

## COUNCIL

28 APRIL 1999

Present: Councillors Adams, Bailey, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Blatchford, Mrs Clifford, 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, Wade, Ward and Worrall

Apologies for absence had been received from:

Councillors Bayle, Mrs Doyle, Veakins and Wheaton

### THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR JAMES G FINNIE, IN THE CHAIR

#### 614 Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain, The Reverend David Osborn opened the meeting with prayers.

#### 615 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 3 March 1999 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, subject to the name of the third candidate in the Harmans Water by-election in Minute 482 being amended to read "Turrell, Christopher Richard Martin".

The Mayor agreed to provide a written answer to all Members to a question relating to Minute 497(ii) – Motion 4/98.

#### 616 Mayor's Announcements

##### (i) Mayor's Charity 1998/99

The Mayor advised the Council that approximately £6,000 had been raised for the Mayor's Charity, the British Heart Foundation, during 1998/99.

617 **Social Services & Housing Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Social Services & Housing Committee held on 16 March 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.

618 **Public & Environmental Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Public & Environmental Services Committee held on 23 March 1999 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.

619 **Education Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 30 March 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.

620 **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.

Councillor Flood declared a non-pecuniary interest arising from a question on Minute 560 and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was under discussion.

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

621 **Leisure Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on 8 April 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.

622 **Strategy & Policy Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 14 April 1999 was submitted and the Chairman responded to questions thereon.

Councillor Bettison declared a pecuniary interest arising from a question on Minute 613 and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was under discussion. Councillor Birch, the Vice Chairman, responded to questions on Minute 613.

**RESOLVED** on the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor Birch, that the report be received and the recommendation in Minute 608 (Review of Contract Regulations and Financial Regulations) be adopted.

623 **Question submitted under Standing Order 11**

- (i) Question to Chairman of Strategy & Policy Committee by Councillor McCormack

*Can the Leader of the Council explain the Council's policy towards the leasing of its commercial and retail units within the Borough?*

With the agreement of the Mayor Councillor Birch, Vice Chairman of the Strategy & Policy Committee, replied to the question.

Reply by Councillor Birch

Councillor Birch reminded the Council that retail units managed by the Council were principally those located in the neighbourhood shopping parades surrounding Bracknell Town. The Council's overriding objective in respect of these parades was to achieve a mix of viable businesses providing a range of goods and services to the local community; the uses to complement each other for the long-term viability of the parade. He described the impact of supermarket trading on the viability of small specialist shops and outlined the Council's rent policy, which was to balance its obligations to obtain the market value for its assets with the need to secure the economic prosperity of its retail premises and community use of its buildings. Any letting for more than seven years was required to be at best consideration unless specific consent was given by the Secretary of State or the conditions of two general dispensations were met. The Council was always required to act reasonably in these matters since it had an overriding fiduciary duty to its Council Taxpayers.

Councillor Birch then responded to a supplementary question.

624 **Motions submitted under Standing Order 8**

- (i) Motion 5/98-9

Motion 5/98-9, as set out in the agenda for the meeting, was moved by Councillor Beadsley and seconded by Councillor Adams.

It was then moved by Councillor Mills, seconded by Councillor Birch that the motion be amended in the terms set out below. On being put to the meeting the amendment was declared carried. The substantive motion was then put to the meeting, debated and, on a vote being taken, declared carried

**RESOLVED** that through its environment and transport policies this Council seeks to promote the safe use of bicycles as a means of personal transport.

(ii) Motion 7/98-9

Motion 7/98-9, as set out in the agenda for the meeting, was moved by Councillor McCormack and seconded by Councillor Mrs Keene.

On being put to the meeting the motion was declared not carried.

(iii) Motion 6/98-9

Councillor McCormack, seconded by Councillor Good moved a motion to suspend the requirements of Standing Order 8 to enable consideration of a motion which had been submitted correctly but had been deemed to fall outside the scope of Standing Order 8.

Following debate, the motion to suspend Standing Orders was put to the meeting and, on a request for a recorded vote to be taken, voting was as follows:

For	Councillors Adams, Bailey, Beadsley, Mrs Clifford, Fawcett, Good, Grayson, Mrs Hirst, Jones, Mrs Keene, McCormack, Piasecki, Ryan, Mrs Shillcock and Taylor (15)
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Against	Councillors Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Bettison, Birch, Blatchford, Egan, Finnie, Flood, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Mills, North, Mrs Pile, Sargeant, Simonds, Mrs Sutcliffe, Thompson, Wade, Ward and Worrall (21)
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The Motion was declared not carried.

625 **Annual Meeting**

The Council noted that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 5 May 1999 at Easthampstead House commencing at 7.30pm.

The Council wished to record its thanks to all members of staff for their commitment and hard work on behalf of the Council during its first year as a unitary authority.

The Mayor expressed his personal thanks to Officers and Councillors for their support during the year.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm  
and concluded at 10.00pm

**MAYOR**