

**COUNCIL
26 JULY 2000**

Present: Councillors Adams, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Blatchford, Ms Brown, Browne, Mrs Clifford, Edger, Egan, Finnie, Flood, Glasson, Grayson, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Henfrey, Jones, Kendall, McCormack, McCracken, Mrs Mattick, Mills, North, Piasecki, Mrs Pile, Sargeant, Simonds, Thompson, Turrell, Wallace and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Mrs Ryder, Mrs Shillcock, Wade and Ward

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR BARRY EGAN, IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor's Chaplain, Father Michael Hore, opened the proceedings with prayers.

183. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual and Extraordinary Meetings of the Council held on 24 May 2000 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

Membership of Committees

In relation to Minute 7 and pursuant to Section 16(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Leader of the Labour Group submitted details of revised nominations to certain committee seats which had been allocated to the Labour Group. It was accordingly

RESOLVED that

- (i) Councillor Grayson be appointed as a member of the Leisure Services Committee in place of Councillor Ms Brown, with Councillor Ms Brown serving as a substitute member on that Committee in place of Councillor Grayson; and
- (ii) Councillor Ms Brown be appointed as a member of the Social Services and Housing Committee in place of Councillor Grayson, with Councillor Grayson serving as a substitute member on that Committee in place of Councillor Ms Brown.

184. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor's Chaplain

The Mayor was pleased to inform the Council that Father Michael Hore of St Joseph's Church had accepted the honorary appointment as the Mayor's Chaplain for the Mayor's term of office.

Annual Civic Service

The Mayor announced that the Annual Civic Service would take place at 10.00 am on Sunday 17 September at St Joseph's Church, Bracknell. This event would coincide with the 40th anniversary of the establishment of St Joseph's Primary School.

The Mayor's Charities

The Mayor announced that his charities for the coming year would be the Ascot Alzheimer's Association and Homestart, Bracknell Forest. The Mayor advised that the Ascot Alzheimer's Association was a small local charity giving support to both sufferers of the disease and their carers and Homestart aimed to give support to families under stress and help to prevent the breakdown of families.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother's 100th Birthday

The Mayor was pleased to announce that during the current planting season he would be planting two further trees to those previously planted to mark the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. The Mayor also announced that he would, on behalf of the Borough, be writing to her Majesty extending the Borough's heartiest best wishes.

Theme for the Year

The Mayor announced that he would be concentrating on youth as his general theme for the year. He would be looking in particular for opportunities to support youth, whilst continuing to support fully the countless other aspects of community life in the Borough.

185. **All Standing Committees**

The Minutes of the meetings of all Standing Committees held on 24 May 2000 were submitted.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor North, that the reports be received.

186. **Leisure Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on 13 June 2000 was submitted.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor North, seconded by Councillor McCracken, that the report be received.

187. **Public & Environmental Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Public & Environmental Services Committee held on 21 June 2000 was submitted and the Chairman responded to questions thereon.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Mills, seconded by Councillor Flood, that the report be received.

188. **Social Services & Housing Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Social Services & Housing Committee on 27 June 2000 was submitted and the Chairman responded to questions thereon.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Barnard, seconded by Councillor Mrs Pile, that the report be received.

189. **Standards Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 4 July 2000 was submitted.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Finnie, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the report be received and the recommendation in Minute 121 be adopted.

190. **Education Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 4 July 2000 was submitted.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Mrs Hayes, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the report be received.

191. **Planning & Transportation Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Planning & Transportation Committee held on 5 July 2000 was submitted and the Chairman responded to questions thereon.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Mrs Ballin, seconded by Councillor Worrall, that the report be received.

192. **Strategy & Policy Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 12 July 2000 was submitted and the Chairman responded to questions thereon.

In relation to Minute 166 (Finance & Property Sub Committee) the appointment of Councillor Thompson to the Community Legal Service Partnership was reported and confirmed.

In relation to minute 177 (Appointment to Outside Bodies) the appointment of Councillor Mrs Mattick to the MIND Executive Committee was reported and confirmed.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Birch, seconded by Councillor Mrs Ballin, that the report be received and the recommendations in Minutes 166, 173, 175 and 177 be adopted.

193. **Reports by Members**

Councillor Mills, the Chairman of the Health Panel, in accordance with the terms of Motion 1/99, submitted a progress report to the Council on health issues.

194. **Central and Local Government Concordat on Good Enforcement**

A report by the Chief Executive on the Central and Local Government Concordat on Good Enforcement was submitted to the Council.

RESOLVED that the Central and Local Government Concordat on Good Enforcement be adopted and the Local Government Association and the Cabinet Office be informed accordingly.

195. **Motions Submitted under Standing Order 8**

Motion 6/2000

Motion 6/2000, as set out in the agenda for the meeting, was moved by Councillor Beadsley and seconded by Councillor Glasson.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Bettison and seconded by Councillor Barnard, the effect of which was (i) to replace "deploring the new Free Schools Education Policy, which would take away its local power to support its schools and replace it with a remote national bureaucracy" and with "to ask him to clarify his Party's free school policy and suggest that each school's governing body should be allowed to decide whether or not to apply for the free schools status"; and (ii) to insert a second paragraph as follows: "It similarly calls on the Leader of the Labour Group to write to the Prime Minister to ask him to direct the Secretary of State for Education to stop his Party's policy of by-passing local government in his dealings with schools, as this is producing a growing centralising effect which is a negation of local democracy."

The amendment was put to the meeting and declared carried.

The substantive motion, incorporating the amendment set out above, was put to the meeting and declared carried. It was therefore

RESOLVED that

This Council has welcomed its status as a new Local Education Authority and the opportunity to provide active support for local schools.

It calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Leader of the Conservative Party to ask him to clarify his Party's Free School Policy and to suggest that each school's governing body should be allowed to decide whether or not to apply for free schools status.

It similarly calls on the Leader of the Labour Group to write to the Prime Minister to ask him to direct the Secretary of State for Education to stop his Party's policy of by-passing local government in his dealings with schools as this is producing a growing centralising effect which is a negation of local democracy.

Motion 7/2000

Motion 7/2000, as set out in the agenda for the meeting, was moved by Councillor McCormack and seconded by Councillor Beadsley.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Bettison and seconded by Councillor Mills, the effect of which was (i) to delete "this Council believes that self-congratulation amongst Members of the Council serves only the promotion of elitism"; (ii) to replace "therefore introduce" with "consider the introduction of"; and (iii) to delete "other".

With the consent of the Council, pursuant to Standing Order 15 (ix), the amendment was accepted as an alteration to the motion.

Motion 7/2000, incorporating the alteration set out above, was put to the meeting and declared carried. It was therefore

RESOLVED that this Council will consider the introduction of a community award scheme that recognises the outstanding contribution made by members of the community towards improving the health and well-being of all those who live and work in the Borough.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.26pm

MAYOR

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