

AT A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2007 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors C S Billingham (Vice Chairman), C J Blunden, K D Bonner-Dunham, K Dixon, D Dunham, J R Hawkins, T D Hayward, D M Shaw, W B Stimpson and P H Stocker

Apologies: The Worshipful the Town Mayor (Councillor P J Broomfield)
Councillor C O Cartmell (Chairman)

In Attendance: Councillor P Joyce

286. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Non prejudicial interests declared by Councillors Billingham, Blunden, Dixon, Hayward, Stimpson and Stocker in item a) of the report in respect of the applications submitted from the various organisations and Councillor Bonner-Dunham in matters concerning Brackley Vision and Brackley Community Association.

287. HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL BUDGET COMPARISON AND ESTIMATES FOR PRECEPT 2008/09

Details of the budget Meeting held on 30th October were contained in the Report.

Discussion ensued on some of the donations granted to the various organisations. Councillor Bonner-Dunham commented that these organisations should not expect the money every year and Councillor Stimpson said he understood why the donations had to be reviewed on an annual basis. Councillor Stocker commented that he thought the budget meeting was to be just discussion and that no decisions would be made. He said he found the decisions to refuse some of the groups totally unacceptable. Councillor Billingham said that a decision had been made at the previous Committee Meeting to refuse several of the organisations.

Members were asked to consider advertising in Town Talk to help with costings. Councillor Bonner-Dunham said she felt very strongly that this publication should not be filled with advertising. Councillor Stimpson felt it would be acceptable for the back page only to be used for this purpose. Members questioned who would be responsible for selling the advertising. After much discussion it was agreed to defer the matter of advertising for one year. It was agreed that a laptop be purchased for the use of the Town Clerk only. After much discussion it was

RESOLVED:

To accept the suggested donations and recommendations as listed in the Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That a Precept figure of £281,064.00 be recommended to Council

288. PAYMENT OF UTILITIES BY DIRECT DEBIT

Members were asked to approve direct debit payment for energy, telephones and water. Approval was also sought for the provision of telephone services to be transferred to Utility Warehouse, which would give the Town Council considerable savings on this expenditure. If this was successful, consideration would then be given to switching the electricity and gas to this provider. It was

RESOLVED:

That direct debit payments be set up for energy, telephones and water.

That mobile telephones be purchased from Utility Warehouse and all telephone provision to be transferred to this company.

To transfer the Electricity and Gas services to Utility Warehouse if telephones are successful.

289. MEMBERS REPORTS

a) Brackley Vision

Councillor Bonner-Dunham reported that the meeting scheduled for November had been deferred so no report had been submitted.

Members were reminded that a meeting was to take place at South Northamptonshire Council on Thursday 22nd November 2007 between 6 to 8 pm to discuss the Town Centre Partnerships. The Town Mayor, Councillors Dixon, Billingham and Bonner-Dunham would be in attendance. Apologies were given by Councillors Blunden and Shaw. Councillors Hawkins, Hayward and Dunham had a prior meeting but would try to attend for part of the meeting at SNC.

b) JAG Meeting

A report from the Town Mayor had been circulated prior to the Meeting

c) NALC AGM

A report had been submitted by Councillor Joyce and circulated prior to the Meeting

d) 300 year celebration

A report had been submitted by Councillor Joyce and circulated prior to the Meeting Councillor Stimpson said he had taken photographs at the Friday event and these would be circulated. Councillor Hayward said that the display and information available had been very interesting and well received by all those attending. The second cake was cut after the Remembrance Service. Councillor Billingham said the Parade had gone exceptionally well and all fifteen Councillors had been present. She felt that all those who had been involved in the organisation should be congratulated.

289. MEMBERS REPORTS Cont'd.....

e) Brackley Town Strategy

A report was submitted by Councillor Hawkins and this was circulated at the Meeting. He said he had been disappointed with the response and was concerned that nothing would happen. The situation needed work to drive it forward and regular contact with groups and residents. Councillor Billingham commented that if all replies had been received she felt the outcome would have been the same but she hoped something would be achieved from the venture.

She thanked Councillor Hawkins and the other Councillors for their reports.

290. FINANCE REPORTS

i) Lists of Accounts 7B

Lists of Accounts 8B had been circulated with the Agenda.

RESOLVED:

a) That List of Accounts 8B in the sum of £32,402.58 be approved and passed for payment.

ii) Income Report had been forwarded to the Vice Chairman

291. INFORMATION REPORT

An Information Report was attached to the Agenda which covered the following items:

a) Brackley Community Association - Councillor Stocker commented on the amount of £50-100K for the Skatepark. Councillor Stimpson commented on the spelling of **Magdalen** in the Minutes.

b) National Health Service – Letter inviting stakeholders to a workshop in December.

c) Letters Received – Letter of thanks regarding the 300 year celebration event held on Friday 9th November 2007.

292. HIGHWAYS REPRESENTATIVE

Notification had been received from Mr John Bailey, Highways Representative, that he was unable to attend the AGM in Northampton in December. It was suggested that Mr Colin Wills be asked if he could attend.

293. POLICE ATTENDANCE

Members were advised that Inspector Hitchon would attend the Meeting on 21st January 2008 at 6 pm. Members noted.

294. NALC

Notification had been received that there were places available on the 'Flying Start' course to be held on 21st November 2007. Anyone wishing to attend was asked to advise the office. Members noted.

295. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from this Meeting during the discussion on matters relating to Staff Matters and payment of accounts as publicity would be prejudicial to the public by nature of the business to be transacted.

296. STAFF APPOINTMENT

Members agreement was sought to appoint Mr P Stephenson to a permanent contract on a full time basis. It was

RESOLVED:

That Mr Stephenson be offered a permanent contract for full time employment at the salary stated in the Report with effect from December 2007.

297. NATIONAL SALARY AWARDS

Members approval was sought for the payment of the revised salary scales which came into effect on 1st April 2007, which gave an increase of 2.475% to all staff.

Information had been received on the four profiles for Town and Parish Clerks. Members were asked to consider re-grading the positions of the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk in the light of the size of the parish/town and that NALC and SLCC be appointed to assess and make recommendations to the Town Council. Members asked that more information be made available on the profiles and the implications for the next Committee Meeting.

CONTINUATION OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY
COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL,
TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2007 at 7.30 pm

298. ROGER COY PARTNERSHIP

Copy of a letter from Roger Coy Partnership was attached to the Agenda. Members approval was sought for the payment of the account relating to the recent feasibility work undertaken to date. It was

RESOLVED:

That the payment be made.

Meeting closed at 8.33 pm

Chairman