

MEETING OF THE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES & GENERAL PURPOSES
COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL,
TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 19th JULY 2010 at 7 pm

Present: The Worshipful the Town Mayor (Councillor Chris Blunden)
Councillors, K D Bonner-Dunham, P J Broomfield, T D Hayward,
P Joyce, G Rhys, L D Ross (Chairman), P H Stocker and P M Titchener.

Apologies: Councillors W B Stimpson and K Dixon

In attendance: Councillors C S Billingham, C Cartmell and D Dunham

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

132. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

133. POWERLINE CLEARANCE

Members were informed about Eon's proposal to remove the trees immediately below the power cables near Falcon Way houses and a map was provided to illustrate the areas. Eon felt that the tree work was essential in order to establish statutory clearances to maintain safety and security of supply as well as protect the public from gaining accidental access to the power lines from the trees.

Cllr Broomfield and Cllr Bonner-Dunham were totally opposed the removal of the trees and Cllr Joyce asked why the developer didn't give consideration to the power lines at the time of the development. Cllr Titchener suggested that it would have been better for the powerlines to have been placed underground both visually and as an amenity. Cllr Ross advised that only certain voltage types can be placed underground.

Cllr Titchener said that the area would be desecrated in five minutes and this proposal needs looking at again.

Cllr Bonner-Dunham proposed that an independent specialist undertakes a survey this was seconded by Cllr Joyce who also stated that the trees should be replanted. Cllr Cartmell advised the Clerk that the wayleave agreement should be looked at and also to consult the Town Council's Health & Safety consultant.

Cllr Billingham also advised that the Town Council's wish to retain the trees should be countered with the public safety requirements and the work could be staved off but may have to be undertaken since the trees are on Town Council's land and it could be our responsibility in the long term.

RESOLVED:

An independent specialist undertakes a site survey; and a site meeting is held with the Chairman, Town Clerk, Council's H&S consultant and Eon representative.

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134. INFORMATION REPORT

None

135. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported that there was a large amount of offensive graffiti on the hoarding for the development off Halse Road and he had been speaking to the Town Clerk in the office during the day and she had informed him that it was on private land and therefore it was for the owner to take action. Cllr Hayward said that the hording had been repainted before. Cllr Cartmell suggested the use of anti graffiti paint and Cllr Broomfield suggested that the builders on site should be asked to remove the graffiti. It was also noted that there was blue spray on the wall of Candleford Close and Cllr Dunham had noticed some at Keble Road. It was also noted that many Highways signs also had graffiti on them.

136. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from this Meeting during discussion on matters relating to Brackley Park, the Pocket Park and Tenders for the Sound System as publicity would be prejudicial to the public by nature of the business to be transacted.

137. THE NATIONAL TRUST – BRACKLEY PARK

The Town Council had requested details from the National Trust regarding the costings and condition of the old fire station but Mrs Walker felt that she is not in a position to advise the Town Council at present since she needs to go through the dilapidations negotiations with Northants County Council.

It is known that South Northants Council had requested a meeting with the National Trust concerning the future of the fire station which was to be held on the 15th July and to also include the Town Mayor. Unfortunately SNC didn't attend the meeting and it is still not known as to what form SNC's interest is in the building. The National Trust is anxious to ensure that the building is fully occupied within the shortest possible time span. Mrs Walker has stated that the County Council have agreed to replace the roof, remove the partitions and repaint the inside of the building.

RESOLVED:

To await further information from the National Trust.

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138. POCKET PARK

Reference Minute 588/10, Members were updated with the current situation and it was

RESOLVED:

The Town Clerk write again to Mr & Mrs Rush to state that the Town Council appreciates his letter but declines this offer and gives him a further 30 days to complete the removal of the soil.

139. TENDERS FOR SOUND SYSTEM

The tender document for works to the current public address system in the Town Hall was issued to four companies. One company declined to quote and just two others replied.

Bicester Electronics (£4177) recommended the re-use of the present equipment to save costs. They propose to use an automatic system which eliminates the need of a 'press to talk' feature for which the Chairman would have an interruption switch. An extra feature would also be a 'cough button' for privacy

The company 360^o Creative Event Services £7725 also intends to use the current amp, loop system and cabling and supply the 8 mic system which includes a 'push to talk' switch one chairman's and 7 delegates and controller, 3 radio mics.

Members considered the two tenders, payment of which would have to be taken from the Town Council's reserves.

Cllr Rhys was loath to spend the money when other money was needed to be spent on the Town Hall. Cllr Joyce stated that the weakest point to the system was when the tables needed moving. Cllr Titchener felt that there was a need for a microphone and questioned was it a legal requirement? Cllr Broomfield was also loath to spend the money and suggested that Members should face the public when speaking.

Cllr Cartmell advised that several members of the public have complained and one resident had even offered £100 towards the cost of the improvements. The present system has not worked satisfactorily for some time and perhaps more people would attend the meetings if they could hear clearly.

Cllr Joyce agreed that it is difficult to hear some councillors but felt that members' should speak louder. Cllr Bonner-Dunham noted that during the present discussion Member's speech was louder. Cllr Rhys suggested that the seating should be re-arranged.

Cllr Titchener advised that the country was entering a rocky financial time and to spend the money now was perhaps unwise. Cllr Broomfield proposed and Cllr Joyce second

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139. TENDERS FOR SOUND SYSTEM Cont'd...

RESOLVED:

That the information lay on the table for the time being and no further action be taken at the present time. The tables should be rearranged for the next meeting.

Cllr Stocker stated that there was still a need for a sound system. Members were currently speaking up and could be clearly heard only during this present discussion.

Meeting closed at 7.55 pm

Chairman