

COUNCIL
30 JULY 2002
(7.30 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.)

Present: Councillors Adams, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Blatchford, Ms Brown, Browne, Edger, Finnie, Glasson, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Henfrey, Jones, McCormack, Mrs Mattick, Mills, North, Piasecki, Sargeant, Mrs Shillcock, Simonds, Thompson, Turrell, Wade, Wallace, Ward and Worrell

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Egan, Fawcett, Flood, Grayson, Kendall, McCracken, Mrs Pile and Mrs Ryder

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MRS HAYES, IN THE CHAIR

33. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 June 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

34. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Barnard declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 (Executive Report) as a governor of Garth Hill School.

35. Mayor's Announcements

(i) Mayor's charity

The Mayor's charity for 2002/2003 would be the Paul Bevan Hospice, Kings Ride, Ascot.

(ii) Open Air Memorial Service at the Cemetery and Crematorium

Members were reminded that the open air memorial service would be held at Bracknell Cemetery and Crematorium on Sunday 1 September 2002.

(iii) Environment Fair

The Golden Jubilee Environment Fair was to be held at South Hill Park, Bracknell, on Sunday 22 September 2002.

(iv) Civic Service

Members were invited to attend the annual civic service to be held at the Chapel, Wellington College, Crowthorne on Sunday 29 September 2002.

(v) Staff Achievements

The Mayor was very pleased to announce two recent accolades awarded to members of staff:

Mary Temperton, Science teacher at Easthampstead Park School, had been named by the Teacher Award Trust as Best Teacher in the south east region, for the school community category. She would now go forward to the national finals on 27 October, which would be televised.

Cecilia Cheale, secretary of Sandy Lane Primary school, had won the Best School Secretary of the Year Award in a national competition run by the Primary Times Magazine. She had been nominated by the pupils.

The Mayor had written to both members of staff on behalf of the Council to congratulate them on their achievements.

(vi) Bracknell Town Centre Floral Display

The Mayor commented on the very attractive display of bedding plants and hanging baskets around Bracknell town centre. Local landowners and businesses had contributed significantly to the cost, representing a true partnership approach in the town centre. The mayor particularly thanked the staff from the Council's nursery for their outstanding contribution to the floral displays.

36. Executive Report

The Leader of the Council reported on the main activities of the Executive since the meeting on 26 June 2002. The Executive had met on two occasions during July and a summary of the business transacted was set out in the report. Particular attention was drawn to the following topics.

The Community Plan had been approved in a revised form for further consultation over the summer period. The results of consultation would be considered in the Autumn.

Two main items of business during July were presented to the Council as separate items on the agenda:

- Town Centre Master Plan
- Housing Strategy and HRA Business Plan

The on-site inspection by the Comprehensive Performance Assessment team had taken place from 15 – 26 July. The inspection team's draft report would be available to the Council for discussion from 8 August 2002. An informal feed-back session had been held and the Leader highlighted the key points raised by the inspection team. The assessment had recognised effective work and excellent services and made a number of positive suggestions for the Council to learn from in the future. The final assessment was due to be published in December, combining judgements on corporate and individual service performance.

The Leader and relevant Executive Members responded to questions on the Executive Report.

37. Budget and Policy Framework

The Director of Social Services & Housing, together with the Executive Member for Social & Healthcare Services & Housing, presented the draft Housing Strategy and Housing Revenue Account Business Plan for consideration and answered questions thereon.

On a request for a named vote to be recorded, the voting on the motion was as follows:-

For (32) Councillors Adams, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Blatchford, Ms Brown, Browne, Edger, Finnie, Glasson, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Henfrey, Jones, McCormack, Mrs Mattick, Mills, North, Piasecki, Sargeant, Mrs Shillcock, Simonds, Thompson, Turrell, Wade, Wallace, Ward and Worrall

Against (0)

It was therefore

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Barnard, seconded by Councillor Bettison, that the Housing Strategy 2002-2008 and the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2002-2003 be adopted.

38. Bracknell Town Centre Master Plan

The Chief Executive reported on the Draft Master Plan for the redevelopment of Bracknell Town Centre and proposals to progress the project.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor Birch, that

- (i) the Bracknell Town Centre Master Plan be approved as supplementary planning guidance (SPG).
- (ii) the proposed way forward on the Bracknell Town Centre project be approved as set out in Appendix I of the Master Plan document.
- (iii) the Executive Member for Planning & Transportation be authorised to agree minor amendments to the Master Plan prior to its launch in September 2002.

39. Supplementary Capital Approval – Easthampstead Park Conference Centre

RESOLVED that a supplementary capital approval of up to £300,000 be approved to refurbish the Whitfield building at Easthampstead Park Conference Centre.

40. **Question Submitted under Procedure Rule 10.2**

Notice had been given of the following question by Councillor Beadsley to the Executive Member for Leisure Services:-

“As Sandhurst Town Council is having difficulty delivering the land to build a young persons’ advice and guidance centre in Sandhurst, what is the Borough Council’s present position on this project?”.

In the absence of Councillor McCracken, the Leader advised that the Council had been informed by Sandhurst Town Council that, following public consultation, it would not lease to the Borough Council the land on the Sandhurst Memorial Park on which it had been intended to construct the young people’s information, advice and youth facility. Consequently, the project known as “Sandhurst Solutions” was now at an end. The money previously earmarked for the project would now be re-absorbed into Council funds to be made available for new projects.

MAYOR