

COUNCIL
23 JUNE 2004
(7.30 pm – 9.50 pm)

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Browne), Councillors Adams, Baily, Mrs Ballin, Mrs Barnard, Barnard, Mrs Beadsley, Beadsley, Bettison, Mrs Birch, Birch, Brunel-Walker, Dudley, Earwicker, Finnie, Grayson, Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Jones, Leake, McCracken, McLean, Mihell, Mills, North, Osborne, Piasecki, Mrs Ryder, Sargeant, Mrs Shillcock, Thomas, Thompson, Turrell, Wade, Ward and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Edger, Finch, Miss Haydon, Kendall, Packham and Mrs Pile

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting, Members and others present joined the Mayor in observing one minute's silence in memory of former Councillor Mrs Barbara Hirst; Julie Quinn, a teacher at Meadowvale Primary School; Gail Hyde, a teacher at Crowthorne Primary School; David Bennett, Senior Planning Officer; and Jean Hackett, who had worked at Heathlands for 29 years; all of whom had passed away recently.

Following the tribute, Reverend Guy Cole opened the proceedings with prayers.

16. Minutes (Item 2)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 April 2004 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

17. Declarations of Interest (Item 3)

No member of the Council declared any personal or prejudicial interest in any item of business on the agenda for the meeting.

18. Mayor's Announcements (Item 4)

Councillor Mrs Pile – Immediate Past Mayor's Badge

The Mayor announced that he would make arrangements for the presentation of the Immediate Past Mayor's badge to Councillor Mrs Pile.

Councillor Mrs Hayes – Past Mayor's Badge

The Mayor presented to Councillor Mrs Hayes the Past Mayor's Badge and the Mayoral photograph, which would be displayed outside the Council Chamber.

Mayor's Charity Co-ordinator

The Mayor announced that Councillor Mrs Hayes would be his Charity Co-ordinator for the year. The Mayor expressed his desire to assist his charity, The Ark, in the acquisition of permanent premises in the Borough.

Annual Civic Service

The Annual Civic Service would be held at St Michael's Church, Easthampstead, on Sunday 12 September.

Samantha Hunt

On the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Ward informed the Council regarding the success of a Bracknell Forest teacher, Samantha Hunt, who had won a two week scholarship to attend a Holocaust Conference in Israel.

Art Plus Development Award

On the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor McCracken announced the success of the Borough Council in securing funding from the Arts Council and the South East England Development Agency, as part of an initiative to develop ideas for art work in public places. Bracknell Forest Borough Council was one of five successful organisations from over 135 applicants.

Withdrawn Item

The Mayor announced that Item 13 [Membership of the Health, Social Care and Housing Scrutiny Panel] had been withdrawn.

19. Presentation by Thames Valley Police (Item 5)

The Mayor welcomed the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, Peter Neyroud, and Chief Superintendent Adrian Becks, Area Commander, who gave a presentation on the Three Year Strategy of the Thames Valley Police Force.

Chief Constable Neyroud highlighted the vision for service provision by the year 2006. This would include more purposeful police patrols; more community engagement regarding local priorities; greater detection of crime; and the Police being more easily accessible via telephone or in person.

Following the presentation, questions were raised on the following topics:

- the basis for the 2004/2005 Thames Valley Police financial settlement and its impact on the level of Council Tax locally;
- the emerging Thames Valley Police financial settlement for 2005/2006;
- the Richard Inquiry into Child Protection Procedures in the Humberside Police and the Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the need for a national database to assist child protection procedures;
- the level of Police resources in the Borough and local authority input into policing;

- anti-social behaviour and means of engaging young people;
- the fear of crime, particularly among the elderly;
- vehicle speeding enforcement by the Thames Valley Police and the impact of speed enforcement on road casualties; and
- accessibility by the public and public confidence in the call handling methods.

On behalf of the Council, Councillor North expressed his thanks to Thames Valley Police for their attendance at the meeting.

20. **Executive Report (Item 7)**

The Leader of the Council presented the Executive Report to the Council together with a supplement which had been circulated as a separate enclosure. Since the last meeting of the Council, the Executive had met on 18 May and 15 June and had taken decisions on the following matters:

- Medium Term Objectives and Service Plan Key Actions;
- Corporate Community Cohesion Strategy;
- ICT Strategy;
- Development Plan for Adult Learning;
- Amen Corner Local Plan Alteration;
- Western Road Planning Brief;
- Best Value Review of Services to Vulnerable Children;
- Disposal of Land at Brakenhale School; and
- Corporate Performance Overview Report.

