

COUNCIL

3 MARCH 1999

Present: Councillors Adams, Bailey, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Bayle, Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Blatchford, Mrs Clifford, Mrs Doyle, Egan, Fawcett, Finnie, Flood, Good, Grayson, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Hirst, Jones, Mrs Keene, McCormack, Mills, North, Piasecki, Mrs Pile, Ryan, Sargeant, Mrs Shillcock, Simonds, Mrs Sutcliffe, Taylor, Thompson, Veakins, Wade, Ward, Wheaton and Worrall

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR JAMES G FINNIE, IN THE CHAIR

479 Prayers and Dedication of Chains of Office

The Mayor's Chaplain, The Reverend David Osborn opened the meeting with prayers. He went on to offer prayers of dedication of the new mayoral chains of office. The chains had been donated by Marks & Spencer plc.

480 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 November 1998 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

481 Mayor's Announcements

(i) Her Majesty The Queen Mother – Commemorative Trees

The Mayor announced that in November 1998, 18 trees had been added to an Avenue of 80 which had been planted to commemorate Her Majesty The Queen Mother's 80th birthday in 1980. On hearing of the event, the Private Secretary had written to the Mayor to express Her Majesty The Queen Mother's appreciation of the Council's actions.

(ii) Richmond Rugby Club

The Mayor reported that Richmond Rugby Club would be supporting the Mayor's Charity by donating £5 to The British Heart Foundation for every ticket for the Richmond v Bath match sold through the Mayor's office. The match was to be held on Saturday 13 March 1999 at 3pm.

(iii) Mayor's Charity Gala Concert – Sounds of The Forest II

The Mayor advised the Council that a wealth of local talent would be featured in the Mayor's Charity Gala Concert, Sounds of The Forest II. The Concert was to be held at The Wilde Theatre, South Hill Park on Monday 29 March

1999 at 7.30pm. The Mayor was pleased to advise that 17 local companies had sponsored this event.

482 Report of Returning Officer

The Council was advised that following the untimely death of the late Councillor W Onions, a by-election had been held to elect a Borough Councillor for the Harmans Water Ward on Thursday 25 February 1999 and the votes cast for each candidate had been as follows:

Bailey, Roy John	876
Cocks, Alan Edward	103
Turtle, Christopher Richard Martin	765

Councillor Bailey had been declared elected and had duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

483 Public Participation at Meetings

In accordance with Standing Order 12 the Council received a submission in the following terms made by Mr R Crew on behalf of the Bracknell Forests Senior Citizens Forum :

“This Forum wishes to express its concern at the proposal to transfer the management of Heathlands and Ladybank Residential Homes to private hands. The financial savings to the Council resulting from this transfer will not be great, as the amounts that will have to be paid to the private organisations concerned must be deducted from the income obtained from Residential Care Allowances. Also, we understand that proposals have been made to end these Allowances.

Our concern is for the welfare of the residents of these Homes. The present management and staff provide an excellent service and any action by the Council for short-term gain may well lead to a marked worsening of the service in the longer term.

We therefore ask the Council not to jeopardise the welfare of the residents of Heathlands and Ladybank for the sake of indeterminate short-term advantage”.

Following questions, the submission was noted.

484 Planning and Transportation Committee

The report of the meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee held on 19 November 1998 was submitted.

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

485 **Strategy & Policy Committee**

The report of the special meeting of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 6 January 1999 was submitted.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor Birch, that the report be received.

486 **Social Services & Housing Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Social Services & Housing Committee held on 19 January 1999 was submitted and the Chairman responded to questions thereon.

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

487 **Education Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 20 January 1999 was submitted and the Chairman responded to questions thereon.

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

488 **Planning & Transportation Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Planning & Transportation Committee held on 21 January 1999 was submitted and the Chairman responded to questions thereon.

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

489 **Public and Environmental Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Public and Environmental Services Committee held on 26 January 1999 was submitted.

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

490 **Leisure Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on 27 January 1999 was submitted and the Chairman responded to questions thereon.

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

491 **Direct Services Board**

The report of the meeting of the Direct Services Board held on 9 February 1999 was submitted.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Sargeant, seconded by Councillor Miss Haydon, that the report be received.

492 **Social Services & Housing Committee**

The report of the special meeting of the Social Services & Housing Committee held on 16 February 1999 was submitted and the Chairman responded to questions thereon.

