serve on committees since Annual Council on 18 May 2016.

On the proposition of Councillor Bettison OBE, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Leake, it was:

RESOLVED that the revised membership of Committees as set out in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.4 of the agenda report be appointed.

15. **Question Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10**

Councillor Mrs Temperton asked Councillor Turrell, Executive Member for Planning and Transport the following published question:

"I am asking this on behalf of every resident of Jennett's Park. What is the Council doing to make the developers honour their commitment to provide a shop on Jennet's Park as promised in the planning agreements?"

In response Councillor Turrell explained that initially the delay had been caused by a slow down in construction in response to the economic downturn, then the search for an occupier for the premises and now there was a business dispute over which the Council had no influence. The construction of the shop premises had stalled and there was currently no statement from Persimmon Homes and Redrow Plc about when it would restart. The developers had responded to an enquiry from Dr Phillip Lee MP that the construction was halted due to a commercially sensitive dispute. Councillor Turrell explained that the Council's powers were limited to enforcing planning conditions and the only sanction available to them would be to cease the

construction which would be counter-productive. He concurred with Councillor Mrs Temperton that it was in the interests of the local residents for the shop to be operational without further delay.

He confirmed he would continue to pursue both developers to commit to a delivery date as it was such an important focal point for the community.

Councillor Mrs Temperton asked a supplementary question about whether these developers were building elsewhere in the borough and whether lessons had been learnt to prevent a repetition of this issue. In response Councillor Turrell stated that the planning application was approved over ten years before and since then commercial considerations and economic factors had impacted on the original intentions for the site over which the Council had no control. He confirmed that lessons had been learnt, planning agreement conditions had been tightened and were closely monitored. He hoped that reassured residents.

MAYOR