

**COUNCIL
17 NOVEMBER 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, Mrs Pile, Ryan, Sargeant, Simonds, Mrs Sutcliffe, Thompson, Veakins, Wade, Ward, Wheaton and Worrall.

Apologies for absence had been received from:
Councillors Piasecki, Mrs Shillcock and Taylor

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR JAMES G FINNIE, IN THE CHAIR

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

364. Sir William van Straubenzee

The Mayor announced that it was his sad duty formally to report the recent death of Sir William van Straubenzee, one of the Honorary Freemen of the Borough. Having first been elected in 1959, he had served as the Member of Parliament for the Wokingham Constituency, which at that time had included most of the area of the present Borough.

All those present observed a few moments of silence in memory of Sir William van Straubenzee and his dedicated service to the community.

365. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 July 1999 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

366. Matters Arising

Minute 224(i) [Motion 1/99]

Councillor Mills, Chairman of the Health Panel, circulated a report and made a statement on the progress of the Health Panel. He referred in particular to the responses of other agencies and the Government in relation to requests for the establishment of a general hospital in Bracknell Forest.

Minute 218 [Planning & Transportation Committee]

The Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee, Councillor Mrs Ballin stated that at the Council meeting on 21 July in answering a series of questions she had given some information which contained certain inaccuracies. She corrected that information and apologised for misleading the Council on these matters and asked the Council to accept that this had not been intentional.

Minute 223 (i) Question Submitted under Standing Order 11 to Councillor North, the Nominated Representative of the Thames Valley Police Authority

In response to a question from Councillor Mills, Councillor North gave information on the latest position in relation to the funding of the Police service, which arose from the anticipated £1.5 billion budget shortfall nationally because of the implementation of the Public Safety Radio Communications Project. He undertook to report further information to the Council in due course.

367. Mayor's Announcements

Engagements

The Mayor's list of engagements for the period 21 July to 17 November 1999 was circulated to Members of the Council for information.

Mayor's Charity 1999/2000

The Mayor announced that the Mayor's Charity Committee had been meeting monthly and so far over £8,500 had been raised for the Mayor's Charity, the Lewis Marsh Fund. The Mayor expressed the wish that forthcoming fundraising events would be supported, including the Mayor's Charity Gala Concert to be held on Sunday 12 March 2000.

368. Direct Services Board

The report of the meeting of the Direct Services Board held on 15 September 1999 was submitted.

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

369. Leisure Services Committee

The report of the meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on 21 September 1999 was submitted.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor North, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the report be received and the recommendation contained therein be adopted.

370. Public & Environmental Services Committee

The report of the meeting of the Public & Environmental Services Committee held on 12 October 1999 was submitted.

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

371. **Social Services & Housing Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Social Services & Housing Committee held on 13 October 1999 was submitted.

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

372. **Strategy & Policy Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 14 October 1999 was submitted.

In relation to Minute 297 (The Edge Programme – Preferred Supplier) the following appointments to the Edge Card Sub Committee were reported and confirmed: Councillors Bayle, Beadsley, Bettison, Good, Mrs Keene, North, Mrs Pile, Thompson and Ward (Substitute Members: Councillors Barnard, Finnie, McCormack and Wheaton).

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

373. **Planning & Transportation Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Planning & Transportation Committee held on 14 October 1999 was submitted.

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

374. **Education Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 19 October 1999 was submitted. The Chairman responded to questions thereon.

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

375. **Strategy & Policy Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 3 November 1999 was submitted.

In relation to Minute 350 (Voluntary Sector Development) the following appointments to the Voluntary Sector Compact Steering Group were reported and confirmed: Councillors Bayle, Finnie and Thompson.

In relation to Minute 351 (Best Value), the following appointments to the Best Value Focus Group were reported and confirmed: Councillors Barnard, Beadsley, Mrs Keene, Mills and North

In relation to Minute 354 (Bank Tendering), the following appointments to the Banking Services Tender Assessment Sub Committee were reported and confirmed: Councillors Egan, Fawcett, Ryan, Wade and Ward (Substitute Members: Councillors Beadsley, Blatchford, North and Wheaton)

In relation to Minute 357 (Establishment of a Standards Committee), the following nominations were made: Councillors Bailey, Finnie, Thompson and Wheaton (Substitute Members: Councillors Flood and Mrs Shillcock)

In relation to Minute 358 (Regional Cultural Consortium – Member Nomination), the following nomination to the Regional Cultural Consortium was made: Councillor Ward

The Chairman responded to questions on the report.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor Birch, that the report be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

376. Calculation of Council Tax Base – 2000/2001 (Item 6.1)

The Council received a report pursuant to Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which required the Council to approve the calculation of the Council Tax Base in accordance with the Local Authorities Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations and subsequent amendments.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the report of the Borough Finance Officer for the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the year 2000/2001 be approved; and
- (ii) pursuant to the Borough Finance Officer's report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by Bracknell Forest Council as its Council Tax Base and for each Parish for the year 2000/2001 be as follows:

Binfield	3,200
Bracknell	17,230
Crowthorne	2,390
Sandhurst	7,780
Warfield	4,120
Winkfield	6,310
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Bracknell Forest	41,030

377. Local Government Housing Act 1989: Allocation of Seats and Appointments to Committees (Item 6.2)

Prior to the consideration of a report by the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services on the allocation of seats on Committees and main Sub Committees arising from the resignation of Councillor Mrs Doyle from the Conservative Group on 19 July 1999, Councillor Bettison made a statement to the Council. Following this statement Councillor Mrs Doyle stated that she would be rescinding her resignation from the Conservative Group.

RESOLVED that no action be taken in relation to the report and the status quo be maintained in relation to the number of Councillors on each service committee and the allocations to the Groups.

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

Motion 4/99

Motion 4/99 as set out in the agenda for the meeting was moved by Councillor McCormack and seconded by Councillor Ryan. An amendment was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Mills, the effect of which was to insert “:(a)” after “Government to” and delete “.” after “index” and add “, and in addition to give greater publicity to benefits and allowances available to pensioners with revised application forms that are easier to understand and complete; and (b) restore to full value the pensions that our elderly have earned and so richly deserve”.

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

On being put to the meeting Motion 4/99, incorporating the alterations set out above, was put to the meeting and declared carried. It was therefore

RESOLVED that the less disadvantaged pensioners of Bracknell Forest are not fully sharing in the opportunities arising from this country’s successful and buoyant economy. The Council therefore urges the Government to:

- (a) respond to the needs of pensioners and implement an increase in the state pension to a level that responds to the need as opposed to a limiting index, and in addition to give greater publicity to benefits and allowances available to pensioners with revised application forms that are easier to understand and complete; and
- (b) restore to full value the pensions that our elderly have earned and so richly deserve.

Motion 5/99

Motion 5/99 was moved by Councillor Good and seconded by Councillor Taylor. In accordance with Standing Order 8 (iv) the Mayor indicated that the motion would stand referred to the Strategy & Policy Committee for consideration.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.07pm.

MAYOR