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

493 **Strategy & Policy Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 16 February 1999 was submitted with the exception of Minute 473 which would be considered separately. The Chairman responded to questions on the report.

Arising on minute 476 the Council confirmed the appointment of the following Members to the Health Panel:

Councillors	Barnard (Vice Chairman), Blatchford, Mrs Doyle, Fawcett, Mills (Chairman), Mrs Shillcock, Thompson, Veakins, and Wheaton
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Substitutes	Councillors McCormack and Mrs Pile
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Arising on minute 477 the Council was advised that nominations in respect of the Berkshire Pension Fund Advisory Panel and the Council and Court of the University of Reading would be made at the Annual Council Meeting on 5 May 1999.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor Birch, that the report with the exception of Minute 473 be received.

494 **Finance Plans and Revenue Budget 1999/2000**

The Council considered a detailed report by the Director of Corporate Services with a draft budget for the year 1999/2000 which included the recommendations of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 16 February 1999, as set out in minute 473. Attention was drawn to a necessary correction in the draft Council Tax Resolution at 3.3(a) on page 8 of the report.

The Leader of the Council then moved adoption of the amended recommendations set out in the report of the Director of Corporate Services.

An amendment in the following terms was then moved by Councillor McCormack and seconded by Councillor Ryan :

The recommendation of the Strategy and Policy Committee outlined in paragraph 2 be agreed except:

- (i) The Planning and Transportation Committee's request for £0.15m for Concessionary Fares be adjusted to £0.216m to maintain a flat rate charge of £20 for the Unlimited Travel Pass for the elderly in recognition that the Planning and Transportation Committee's proposal to increase the charge by 100% is unfair and inconsistent with the Council's wider policies.*
- (ii) The Social Services & Housing Committees proposal to negotiate a Service Agreement with an independent sector provider to manage the Heathlands and Ladybank Homes for older people.*
- (iii) The Social Services and Housing Committee proposal to increase the maximum weekly charge for homecare to £220 per week. A proposal that this Council views as unnecessary and unfair.*
- (iv) The contribution of £1.129m from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure after allowing for the contribution to the collection fund for the loss of Council Tax benefit subsidy of £3, 030 be increased to £1.208m.*
 - (a) Total expenditure including General Fund Housing Revenue Account and Parish Precept be increased to £153,838,968.*
 - (b) Total income including Housing Revenue Account be reduced to £70,576,450.*
 - (c) The reduction in General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Balances be increased to £1,804,000.*

At 8.40pm, the Council adjourned and re-convened at 8.50pm.

Pursuant to debate, the amendment was put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, was declared lost. The original motion was then put to the meeting and, on a request for a recorded vote to be taken, voting was as follows:

For Councillors Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Bettison, Birch, Blatchford, Mrs Doyle, Egan, Finnie, Flood, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Miss Hayes, Mills, North, Mrs Pile, Sargeant, Simonds, Mrs Sutcliffe, Thompson, Wade, Ward and Worrall (22)

Against Councillors Adams, Bailey, Bayle, Beadsley, Mrs Clifford, Fawcett, Good, Grayson, Mrs Hirst, Jones, Mrs Keene, McCormack, Piasecki, Ryan, Mrs Shillcock, Taylor, Veakins and Wheaton (18)

The motion was declared carried and it was

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the recommendations of the Strategy and Policy Committee set out in paragraph 2 be agreed;

- (ii) it be noted that at its meeting on 18 November 1998 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 1999/2000 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(a) 41,070 **TAX BASE FOR WHOLE BOROUGH COUNCIL AREA**

being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its council tax base for the year

(b) **TAX BASE FOR PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA**

EACH PARISH AREA

Binfield	3,220
Bracknell	17,320
Crowthorne	2,400
Sandhurst	7,730
Warfield	4,090
Winkfield	6,310

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

- (iii) the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 1998/99 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:-

(a) £153,769,968 **TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCLUDING GENERAL FUND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND PARISH PRECEPTS**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act

(b) £70,586,450 **TOTAL INCOME INCLUDING GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (b) of the Act

(c) £1,725,000 **REDUCTION IN GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BALANCES**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(c) of the Act

(d) £81,458,518 **BOROUGH AND PARISH EXPENDITURE TO BE FINANCED FROM GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND COUNCIL TAX**

being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) and 3(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the act, as its budget requirement for the year.

