

COUNCIL
27 JANUARY 2010
7.30 - 9.10 PM



Present:

The Mayor (Councillor Bob Wade), Councillors Leake (Deputy Mayor), Mrs Angell, Baily, Mrs Ballin, Dr Barnard, Mrs Beadsley, Beadsley, Bettison, Blatchford, Brossard, Burrows, Edger, Finch, Finnie, Mrs Fleming, Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Kendall, Kensall, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, McLean, Osborne, Phillips, Mrs Ryder, Mrs Shillcock, Thompson, Turrell, Virgo, Ward, Ms Whitbread and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Mrs Barnard, Birch, Mrs Birch, Brunel-Walker, Dudley, Packham, Mrs Pile and Ms Wilson

Before the meeting was officially opened the Mayor was sorry to announce the deaths of borough Councillor Raymond Simonds and Bracknell Town Councillor Lady Barbara Smith. The Mayor asked Councillors to remain standing and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

40. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 November 2009 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

41. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Baily, Kendall, Mrs McCracken and Mrs Ryder declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 5, Executive Report in relation to the South Hill Park Revenue Grant, due to their being trustees of the South Hill Park Trust Board.

42. Mayor's Announcements

Inclement Weather

The Mayor thanked Bracknell Forest employees for their hard work and flexibility during the unprecedented weather conditions. In particular he acknowledged the Customer Services Help Desk team, Forest Care, Social Services and the Environment Department together with the Ringway workforce. On behalf of the Councillors he thanked Steve Loudoun, Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection for his leadership and direction during this difficult time.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)

The Mayor announced that the charity had raised £20,560 which was 91% of the £22,400 target. He thanked the Crowthorne & District RNLI team and the Councillors involved who collected £4,588 at The Meadows, Sandhurst in December 2009.

He advised members of upcoming events including:

- Welly Walk, Sunday 31 January 2010 at Lily Hill Park;
- Dinner at the Tamarind Tree, Monday 8 March 2010; and
- Mayor's Charity Concert at South Hill Park on Saturday 27 March 2010

Mayoral Award Scheme – Molly McLean

The Mayor presented Molly McLean with a certificate in recognition of her involvement in raising funds for the RNLI Lifeguard Service. Molly raised over £250 on Sunday 6th September when she took part in the Women's 5km circuit in Hyde Park.

Leader of Council

On behalf of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health Councillor Bettison was pleased to announce that both the Dementia and Long Term Conditions Teams had been awarded three star ratings following the Care Quality Commission Assessments. The Leader congratulated the managers Jane Brown, Ann Taylor and Sylvia Shaw and their teams for this result.

He was also pleased to announce that the Council was a finalist in the e-Government Excellence Awards on 21 January 2010 for Take Up and Usage growth in relation to the Edge card.

Executive Member for Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection

Councillor McCracken congratulated the Look Out on the exemplary recognition by the Visitor Attraction Quality Assessment in October 2009 and that for the sixteenth consecutive year The Look Out was the five star winner of the 2010 Loo of the Year award.

Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Economic Development

Councillor Mrs Ballin was pleased to announce that £100,000 of additional funding would be made available for repairing the borough's roads after numerous potholes appeared following the freezing weather conditions.

Berkshire Air Ambulance Service

Councillor David Worrall announced that, following the death of Councillor Simonds, donations for the Berkshire Air Ambulance had reached over £500.

Charter for Member Development

Councillor Rory Love, Chairman of South East Employers presented the Mayor with a certificate for the achievement of being re-accredited with the Charter for Member Development in September 2009 for a further three years.

Syngenta presentation

Darren Snell, Head of Site at Syngenta gave a presentation to Council on the global issues relating to food production for a rising population, the organisation's objectives and its three areas of business: crop protection, seeds and lawns and garden. The presentation highlighted the work taking place at the Jealott's Hill site, the outreach programmes and the teaching resources available.

Darren Snell then responded to questions from the Council on his presentation and the Mayor thanked him for attending.

43. **Executive Report**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Bettison, presented his report on the work of the Executive since that reported at the Council meeting on 25 November 2009. The Executive had met twice on 15 December 2009 and 19 January 2010.

The Leader highlighted the following matters that had been considered:

- Key objectives review
- Comprehensive Area Assessment
- Finance issues:
 - Revenue Budget and Capital Programme consultation commencement
 - South Hill Park Revenue Grant
- Review of Risk Register
- 2009 Neighbourhood Survey
- Adult Social Care:
 - Older Person's Accommodation and Supported Service Strategy
 - Review of Day Service Provision

44. **Report of the Constitution Review Group**

The Council considered a report asking them to endorse the recommendations of the Constitution Review Group which had met on 14 January 2010 in relation to:

- commencing the process to effect amendments to the Council's Scheme of Executive Arrangements
- an amendment to the Constitution referring to general duties
- an alteration to the scheme of delegation in relation to the Chief Planning Officer – Planning and Transport
- the cancellation of meetings
- the abolition of the Constitution Review Group and its functions to be transferred to the Governance and Audit Committee.

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

- i) the Council commence the process to effect amendments to the Council's Scheme of Executive Arrangements by carrying out consultation as described in paragraph 4.4 of the report;
- ii) Part 4 of Section 2 of the Council's Constitution be amended as set out in Annexe A to the report;
- iii) the Council's Constitution be amended as set out in paragraphs 4.7 and 4.8 of the report; and

- iv) the Constitution Review Group be abolished and that the Terms of Reference of the Governance and Audit Committee be amended as set out in paragraph 4.9 of the report.

45. Questions Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10

Councillor Mrs Beadsley asked Councillor Bettison, Leader of the Council the following published question:

Given the council's concerns about budget shortfall and the fact that it is proposed not to stage the Civic Reception for 2011, will the Civic Reception for 2010 go ahead as planned?

Councillor Mrs Beadsley also asked a supplementary question regarding whether the event would go ahead if sponsorship did not cover the cost of the event.

The Leader responded that the Annual Civic Reception is arranged for the Mayor to recognise and thank local voluntary groups, parishes, community associations, residential units as well as the civic dignitaries of the neighbouring areas. It was explained that the current Mayor had already made significant organisational progress before the budget proposals were finalised and therefore work was underway to find a self-funding solution.

The Leader emphasised that the difficult decisions facing the Council about the 2010/11 budget impacted upon the current Mayor due to the long-established timing of the Civic Reception and if budget proposals are agreed there would be no identified revenue for this event in the 2010/11 budget.

In future events could be organised as Charity functions or a ticketed Civic event but in either case tickets would be sold. The purpose of the event would remain to thank those people who had supported the Mayor throughout his or her year and the intention would remain to offer free places for appropriate guests, as determined by the Mayor, but these would be funded from the event.

In response to the supplementary question the Leader asserted that if an event was forecast to make a financial loss it would be cancelled.

46. Motion Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 11

Motion 01/2010 was moved and seconded by Councillors Mrs Shillcock and Beadsley respectively as follows:

In view of the budget difficulties the Council faces in the coming financial year that will impact on employees and services to residents, we urge Councillors to make their contribution by taking a 5% reduction in member basic and special responsibility allowances.

On being put to the vote the motion fell.

MAYOR