

COUNCIL
28 FEBRUARY 2001

Present: Councillors Adams, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Beadsley, Mrs Birch, Blatchford, Mis Brown, Browne, Edger, Egan, Flood, Glasson, Grayson, Harrison, Miss Hayden, Mrs Hayes, Ms Henfrey, Jones, Kendall, McCormack, McCracken, Mrs Mattick, Miles, North, Piasecki, Mrs Pile, Mrs Ryder, Sargeant, Mrs Shillcock, Simonds, Thompson, Turrell, Wade, Wallace, Ward, Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Mrs Clifford and Finnie

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR BARRY EGAN, IN THE CHAIR

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

489. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22 November 2000 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

490. Mayor's Announcements

Annual Civic Reception

The Mayor informed the Council that the Annual Civic Reception would be held on Friday 6 April 2001 at Easthampstead Park Mansion.

Mayor's Charity Golf Day

A golf day in aid of the Mayor's charities had been arranged for Friday 27 April 2001 at Downshire Golf Club.

Daisy's Dream Recipe Book

The Mayor circulated a letter from Councillor D Tomlin, Chairman of Wokingham District Council, which invited contributions to a book of recipes which was being prepared in support of Daisy's Dream, a Twyford based charity supporting bereaved children and their families.

Bracknell Rugby Club

The Mayor was pleased to announce that Bracknell Rugby Club was now at the top of National Division Two with very good prospects of being promoted to the First Division next season.

Mayor's Engagements

A list of the engagements undertaken by the Mayor on behalf of the Council since the last meeting had been circulated to all Members.

491. **Public Participation at Meetings**

- (i) The Council received a statement by Mr A Radgick of Broad Lane, Bracknell on the subject of traffic in Broad Lane.

Mr Radgick expressed concern about road safety conditions in Broad Lane and in particular the excessive speed of traffic and the potential danger this presented for pedestrians.

Following questions, the statement was noted.

- (ii) The Council received a submission by Mr R Earwicker submitted on behalf of Bracknell Liberal Democrats:

"To register a protest at the outrageous increases in Councillors' pay, the cuts in services and the inflation busting increases in Council Tax".

Following questions, the submission was noted.

- (iii) The Council received the following questions submitted by Mr D R Good of Staverton Close, Bracknell:

(a) Questions to Chairman of Social Services and Housing Committee:

1. *"How many residents of the Borough are at present on the Borough Council housing waiting list?"*
2. *"What numbers of those residents on the housing waiting list are families with children under five years of age?"*
3. *"What target has the Council set, to reduce the waiting list year on year until 2005?"*

Reply by Councillor Barnard

The Chairman of the Social Services and Housing Committee reported that there were currently 1,260 residents on the Borough Council's housing waiting list and of these 175 were families with children. He was not able to specify how many of these families had children under five years of age without reference to the files. Regarding measures to reduce the housing waiting list, the Chairman referred to the success of the Council's transfer incentive scheme which had so far resulted in eighteen premises being made available where elderly tenants had transferred to more appropriate accommodation. The scheme had been an outstanding success. The Council would continue to work towards its target by encouraging high quality, affordable housing schemes.

(b) Questions to Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee:

1. *"Between the period of May 1979 and May 1995 when both National Government and the Borough Council were controlled by the Conservative Party. How many houses were built in the Bracknell area?"*

2. *“What is the anticipated level of additional traffic, which would be imposed on local roads if they were to build 700 houses on the RAF Staff College site as put forward by the inspector’s recommendations?”*
3. *“What were the anticipated additional levels of traffic, which would have been imposed on local roads by the Town Centre re-development plans? As put forward by the Conservative Controlled Council together with Legal and General.”*

Reply by Councillor Mrs Ballin

The Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee advised that 13,302 houses were built in the Bracknell area between May 1979 and May 1995.

The additional levels of traffic which would result if 700 houses were built on the RAF Staff College site had been calculated on the basis that the site was close to the Town’s rail and bus stations. The figures for the morning peak hour anticipated 420 additional car trips, the majority of which would be outward bound.

