

COUNCIL

1 MARCH 2000

Present: Councillors Adams, Bailey, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Bayle, Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Blatchford, Mrs Clifford, Egan, Fawcett, Finnie, Flood, Good, 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, Wade, Ward, Wheaton and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillor Mrs Doyle

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR JAMES G FINNIE, IN THE CHAIR

The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev D Osborn, opened the proceedings with prayers.

513. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 November 1999 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

514. Matters Arising

Minute 366 (i) [Minute 224 (i)]

Councillor Mills, Chairman of the Health Panel, reported to the Council on progress with the development of the Health Panel as required by Motion 1/99 adopted at the Council meeting on 21 July 1999. He referred in particular to the decision to undertake a local survey of households in the Borough to ascertain the views of local people on the range and style of health and social care provision they would like to see locally.

515. Mayor's Announcements

Mr D A Veakins

Members had been notified that Mr D A Veakins had resigned from membership of the Council on 31 January this year. Mr Veakins had represented the Old Bracknell Ward with much distinction since his election in May 1995. The Council wished to record its thanks to the former Councillor for his work in the Council and in particular his contribution to health issues in the Borough.

Engagements

The Mayor's list of engagements for the period 18 November 1999 to 1 March 2000 was circulated to Members of the Council for information.

Charity Gala Concert

The Mayor announced that the Charity Gala Concert in aid of the Lewis Marsh Fund would be held at South Hill Park on 12 March 2000 and he looked forward to seeing many Members of the Council on that occasion.

Bracknell Bees Ice Hockey Team

The Mayor on behalf of the Council congratulated the Bracknell Bees Ice Hockey Team on its success in becoming champions of the Sekonda Super League.

516. **Public Participation at Meetings**

In accordance with Standing Order 12 the Council received a Petition in the following terms organised by Mr R Dumelow, signed by 120 persons:

"I believe that the Legal & General scheme is too big for Bracknell and urge the Bracknell Forest Borough Council to support a Town Centre redevelopment that is more appropriate to the needs of local people"

Following questions, the Petition was noted.

517. **Strategy & Policy Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 5 January 2000 was submitted.

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

518. **Leisure Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on 11 January 2000 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.

519. **Public & Environmental Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Public & Environmental Services Committee held on 18 January 2000 was submitted and the Chairman responded to questions thereon.

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

520. **Education Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 25 January 2000 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 and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

521. **Planning & Transportation Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Planning & Transportation Committee held on 27 January 2000 was submitted.

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

522. **Social Services & Housing Committee**

The reports of the meetings of the Social Services & Housing Committee held on 1 February and 16 February 2000 were submitted.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Barnard, seconded by Councillor Mrs Pile, that the reports be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

523. **Strategy & Policy Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 16 February 2000 was submitted with the exception of Minutes 500 and 507 which would be considered separately. The Chairman responded to questions on the report.

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

524. **Strategy & Policy Committee Minute 507 – Motion 5/99**

The Council received the report of the Strategy & Policy Committee regarding Motion 5/99 by Councillors Good and Taylor, referred from Council on 17 November 1999 for consideration and report.

The recommendation in Minute 507 was moved by Councillor Bettison and seconded by Councillor Birch. Councillor Good, seconded by Councillor Ryan then moved an amendment in the following terms:

" Delete all after 'redevelopment' and insert 'accepts in principle that the alternative use for Albert Road Car Park should be as an area of open parkland' "

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

The substantive Motion was then put to the meeting and declared carried. It was therefore

RESOLVED that the Borough Council confirms its commitment to introduce residents' parking scheme in conjunction with the Town Centre redevelopment but

that the question of an alternative use for Albert Road Car Park be deferred until after the outcome of the Town Centre Inquiry is known.

525. Financial Plans and Revenue Budget 2000/2001

The Council considered a detailed report by the Director of Corporate Services with a draft budget for the year 2000/2001 which included the recommendations of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 16 February 2000, as set out in Minute 500.

