

COUNCIL
2 MARCH 2005
(7.30 pm – 9.30 pm)

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

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillor Finnie, Grayson, Osborne and Ward

The Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Guy Cole, opened the proceedings with prayers.

62. Minutes (Item 2)

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 January 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, subject to:

(i) Minute No.60/2005

that line 3 to paragraph 2 be amended to end "between the hours of 18.00 and 08.00."

Arising on Minute No 57, Councillor Barnard, at the request of Councillor Mrs Shillcock, confirmed that the 'zero' figure for families in bed and breakfast accommodation referred to the number of families staying in such accommodation beyond the Government's six week target, not to the actual numbers placed in bed and breakfast during the period. Those figures were reported regularly through Quarterly Operations Reports.

63. Declarations of Interest (Item 3)

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

64. Mayor's Announcements (Item 4)

Mayor's Charity – Recent Fundraising Events

The Mayor announced the following events held, and funds raised in support of his Charity over recent weeks, including:

- Choral Society - £700
- "Enterprise Two" - £200
- Waitrose Store, Birch Hill - £800

- During a service at the Kerith Centre, the Bracknell Family Church presented the Mayor with a cheque for £4,720.
- The Charity Pancake Race raised a total of £368.36 to be split between the Mayor's Charity and the Tsunami Appeal.

Charity Fun Race Evening

The Mayor invited Members to attend the Charity Fun Race Evening at Farley Wood Centre, Turnpike Road, Binfield on Saturday 19 March. He advised Members that tickets were now available from Councillor Mrs Ryder at £7.50 each, and that the cost of the ticket included a fish & chip supper.

Charity Golf Day

The Mayor invited Members to come along and participate in the Charity Golf Day at Mill Ride Golf Club, Ascot on Thursday 7 April. He hoped to see a good number of entrants for this enjoyable event.

Charter Mark Award

The Mayor was pleased to announce the award of a third Charter Mark to Wildridings Primary School. He stated that the School had developed and progressed well over recent years. He extended his congratulations to the School's Head Teacher and all those associated in securing this prestigious award.

Immediate Past Mayor's Charity

The Mayor was pleased to be able to announce, on behalf of the Immediate Past Mayor, the position of her Charity Fund for the previous municipal year, which was in aid of Guiding and Scouting in Bracknell Forest. He stated that over £19,000 had been collected, giving a very impressive net sum of £16,352.12, which had now been shared equally between the two representative groups. At the Mayor's invitation, the Immediate Past Mayor, Councillor Mrs Pile addressed the Council.

65. Executive Report (Item 5)

The Leader of the Council presented the Executive Report to the Council. Since the last meeting of the Council, the Executive had met on 25 January and 15 February 2005 and had reached decisions at that meeting in respect of the following matters:

- i. Housing Revenue Account and Housing Improvement Programme 2005/2006
- ii. Capital Programme 2005/2006 – 2007/2008
- iii. General Fund Revenue Budget 2005/2006
- iv. Corporate Performance Assessment – Draft Improvement Plan
- v. Best Value Reviews in respect of Community Safety, Community Leadership and Corporate Emergency Response

The Leader of the Council and Executive Members then responded to questions arising from the report.

66. **Budget and Policy Framework (Item 6)**

The Council considered the report by the Director of Corporate Services and Resources which set out the financial plans and revenue budgets for the financial year 2005/2006, together with *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2005/2006*.

An amended Council Tax Resolution had been tabled for consideration. The Mayor advised Members that the amended Council Tax Resolution reflected late guidance received from the Government relating to the claw-back of grant as a result of errors in the population data for Westminster and Manchester and that the Resolution was purely a technical change and had no impact on the Council Tax or any other locally determined decision.

The report highlighted that references to Annexes in the recommendations at Section 2 to the Report, corresponded to those in the relevant summary report in the supporting information.

The revised recommendations in paragraphs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the report of the Director of Corporate Services and Resources were moved by Councillor Bettison and seconded by Councillor Birch.

RESOLVED that, subject to the last entry recorded under Section B (Concessionary Fares) in respect of “Streetcare”, as detailed at page 64 to Annex B(iii) therein, being amended to read “twelve month full-fare bus pass for over 75’s.”

1. Housing Revenue Account 2005/2006

- (i) the Housing Revenue Account Budget for 2005/2006, as set out at Annex C to the report, be approved;
- (ii) garage rents and charges in respect of car ports, site rents at Easthampstead Mobile Home Park and parking spaces be increased by 4.1% (being 28 pence per week for garages and 14 pence per week for car ports and parking spaces);
- (iii) rents on dwellings increase by an average of 4.1%, in line with the Government’s guidelines on rent restructuring;
- (iv) electricity charges at sheltered schemes be increased in line with inflation; and
- (v) housing related Supporting People charges increase in line with the 2005/2006 grant inflation rate.

