

COUNCIL
23 JULY 2003
(7.30 pm – 8.55 pm)

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Pile), Councillors Adams, Baily, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Mrs Barnard, Beadsley, Mrs Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Browne, Brunel-Walker, Dudley, Earwicker, Edger, Finch, Finnie, Grayson, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Jones, McCracken, McLean, Mihell, Mills, North, Osborne, Packham, Piasecki, Mrs Shillcock, Thomas, Thompson, Turrell, Wade, Ward and Worrall.

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Kendall, Leake, Mrs Ryder and Sargeant.

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting, Members and others present joined the Mayor in observing one minute's silence in memory of Mrs Margaret Wreglesworth, who had passed away recently.

Following the tribute to Mrs Margaret Wreglesworth, Revd C Blundell of St Paul's Church, Harmans Water, opened the proceedings with prayers.

28. Minutes (Item 2)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 June 2003 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

29. Declarations of Interest (Item 3)

Councillor Thomas declared a personal interest in item 6 (Policy & Budget Framework: Youth Justice Plan – Business Plan 2003/04) by virtue as his role as a serving magistrate.

With the exception of the above declaration and the declarations made at Minute 31 below, there were no other declarations of interest made at the meeting.

30. Mayor's Announcements (Item 4)

Urgent Item of Business: Consultation by the Electoral Commission

The Mayor announced that she had authorised the consideration of an urgent item of business by the Council. A report had been circulated to Members on 18 July and proposed action in response to a consultation by the Electoral Commission on electoral cycles. In view of the deadline set by the Electoral Commission for responses to the consultation, the Mayor stated that these were sufficient grounds for the consideration of the matter as an urgent item. *[This item was considered as item 9 on the agenda – See Minute 35 below.]*

Margaret Wreglesworth

The Mayor announced that the funeral of Mrs Margaret Wreglesworth would take place on Tuesday 29 July at St Michael's Church, Easthampstead. The Mayor referred to Margaret's service as Deputy Mayoress in 1990/91, her service as a Bracknell Town Councillor and as an active member of the local community. She stated that she had written on behalf of the Council to Mr Bill Wreglesworth to express the Council's condolences.

Annual Civic Service

The Mayor reminded members that the Annual Civic Service would be held at Holy Trinity Church, Bracknell, on Sunday 14 September 2003 at 2.30 pm followed by afternoon tea at the Grange Hotel.

Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance

The Mayor invited Members to attend the Annual Open Air Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance at Easthampstead Cemetery and Crematorium on Sunday 7 September at 3.00 pm.

Former Councillor Barry Egan

The Mayor thanked all those who had attended Barry Egan's funeral on 26 June. The Mayor stated that she had been honoured in representing the Council at Easthampstead Crematorium.

Mayor's Charity Co-ordinator

The Mayor announced that Mrs Isabel Mattick would be acting as the Mayor's Charity Co-ordinator and reminded Members that her charity was Guiding and Scouting in Bracknell Forest. Mrs Mattick would be contacting each Member of the Council about how they could become involved.

Director of Leisure Services: Vincent Paliczka

On the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor McCracken congratulated the Council's Director of Leisure Services, Vincent Paliczka on his appointment as the Vice Chair of the Chief Leisure Officers' Association.

Lottery Heritage Fund: Award of Grant - Heritage Online

On the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor McCracken announced that the Heritage Lottery Fund had awarded the Council £50,000 in relation to an online heritage project linked to the Council's aim of increasing the sense of place and local identity.

31. Executive Report

The Leader of the Council presented the Executive Report to the Council. Since the last Executive Report to the Council on 25 June 2003, the Executive had met once on 15 July 2003. At that meeting the Executive had considered one policy framework item which had been referred to the Council for adoption (see *Minute 32 below*) and had made decisions in relation to the following matters:

- Best Value Review of Services for Older People: Improvement Plan and Executive Summary
- “Supporting People” Charging Policy
- Eastern Gateway Planning Brief
- Social Cohesion Strategy - Position Statement
- Corporate Asset Management Plan
- Capital Programme Outturn 2002/2003
- Provisional Outturn Revenue Expenditure 2002/2003
- Commitment Budget 2004/2005 – 2006/2007
- A New Chief Executive’s Office

Of the decisions made, the Leader of the Council highlighted the Eastern Gateway Planning Brief and the Best Value Review of Services to Older People. In relation to the former, the Leader stated that there were two key objectives for the brief: managing economic development and its effects; and increasing “integration, linkages in permeability”. Reference was also made to the proposed mixed uses of employment and housing in the site and the scope for a hospital.

In relation to the Best Value Review of Service to Older People, the Leader referred to the twelve recommendations and 24 actions which had been identified in the review. This included a review of housing policies, with the aim of maximising support to them and thus increase their independence.

The Leader of the Council responded with questions on the Executive report. One of the questions in relation to the Best Value Review of Services to Older People referred to the provision of occupational therapists. Arising from this reference, Councillors Birch and Mrs Birch declared a personal interest.

32. Youth Justice Plan – Business Plan 2003/2004 (Item 6)

The adoption of the Youth Justice Plan – Business Plan 2003/2004 was moved by Councillor Barnard and seconded by Councillor McCracken. On being put to the meeting, the motion was declared carried. It was thus

RESOLVED that the Youth Justice Plan – Business Plan 2003/2004 be adopted.

33. **Appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee (Item 7)**

A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Corporate Services which invited the Council to re-appoint two independent persons to serve on the Council's Standards Committee.

On the proposition of Councillor Birch, seconded by Councillor Jones, it was

RESOLVED that Mr David Briggs and Reverend David Osborne continue in their appointment as independent members of the Council's Standards Committee.

34. **Appointment to an External Organisation: Local Government Association's Rural Commission (Item 8)**

The Acting Director of Corporate Services submitted a report which invited the Council to appoint a second member to serve on the Local Government Association's Rural Commission.

On the proposition of Councillor Birch, seconded by Councillor Barnard, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mills be appointed to serve as the Council's second representative on the Local Government Association's Rural Commission.

35. **The Cycle of Local Government Elections in England: A Consultation Document (Urgent Item of Business)**

This item had been submitted to the Council as an urgent item of business authorised by the Mayor [*See Minute 30 above*]. The Council was invited to reconstitute its Parliamentary Boundaries Review Committee as the Electoral Review Committee, in order to respond to a consultation from the Electoral Commission on electoral cycles.

On the proposition of Councillor Birch, seconded by Councillor Barnard, it was

RESOLVED that the Parliamentary Boundaries Committee be reconstituted as the Electoral Review Committee to consider the Electoral Commission's consultation document on election cycles in England and to present its recommendations to the Council prior to submission to the Commission.

THE MAYOR