(e) £54,563,590 **GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SERVICES**

being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant and additional grant or SSA reduction grant or relevant special grants

(f) NIL **COUNCIL TAX AND RESIDUAL COMMUNITY CHARGE**

£3,030 **CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT**

being the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year to its collection fund from its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Deficit) and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred to its collection fund from its general fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7th February 1994) and increased by the amount representing the authority's contribution to council tax benefit resulting from an increase in its council tax calculated in accordance with the Collection Fund (General) (England) Directions 1999, the Collection Fund (Council Tax Benefit) (England) Direction 1999 and the Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 1999

(g) £654.93 **AVERAGE BAND "D" COUNCIL TAX FOR WHOLE BOROUGH**

being the amount at 3(d) above less the amount at 3(e) plus the amount at 3(f) above, all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year

(h) £1,538,886 **PARISH PRECEPTS**

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act

(i) £617.46 **BOROUGH COUNCIL TAX FOR BAND "D" PROPERTIES**

being the amount at 3(g) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(h) above by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year if there were an area of the Borough to which no special item relates

(j) **BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH PARISH FOR BAND "D"**

Binfield	646.76
Bracknell	664.03
Crowthorne	642.88
Sandhurst	660.21
Warfield	629.11
Winkfield	648.96

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(i) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

(k) **BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX IN EACH PARISH FOR EACH VALUATION BAND**

Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Binfield	431.17	503.04	574.89	646.76	790.48	934.21	1077.93	1293.52
Bracknell	442.69	516.47	590.25	664.03	811.59	959.16	1106.72	1328.06
Crowthorne	428.59	500.02	571.45	642.88	785.74	928.61	1071.47	1285.76
Sandhurst	440.14	513.50	586.85	660.21	806.92	953.64	1100.35	1320.42
Warfield	419.41	489.31	559.21	629.11	768.91	908.72	1048.52	1258.22
Winkfield	432.64	504.75	576.85	648.96	793.17	937.39	1081.60	1297.92

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(j) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation

band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands

- (v) it be noted that for the year 1999/2000 the Thames Valley Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Thames Valley Police Authority	37.69	43.97	50.25	56.53	69.09	81.65	94.22	113.06

- (v) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(k) and 4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 1998/99 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

**(a) TOTAL COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH PARISH
AND EACH VALUATION BAND**

Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Binfield	468.86	547.01	625.14	703.29	859.57	1015.86	1172.15	1406.58
Bracknell	480.38	560.44	640.50	720.56	880.68	1040.81	1200.94	1441.12
Crowthorne	466.28	543.99	621.70	699.41	854.83	1010.26	1165.69	1398.82
Sandhurst	477.83	557.47	637.10	716.74	876.01	1035.29	1194.57	1433.48
Warfield	457.10	533.28	609.46	685.64	838.00	990.37	1142.74	1371.28
Winkfield	470.33	548.72	627.10	705.49	862.26	1019.04	1175.82	1410.98

- (vi) (a) The amount of money which is for the time being the maximum amount which the authority may have outstanding by way of borrowing shall be the sum of the current external borrowing at 31st March 1999 plus the value of the Government's Basic Credit Approval plus such short term borrowing that is needed for temporary capital or revenue purposes or £10 million, whichever is the lower ("the overall borrowing limit");
- (b) The amount of money, being part of the overall borrowing limit, which may be held by way of short term borrowing is limited to £1 million;
- (c) The proportion of the total amount of interest payable by the Council which is at a rate or rates which can be varied by the person to whom it is payable or which vary by reference to any external factors shall be limited to 10%.

495 **Questions submitted under Standing Order 11**

- (i) Question to Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee from Councillor Adams.

Could the Chairman confirm the cost of the Traffic Regulation Order for the proposal of opening Ringmead onto the Crowthorne Road, the estimated cost of the public consultation due to take place on Great Hollands South, as recommended by the Highways Sub committee on 7 January 1999, and the latest estimate for the full implementation of the scheme should it proceed?

Reply by Councillor Mrs Ballin

The Chairman of the Planning & Transportation Committee advised that the estimated cost of the Traffic Regulation Order for the proposal of opening Ringmead into the Crowthorne Road, was £1,800. The estimated cost of the Public Consultation was £7,000 and the current estimate for the full cost of this scheme was £40,000. The Chairman of the Planning & Transportation Committee agreed to provide written answer to a supplementary question.