The Leader also highlighted the launch of the Community Cohesion Strategy as a key element in the delivery of the Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment Improvement Plan. Reference was also made to the proposed alteration of the Local Plan for Amen Corner which would be considered by the Public Scrutiny Commission on 1 July 2004; and the procurement process for the "RE3" Central Berkshire Waste PFI Project, which was ongoing.

The Leader of the Council and Executive Members then responded to questions on the reports.

21. **Three Year Development Plan for Adult Learning 2004/2007 (Item 7)**

The adoption of the Adult Learning Plan 2004/2007 was moved by Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor Barnard. On being put to the meeting, the motion was declared carried. It was thus

RESOLVED that the Three Year Development Plan for Adult Learning 2004/2007 be adopted.

22. Report of the Pensioners' Champion (Item 8)

The Pensioners' Champion, Councillor Thompson, presented his report to the Council, which detailed the key tasks and activities undertaken in the last year. These activities included the involvement of the Champion in various organisations and groups; and his varied work in the promotion of the interests of pensioners. The report also detailed planned activities for the future, including the 'Voice of Experience' conference, due to be held on 12 November 2004.

Councillor Thompson responded to questions on his report, following which he was congratulated by the Council for his report and work as the Pensioners' Champion.

23. Report of the Constitution Review Group: Executive Membership and Portfolios (Item 9A)

The Council considered a report from the Constitution Review Group, which proposed amendments to the Constitution to enable the Leader of the Council, throughout the year, to vary the composition of the Executive and the portfolios allocated to individual Executive Members. On the proposition of Councillor Wade, seconded by Councillor Barnard, it was

RESOLVED that Article 7 of the Council's Constitution be amended, as set out in Paragraph 4.5 of the report.

24. Report of the Constitution Review Group: Revised Contract Regulations (Item 9B)

The Council was invited in a report by the Constitution Review Group to adopt revised contract regulations and to approve ancillary arrangements. On the proposition of Councillor Wade, seconded by Councillor Mills, it was

RESOLVED that

- (i) the contract regulations (as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Constitution Review Group), based on a merging of the best elements of the Council's existing regulations and the model form published by the Local Government Association and Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, be adopted, as part of the Council's Constitution;
- (ii) the Procurement Manual (when completed) be implemented as an essential supplement to the new Contract Regulations, with its provisions regarded as mandatory (where so stated), in the same way as the Financial Management Handbook supported the Financial Regulations;
- (iii) the new Contract Regulations and the Procurement Manual be launched, as soon as possible; and

- (iv) whilst revisions to the Contract Regulations would be subject to approval by the Council, the Procurement Manual would remain under the control of the Head of Procurement, in consultation with the Strategic Procurement Group, subject to any revisions to mandatory requirements being endorsed in principle by Corporate Management Team.

25. **Olympics 2012: Swinley Forest (Item 10)**

The Council was requested to express its support for the London bid for the 2012 Olympic Games on the basis that Swinley Forest had been proposed as the venue for the mountain biking event. On the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor Birch, it was

RESOLVED that the Council express its support for the 2012 London Olympic Games bid.

26. **Submission of Planning Applications on behalf of the Council (Item 11)**

The Council was invited to amend its scheme of delegation to officers (Part 3 of the Constitution) to enable the Director of Corporate Services and Resources and the Head of Strategy and Partnerships to submit planning applications on behalf of the Council. On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Ballin, seconded by Councillor Mills, it was

RESOLVED that the scheme of delegation to officers [Part 3 of the Council's Constitution] be amended by:

- (a) deleting from the delegations to the Director of Environment and Leisure the authority to submit planning applications on behalf of the Council; and
- (b) delegating authority to the Director of Corporate Services and Resources and the Head of Strategy and Partnerships to submit planning applications on behalf of the Council.

27. **Appointment of Voluntary Sector Champion (Item 12)**

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

RESOLVED that in accordance with Article 10 of the Constitution, Councillor Mrs Ryder be appointed as the Council's Voluntary Sector Champion for the current municipal year.

28. **Question Submitted Under Council Procedure 10 (Item 14)**

Question by Councillor Beadsley to the Executive Member for Leisure Services.

“When the current agreement with Slough Borough Council to provide mobile and home library services for Bracknell Forest residents expires in March 2005, will it be renewed and if not will the services be cut?”

Councillor McCracken in response stated that given the contract was due to expire on 31 March 2005, it was appropriate to explore the options for the most effective and localised mobile library service provision. There were ongoing discussions and negotiations in this regard. A final decision on future provision was expected in the autumn of 2004.

THE MAYOR