2. Capital Programme 2005/2006 to 2007/2008

- (i) Capital funding of £8.877m for 2005/2006, in respect of new schemes listed in Annexes A to D to the report, plus a Capital grant of £45,000 to South Hill Park, to be funded from revenue savings, as agreed by the Executive on 25 January 2005, be approved;
- (ii) Housing Revenue Account Capital funding of £3.865m for 2005/2006, in respect of those schemes listed in Annex E to the report, be approved;

- (iii) those schemes attracting external grant funding, be approved for inclusion, at the level of funding received, within the 2005/2006 Capital Programme;
- (iv) the release of £1.532m from funds contributed under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, to fund Capital Schemes, outlined in paragraph 5.17 to the report submitted to the Executive on 15 February 2005 and incorporated in Annexes A to D of the summary report to Council, be approved;
- (v) those schemes which required external funding only proceeding once the Council was certain of receiving the Grant, and;
- (vi) the indicative Capital Programme for 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 be reviewed in light of resources available and spending priorities in December 2005.

3. Revenue Budget 2005/2006

- (i) the revised draft budget proposals, as set out at Annexe C to the report, be approved;
- (ii) the new budget proposals, as identified at Section 7.4 to the *Financial Plans and Budgets – Supporting Information 2005/2006*, be approved
- (iii) the 2005/2006 Treasury Management Annual Strategy Document, as set out at Annexe D to the report, be approved, and the Prudential Indicators noted;
- (iv) fees and charges, as set out at Annexe B to the report, and a provision for inflation of £2.205m, be approved;
- (v) a contingency of £0.4m, be approved;
- (vi) total expenditure of £107.394m, be approved;
- (vii) a contribution of £0.550m be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;
- (viii) the Council's total requirement for the Collection Fund, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set as £36.429m; and
- (ix) the Council Tax for the Council's Services for each Valuation Band be set as follows:

| Band | Tax Level Relative to Band D | £ |
|------|------------------------------|----------|
| A | 6/9 | 583.80 |
| B | 7/9 | 681.10 |
| C | 8/9 | 778.40 |
| D | 9/9 | 875.70 |
| E | 11/9 | 1,070.30 |

| | | |
|---|------|----------|
| F | 13/9 | 1,264.90 |
| G | 15/9 | 1,459.50 |
| H | 18/9 | 1,751.40 |

4. Council Tax Resolution

- (i) it be noted that, at its meeting held on 1 December 2004, the Council had calculated the following amounts for the year 2005/2006, in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(a) **£41,600 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 Part of the Council's Area**

Each Parish Area

| | |
|------------|--------|
| Binfield | 3,210 |
| Bracknell | 17,420 |
| Crowthorne | 2,420 |
| Sandhurst | 7,820 |
| Warfield | 4,340 |
| Winkfield | 6,390 |

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;

- (ii) the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2005/06, in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £212,626,238 **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) to the Act;

- (b) £102,866,900 **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) to the Act;

- (c) £549,524 **Decrease 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) to the Act;

- (d) £109,209,814 **Borough and Parish Expenditure to be Financed from Government Grants and Council Tax**

being the amount by which the aggregate at 3.3(a) to the amended Council Tax Resolution exceeded the aggregate at 3.3(b) and 3.3(c), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) to the Act, as its budget requirement for the year;

- (e) £70,696,628 **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 relevant special grants;

- (f) £40,000 **Council Tax**

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) to the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Deficit).

- (g) £926.76 **Average Band 'D' Council Tax for Whole Borough**

being the amount at 3.3(d) to the amended Council Tax Resolution, less the amount at 3.3(e), plus the amount at 3.3(f), all divided by the amount at 3.2(a), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) to the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;

- (h) £2,124,066 **Parish Precepts**

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

- (i) £875.70 **Borough Council Tax for Band "D" Properties**

being the amount at 3.3(g) to the amended Council Tax Resolution, less the result given by dividing the amount at 3.3(h), by the amount at 3.2(a), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) to 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) Part of the Council's Area **Borough and Parish Council Tax for Each Parish for Band "D"**

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Binfield | £910.29 |
| Bracknell | £931.09 |
| Crowthorne | £933.55 |
| Sandhurst | £938.00 |
| Warfield | £902.75 |
| Winkfield | £923.20 |