The Town Centre redevelopment plans had been based on a partnership agreement signed by the Labour Leader during a brief Labour administration of the Borough Council. The size of the proposed regeneration would enable exceptional commitment to investment in public transport, resulting in a relatively low increase in traffic. Development would be accompanied by junction improvements to compensate for the effects of increase traffic. The principle applied to the highway works was that congestion should be no worse with the development than it would be without it. The overall effect demonstrated at the Public enquiry was that local people would travel into Bracknell rather than to towns such as Reading. Whilst there would be a significant increase in the numbers visiting the Town Centre, and thus traffic on those roads closest to the Centre, less overall mileage would be travelled.

(c) Questions to Chairman of Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. *“How many residents in the following wards voted in the Borough Council Consultation leaflet headed “whose in charge around here” – Garth, Priestwood, Bullbrook, Harmanswater and Wildridings?”*
2. *“The previous director of social services, Trevor Farmer, was given early retirement in light of a damning report from the National Joint Review on the Social Services Department. Is it not time for the Chairman of the Social Services Committee to be given early retirement or is it one rule for directors of departments and another for the Chairman of Social Services Committee?”*
3. *“The Leader of the Council is quoted as saying “I have saved the Council £3.5 million a year for the next 10 years, I think they are getting me for incredibly good value”. How much have the other 39 Councillors saved the Council or are they surplus to requirements?”*

Reply by Councillor Bettison

The Chairman of the Strategy and Policy Committee advised that responses to the consultation leaflet in the wards listed had been as follows:

Garth	78
Priestwood	80
Bullbrook	172
Harmans Water	207
Wildridings	63

The level of response in these wards had been very close to the overall average response rate.

Regarding the Joint Review of Social Services, Councillor Bettison paid tribute to the Chairman of the Social Services and Housing Committee and all Members of the Committee who were working hard, with the assistance of the Department's excellent staff, to deliver the Action Plan prepared in response to the Joint Review report.

The Chairman responded to Mr Good's third question in appropriate terms.

492. **Strategy and Policy Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee held 20 December 2000 was submitted.

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

493. **Public and Environmental Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Public and Environmental Services Committee held on 23 January 2001 was submitted.

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

494. **Leisure Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on 24 January 2001 was submitted.

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

495. **Planning and Transportation Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee held on 25 January 2001 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.

496. **Education Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 30 January 2001 were submitted and Chairman responded to questions thereon.

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

497. **Social Services and Housing Committee – 1 February 2001**

The report of the meeting of the Social Services and Housing Committee held on 1 February 2001 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.

498. **Social Services and Housing Committee – 7 February 2001**

The report of the meeting of the Social Services and Housing Committee held on 7 February 2001 was submitted.

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

499. **Social Services and Housing Committee – 15 February 2001**

The report of the meeting of the Social Services and Housing Committee held on 15 February 2001 was submitted.

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

500. **Strategy and Policy Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Strategy and Policy Committee held on 15 February 2001 was submitted with the exception of Minutes 473, 480 and 485.

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

501. **Strategy and Policy Committee Minute 473 – Member's Allowances Advisory Sub Committee**

The Council received the report of the Strategy and Policy Committee on the minutes of the meeting of the Member's Allowances Advisory Sub Committee held on 11 January 2001. The recommendation of the Sub Committee was moved by Councillor Bettison and seconded by Councillor Birch. Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Barnard, then moved an amendment as set out below. On being put to the meeting the amendment was declared carried and upon the substantive Motion being put to the meeting it was

RESOLVED that

- (i) having considered the views of the two independent panels, the scheme of allowances for the year commencing 1 April 2001 be amended on the following basis:
- a) The payment of attendance allowance in respect of approved duties be discontinued and that the following allowances be the maximum claimable by members from 1 April 2001
 - b) A basic allowance of £7,000 per annum paid to all members
 - c) Annual Special Responsibility Allowances be adjusted as follows:

OFFICE	Special Responsibility Allowance (including Basic Allowance) £
Leader of the Council	27,500
Chairman of Main Committees	20,000
Deputy Leader of the Council	13,000
Chairman of Principal Sub Committees	8,750
Vice Chairmen of Main Committees	8,000
Vice Chairmen of Principal Sub Committees	8,000
Chairmen of other Sub Committees	7,500
Leader of the Opposition	20,000
Deputy Leader of the Opposition	8,000
Designated Champions	7,500
Principal Opposition Spokesperson on main Committees	7,500

- d) Members not wishing to claim the maximum indicated above be permitted to do so by informing the Director of Corporate Services prior to 1 April as to the amount they wish to claim or before the first of any subsequent month if they wish to change further.
- (ii) the revised scheme be adopted as set out in Appendix A to the Minutes of the Members' Allowances Advisory Sub Committee, subject to the addition to the schedule of:

“Vice Chairman Management and Resources Sub Committee - £8000.”