496 **Local Government & Housing Act 1989 – Appointment of Members to Serve on Committees 1998/99**

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive regarding the procedures set down in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Regulations made thereunder relating to the allocation of seats on committees to Political Groups and to the Appointment of Members to serve on Committees. A notice had been received advising that Councillor Bailey wished to be treated as a Member of the Labour Group. The Council was therefore required to conduct a statutory review of the allocation of seats on committees to the political groups. The report outlined the options available to the Council. The Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Birch, moved a motion in the following terms :

That

- (i) *the total number of seats on Committees appointed by the council and the allocation of those seats to political groups for the remainder of the current year be as set out in paragraph 4.7.*
- (ii) *the Minority Group be requested to submit nominations to the Committee seats allocated for the remainder of the Municipal Year*
- (iii) *basic allowance paid to each member be reduced from £1,523.64 to £1,511.64 per annum with immediate effect to offset the additional cost of the 3 extra committee places.*

It was then moved by Councillor Wheaton, seconded by Councillor McCormack that paragraphs (i) and (ii) of the motion be deleted and replaced with :

- (i) *the total number of seats on Committees appointed by the Council be 105 and the allocation of those seats to political groups for the remainder of the current year be: Conservative: 58, Labour: 47.*
- (ii) *the Majority Group be requested to submit the names of members who will cease to serve on a particular committee, the effect being to reduce Conservative representation by one on two committees.*
- (iii) *the Minority Group be requested to submit a nomination to a Committee seat allocated for the remainder of the Municipal Year, this seat not to be on the committees which have seen a reduction as a consequence of (ii).*

Retain original (iii) and renumber.

On being put to the meeting the amendment was declared lost.

The Leader of the Council, with the consent of his seconder and the Council, withdrew his motion. A further motion in the terms set out below was moved by Councillor McCormack and seconded by Councillor Wheaton. On being put to the meeting the motion was declared carried and it was

RESOLVED that the following amendments be made to the list of substitute members to committees :

Education Committee	Councillor Bailey to replace Councillor McCormack
Planning Control Sub Committee	Councillor Bailey to replace Councillor Veakins
Social Services & Housing Committee	Councillor Bailey to replace Councillor Grayson
Finance & Property Sub Committee	Councillor Bailey to replace Councillor Good

497 **Motions submitted under Standing Order 8**

- (i) Motion 3/98

Motion 3/98 as set out in the agenda for the meeting was moved by Councillor Mills and seconded by Councillor Mrs Pile.

With the consent of his seconder and of the Council, Councillor Mills amended his motion by the deletion of the final sentence. On being put to the meeting the motion was declared carried and it was :

RESOLVED that:

This Council commends the achievement of the majority group in securing, through its motion to Council on 26 February 1998, a KONVER grant towards the cost of planning the future of the JSCSC site in Broad Lane, Bracknell.

As a result and in order to assist this planning process the Council recognises the need to:-

- (i) re-affirm the site primarily for community, education, leisure and sporting uses;*
- (ii) minimise any housing development to a level which does not add detriment to the quality of life of the existing community and residents;*
- (iii) work in partnership with other organisations and individuals to achieve these objectives for Bracknell Forest;*
- (iv) continue to pursue and positively exploit all relevant sources of external funding and assistance, and;*
- (v) establish an effective communication link with all residents in the vicinity of the Staff College site.*

In accordance with Standing Order No.22 Councillor Good requested that the record show that he cast his vote against the Motion.

(ii) Motion 4/98

Motion 4/98 as set out in the agenda for the meeting was moved by Councillor Mrs Keene and seconded by Councillor Adams.

It was then moved by Councillor Birch and seconded by Councillor Ward that the Motion be amended in the terms set out below.

On being put to the meeting there were 17 votes cast in favour of the amendment and 17 votes cast against. The Mayor used his casting vote in favour of the amendment. The amendment was then put to the Council as a substantive motion and declared carried.

RESOLVED that:

This Authority marks the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document which sets out the human rights that belong to us all, and pledges our support for human rights, through:

- calling on all Libraries in Bracknell Forest to have available the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Encouraging local schools to have available the text of the Universal Declaration.
- Thanking those local people that made their pledges to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, presented to the United Nations on 10 December 1998.
- Providing the opportunity for Bracknell Forest Borough staff and users of our services to sign up to the Universal Declaration; if they so wish.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm
and concluded at 11.35pm

MAYOR