The Leader of the Council moved adoption of the 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 Bayle:

"That the Council agrees the Council Tax resolution set out in pages 7 to 11 of the agenda with the following amendments:

3.1 *That the recommendation of the Strategy and Policy Committee outlined in paragraph 2 be agreed except:*

(i) *The Planning & Transportation Committee's request for £0.08M for concessionary fares be adjusted to £0.14m to provide for a flat rate charge of £20 for the unlimited travel pass for those older people between the ages of 65-75, in recognition that the Planning & Transportation Committee's decision to increase the charge by 100% was unnecessary and excluded those in greatest need.*

(ii) *The Finance & Property Sub Committee's net budget requirement of £4.222M be increased by £0.12M to provide for a contribution to those Parish and Town Councils that have in place a TV licence subsidy for those older people over the age of 65 years, and that the basis for distribution be determined at the next meeting of the Strategy & Policy Committee.*

(iii) *The Social Services & Housing Committee's budget requirement of £5.124M for services for the elderly be increased by £0.020M to enable free entrance to Day Centres for those older people on Income Support.*

(iv) *The contribution of £3.415M from revenue balances to support the revenue expenditure during 2000/2001 be increased to £3.621M.*

3.2 *That 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) £157,439,208 **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) £69,228,000 **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) £4,773,515 **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 "

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 vote being taken, was declared carried. It was therefore:

RESOLVED that

- (i) the recommendations of the Strategy and Policy Committee set out in Minute 500 be agreed;
- (ii) it be noted that at its meeting on 17 November 1999 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2000/01 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(a) 41,030 **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 | 3,200 |
| Bracknell | 17,230 |
| Crowthorne | 2,390 |
| Sandhurst | 7,780 |
| Warfield | 4,120 |
| 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) £157,253,208 **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) £69,248,000 **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) £4,567,515 **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) £83,437,693 **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) £55,837,375 **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) £142,220 **COUNCIL TAX AND RESIDUAL COMMUNITY CHARGE**

NIL 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) £676.15 **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) £1,673,208 **PARISH PRECEPTS**

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

(i) £635.37 **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) Part of the Council's area **BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH PARISH FOR BAND "D"**

| | |
|------------|--------|
| Binfield | 668.11 |
| Bracknell | 683.34 |
| Crowthorne | 668.84 |
| Sandhurst | 684.51 |
| Warfield | 651.15 |
| Winkfield | 669.37 |

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) Part of the Council's area **BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX IN EACH PARISH FOR EACH VALUATION BAND**

| Parish | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|
| Binfield | 445.41 | 519.64 | 593.87 | 668.11 | 816.58 | 965.05 | 1,113.52 | 1,336.22 |
| Bracknell | 455.56 | 531.49 | 607.41 | 683.34 | 835.19 | 987.05 | 1,138.90 | 1,366.68 |
| Crowthorne | 445.89 | 520.21 | 594.52 | 668.84 | 817.47 | 966.11 | 1,114.73 | 1,337.68 |
| Sandhurst | 456.34 | 532.40 | 608.45 | 684.51 | 836.62 | 988.74 | 1,140.85 | 1,369.02 |
| Warfield | 434.10 | 506.45 | 578.80 | 651.15 | 795.85 | 940.55 | 1,085.25 | 1,302.30 |
| Winkfield | 446.25 | 520.62 | 594.99 | 669.37 | 818.12 | 966.87 | 1,115.62 | 1,338.74 |

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

- (iv) 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 | 40.23 | 46.93 | 53.64 | 60.34 | 73.75 | 87.16 | 100.57 | 120.68 |