502. Financial Plans and Revenue Budget 2001/02

The Council considered a detailed report by the Director of Corporate Services with a draft budget for the year 2001/02 which included the recommendations of the Strategy and Policy Committee held on 15 February 2001, as set out in Minute 480.

The Leader of the Council moved adoption of the recommendations set out in the report of the Director of Corporate Services. An amendment was then moved by Councillor McCormack, seconded by Councillor Beadsley to replace paragraph 3.1 of the Council Tax Resolution with the following words:

“that the recommendations of the Strategy and Policy Committee outlined in paragraph 2 be agreed, except for recommendations (vi), (ix) and (x) which should be replaced with:

- (vi) each Committee’s proposed economies and additional income included within Annexes D and E of the report be agreed, together with the additional economy arising from the Form 7 Pupil Count outlined in paragraph 7.1 of the report, with the exception of the following which should be rejected;

Education

Education Library Service (0.014m)
Museum Loan Service (0.002m)

Leisure Services

Holiday Play Scheme (£0.020m)
South Hill Park grant (£0.020m)
Sports Development in Schools (£0.017m)
Countryside Parks and Open Spaces (0.050m)

Public and Environmental Services

Environmental Management Costs (£0.060m)

- (ix) the total expenditure of £88.516m be agreed
- (x) a contribution of £0.194m be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure”

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 9.10 pm and reconvened at 9.15 pm.

The amendment was put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, declared lost. The original motion was then put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, declared carried. It was therefore:

RESOLVED that

- (i) the recommendations of the Strategy and Policy Committee set out in Minute 480 be agreed.
- (ii) it be noted that at its meeting on 22 November 2000 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2001/02 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- a) 41,040 **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 EACH PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA**

EACH PARISH AREA

Binfield	3,180
Bracknell	17,260
Crowthorne	2,380
Sandhurst	7,780
Warfield	4,140
Winkfield	6,300

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) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2001/02 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) £158,967,419 **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) £68,741,000 **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) £2,281,046 **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) £87,945,373 **BOROUGH AND PARISH EXPENDITURE TO BE FINANCED FROM GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND COUNCIL TAX**

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

(e) £57,927,557 **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) £115,000 **COUNCIL TAX/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) £734.23 **AVERAGE BAND "D" COUNCIL TAX FOR WHOLE BOROUGH**

being the amount at (iii)(d) above less the amount at (iii)(e) plus the amount at (iii)(f) above, all divided by the amount at (ii)(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) £1,736,419 **PARISH PRECEPTS**

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

(i) £691.92 **BOROUGH COUNCIL TAX FOR BAND "D" PROPERTIES**

being the amount at (iii)(g) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iii)(h) above by the amount at (ii)(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	724.50
Bracknell	740.93
Crowthorne	731.84
Sandhurst	742.53
Warfield	707.62
Winkfield	728.92

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (iii)(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 (ii)(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	483.00	563.50	644.00	724.50	885.50	1,046.50	1,207.50	1,449.00
Bracknell	493.95	576.28	658.60	740.93	905.58	1,070.23	1,234.88	1,481.86
Crowthorne	487.89	569.21	650.52	731.84	894.47	1,057.10	1,219.73	1,463.68
Sandhurst	495.02	577.52	660.03	742.53	907.54	1,072.54	1,237.55	1,485.06
Warfield	471.75	550.37	629.00	707.62	864.87	1,022.12	1,179.37	1,415.24
Winkfield	485.95	566.94	647.93	728.92	890.90	1,052.88	1,214.87	1,457.84

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (iii)(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 2001/02 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	42.99	50.16	57.32	64.49	78.82	93.15	107.48	128.98

- (v) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iii)(k) and (iv) 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 2001/02 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