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3.3(i) to the amended Council Tax Resolution, 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 3.2(b), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) to 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) Part of the Council's Area **Borough and Parish Council Tax in each Parish for each Valuation Band**

| Parish | A £ | B £ | C £ | D £ | E £ | F £ | G £ | H £ |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Binfield | 606.86 | 708.00 | 809.15 | 910.29 | 1,112.58 | 1,314.86 | 1,517.15 | 1,820.58 |
| Bracknell | 620.73 | 724.18 | 827.64 | 931.09 | 1,138.00 | 1,344.91 | 1,551.82 | 1,862.18 |
| Crowthorne | 622.37 | 726.09 | 829.82 | 933.55 | 1,141.01 | 1,348.46 | 1,555.92 | 1,867.10 |
| Sandhurst | 625.33 | 729.56 | 833.78 | 938.00 | 1,146.44 | 1,354.89 | 1,563.33 | 1,876.00 |
| Warfield | 601.83 | 702.14 | 802.44 | 902.75 | 1,103.36 | 1,303.97 | 1,504.58 | 1,805.50 |
| Winkfield | 615.47 | 718.04 | 820.62 | 923.20 | 1,128.36 | 1,333.51 | 1,538.67 | 1,846.40 |

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3.3(j) to the amended Council Tax Resolution, by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) to 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) to the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(iii) it be noted that, for the year 2005/06, the Thames Valley Police Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 to 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 | £84.19 | £98.22 | £112.25 | £126.28 | £154.34 | £182.40 | £210.47 | £252.56 |

- (iv) it be noted that, for the year 2005/06, the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Royal Berkshire Fire Authority | £30.77 | £35.90 | £41.03 | £46.16 | £56.42 | £66.68 | £76.93 | £92.32 |

- (v) having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.3(k), 3.4 and 3.5 to the amended Council Tax Resolution, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2005/06, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Part of the Council's **Total Council Tax for Each Valuation Band**
area

| Parish | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Binfield | 721.82 | 842.12 | 962.43 | 1,082.73 | 1,323.34 | 1,563.94 | 1,804.55 | 2,165.46 |
| Bracknell | 735.69 | 858.30 | 980.92 | 1,103.53 | 1,348.76 | 1,593.99 | 1,839.22 | 2,207.06 |
| Crowthorne | 737.33 | 860.21 | 983.10 | 1,105.99 | 1,351.77 | 1,597.54 | 1,843.32 | 2,211.98 |
| Sandhurst | 740.29 | 863.68 | 987.06 | 1,110.44 | 1,357.20 | 1,603.97 | 1,850.73 | 2,220.88 |
| Warfield | 716.79 | 836.26 | 955.72 | 1,075.19 | 1,314.12 | 1,553.05 | 1,791.98 | 2,150.38 |
| Winkfield | 730.43 | 852.16 | 973.90 | 1,095.64 | 1,339.12 | 1,582.59 | 1,826.07 | 2,191.28 |

- (vii) the Prudential indicators under the Prudential Code for Capital Finance for Local Authorities, as set out at Annexe A to the report at Item 6 to the Council Agenda, be approved.

67. **Appointment Committee – Director of Children’s Services**

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking the establishment of an Appointment Committee to select a Director of Children’s Services following the creation of Bracknell Forest Borough Council’s Children’s Services Department with effect from 1 May 2005.

RESOLVED that

- (i) in accordance with Part 4.8 of the Council's Constitution (Officer Employment Procedure Rules), the appointment of a Director of Children's Services be made from the Council's existing staff; and
- (ii) a committee of seven Members (6:1 – with up to two Substitute Members per Group), be established to interview the selected candidates and make a final appointment to the post of Director of Children's Services.

68. Appointment Committee – Assistant Director (Community Care) (Item 8)

The Director of Corporate Services and Resources submitted a report seeking the establishment of an Appointment Committee to select an Assistant Director (Community Care) following the resignation of the previous post holder.

RESOLVED that a Committee of the Council of four Members (3:1), including at least one Member of the Executive (plus up to two substitute members per Group), be appointed on the nomination of the Group Leaders, with the following terms of reference:

“To interview and appoint, on behalf of the Council, to the post of Assistant Director (Community Care).”

69. Annual Report by the Champion for Vulnerable Children and Young People – “Every Child Matters” Corporate Parenting Group (Item 9)

The Vulnerable Children and Young People's Champion, Councillor Miss Haydon, presented her report to the Council which detailed some of the areas of work which had already been undertaken by Bracknell Forest Borough Council, including, recognising birthdays and Christmas for young people with Members contributing to presents; provision of IT and computers for all the looked after children; securing work placements for care leavers; provision of free access to sports facilities and the establishment of a helpline for children and young people. The report also gave details on issues recently considered by the Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Corporate Parenting Group, events organised by Bracknell Forest Borough Council and other areas of work for which the Champion had responsibility for, including her participation on the Adoption and Fostering Panels, the Dialogue Group and other areas of involvement, all of which were of great importance to the development of the children and young people of Bracknell Forest.

Councillor Miss Haydon responded to questions on her report, following which, she was congratulated by the Council for her report and work as the Vulnerable Children and Young People's Champion.

MAYOR