- (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) Part of the Council's area **TOTAL COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH VALUATION BAND**

| Parish | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|----------|
| Binfield | 485.64 | 566.57 | 647.51 | 728.45 | 890.33 | 1,052.21 | 1,214.09 | 1,456.90 |
| Bracknell | 495.79 | 578.42 | 661.05 | 743.68 | 908.94 | 1,074.21 | 1,239.47 | 1,487.36 |
| Crowthorne | 486.12 | 567.14 | 648.16 | 729.18 | 891.22 | 1,053.27 | 1,215.30 | 1,458.36 |
| Sandhurst | 496.57 | 579.33 | 662.09 | 744.85 | 910.37 | 1,075.90 | 1,241.42 | 1,489.70 |
| Warfield | 474.33 | 553.38 | 632.44 | 711.49 | 869.60 | 1,027.71 | 1,185.82 | 1,422.98 |
| Winkfield | 486.48 | 567.55 | 648.63 | 729.71 | 891.87 | 1,054.03 | 1,216.19 | 1,459.42 |

- (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 2000 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%.

526. Local Government & Housing Act 1989

The Council received a report from the Director of Corporate Services advising of vacancies which had arisen on a number of Committees arising from the resignation of Mr D A Veakins. The seats vacated by Mr Veakins had been allocated to the Labour Group at the Annual Meeting of the Council. Under the provisions of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, the Council was required to make appointments to those seats in accordance with the wishes of the Labour Group. It was therefore

RESOLVED that the following appointments to vacancies on Committees be confirmed:

| | | |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Planning & Transportation Committee | - | Councillor Good |
| Public & Environmental Services Committee | - | Councillor Grayson |
| Direct Services Board | - | Councillor Fawcett |
| Health Panel | - | Councillor McCormack |

527. Appointment of Independent Members of Standards Committee

The Council considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services regarding the appointment of independent members to the Standards Committee. At its meeting on 17 November 1999, the Council had established a Standards Committee comprising four Councillors and two independent members. Officers had been instructed to approach individuals who might be appropriate independent members of the Committee. The report proposed the appointment of three independent members to the Standards Committee, to provide adequate coverage in case of the unavoidable absence of one of the individuals.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Rev David Osborn and Mr David Briggs be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2002; and
- (ii) Mr Jonty Driver be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2001.

528. **Motions Submitted Under Standing Order 8**

Motion 1/2000

Motion 1/2000 as set out in the agenda for the meeting was moved by Councillor Barnard and seconded by Councillor Ward. On being put to the meeting, and a vote being taken, Motion 1/2000 was declared carried. It was therefore

RESOLVED that this Council ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister urging him to respond to the Royal Commission which his Government set up to examine the long term care of the elderly.

It is a year now since the Commission presented the Government with their report.

We note with dismay that the only one of the recommendations which has been acted upon so far is one related to a National Care Commission responsible for ensuring quality of care from all providers. Although an important issue it is probably the one which concerns the elderly least from among the many recommendations.

The Commissioners recommended unanimously that "free personal care for all is paramount" and it is on this point among others that the Government has failed to act and is one of the three main recommendations which we would appeal to the Prime Minister to respond to us on behalf of our elderly residents.

The other two are firstly that the means testing thresholds be raised and secondly that there should be a longer delay before pensioners are expected to dispose of their home in order to pay for their care.

Motion 2/000

Motion 2/2000 as set out in the agenda for the meeting was moved by Councillor Bettison and seconded by Councillor Ward. On being put to the meeting, and a vote being taken, Motion 2/2000 was declared carried. It was therefore

RESOLVED that this Council congratulates the Chairman of the Health Panel for the promptness with which he dealt with the health questionnaire to residents. We note the excellent response from the public and feel that the questions on "accident and emergency" and "cancer screening" were an essential part of this exercise.

Motion 3/000

Motion 3/2000 was moved by Councillor Beadsley and seconded by Councillor Jones. In accordance with Standing Order 8 (iv), the Mayor indicated that the motion would stand referred to the Planning & Transportation Committee for consideration.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 11.25pm

MAYOR