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

Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Binfield	525.99	613.66	701.32	788.99	964.32	1,139.65	1,314.98	1,577.98
Bracknell	536.94	626.44	715.92	805.42	984.40	1,163.38	1,342.36	1,610.84
Crowthorne	530.88	619.37	707.84	796.33	973.29	1,150.25	1,327.21	1,592.66
Sandhurst	538.01	627.68	717.35	807.02	986.36	1,165.69	1,345.03	1,614.04
Warfield	514.74	600.53	686.32	772.11	943.69	1,115.27	1,286.85	1,544.22
Winkfield	528.94	617.10	705.25	793.41	969.72	1,146.03	1,322.35	1,586.82

- (vi) (i) 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 2001 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");
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) 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%.

503. Health Panel

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 the work of the Health Panel during the period since the previous Council Meeting.

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

(i) Motion 1/2001

Motion 1/2001, as set out in the agenda for the meeting, was moved by Councillor Worrall and seconded by Councillor Mrs Ballin. In moving the motion, Councillor Worrall requested and received the consent of the Council to amend his motion by the addition of the following words.

“The Director of Planning and Transportation be requested to produce a report on the implications both legal and practical of a policy for Bracknell Forest Borough Council to refuse applications for mobile telecommunications installations on Council land.”

Councillor Beadsley, seconded by Councillor Jones then moved an amendment which had the effect of adding to the second paragraph after the words “letter should also request”, the words:

“ a) that Local Planning Authorities be empowered to require the operators of mobile phone transmitting masts to agree a programme of independent monitoring of the emissions from their installations and that the results of such monitoring be lodged with the Planning Authority for public scrutiny.

b)”

Councillor Worrall accepted the amendment and the substantive motion was put to the vote and declared carried. It was therefore

RESOLVED that

(i) This Council is aware of the public concerns regarding possible risks to health caused by the radio frequency radiation emitted from mobile phone transmitting masts. It therefore calls upon the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions, requesting that some of the proceeds from the sale of third generation phone licenses be urgently invested in further detailed studies into the perceived threat to health.

(ii) This action is required in order to allay fears that have not been satisfied by the Stewart Report, which suggests that more research should be undertaken.

(iii) The letter should also request that

(a) Local Planning Authorities be empowered to require the operators of mobile phone transmitting masts to agree a programme of independent monitoring of the emissions from their installations and that the results of such monitoring be lodged with the Planning Authority for public scrutiny;

(b) the Government proceed with urgency the review of permitted development planning rights for the installation of Telecommunications Apparatus and the publication of updated Planning Guidance.

(iv) The Director of Planning & Transportation be requested to produce a report on the implications both legal and practical of a policy for Bracknell Forest Borough Council to refuse planning applications for mobile telecommunications installations on Council land.

(ii) Motion 2/2001

Motion 2/2001, as set out in the agenda for the meeting was moved by Councillor Mills and seconded by Councillor Mrs Ballin. On being put to the meeting, and the vote being taken, Motion 2/2001 was declared carried and it was therefore

RESOLVED that this Council views with concern the Government's Planning Policy Guidance for car parking in all future housing developments in England and believes it to be inadequate and hence unworkable. In particular the planning policy guidance does not recognise the needs of the average car owner.

As a result this council urges the Government to take action to:-

1. reconsider its guidance to reflect the reality of the number of cars per household more accurately.
2. address the genuine concerns that owners have for safeguarding their valuable vehicles.
3. avoid overcrowded residential roads used for parking and hence maintain the quality and harmony of life for residents.

protect our living and visual environment from the detrimental impact of cars parked on green or other non designated spaces.

(iii) Motion 3/2001

Motion 3/2001, as set out in the agenda for the meeting was moved by Councillor Barnard and seconded by Councillor Mills. On being put to the meeting and a vote being taken, the motion was declared carried and it was

RESOLVED that this Council shares the concerns of MP's of all parties that the Community Health Councils (CHC's), the current Patients' champions, should be strengthened and not abolished.

Furthermore, the Government's ill-conceived proposals for representing our rights within the NHS will lead to an ineffective voice for patients.

This Council instructs the Chief Executive to convey these views in writing to the appropriate Government Departments.

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm
and concluded at 10.35 pm.

MAYOR