

AT A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY  
TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON  
MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007 at 7.08 pm

---

Present: The Deputy Town Mayor (Councillor K Dixon)  
Councillors C S Billingham, C J Blunden, K D Bonner-Dunham,  
C O Cartmell, D Dunham, T D Hayward, D M Shaw and W B Stimpson,

Apologies: The Worshipful the Town Mayor (Councillor P J Broomfield)

In attendance: Councillor G Rhys

### **85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **86. HEALTH AND SAFETY CONSULTANT**

Reference Minute 68/07 Members were advised that a decision had been made to appoint Mr Wharton of The Executive Edge as the Town Council's consultant for the forthcoming year. The first visit had been arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

### **87. COUNCILLOR ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS**

In Minute 76/07 Members asked that this matter be referred to Committee for further discussion.

Councillor Bonner-Dunham that she was happy that reasons for absence were recorded in an attendance register. Councillor Billingham did not agree as she felt Members took their responsibilities seriously and may not always wish to disclose reasons for absence. The only time this may be necessary was for absences which continued for six months or more and the Council's permission was required to extend a period of absence.

Both Councillors Dunham and Hayward said that they had been advised at a recent NALC course that Members needed to accept the reasons for absence at Meetings. Councillor Stimpson said he was astounded with this advice from NALC and questioned this. He felt it was adequate that Members signed the attendance register and gave apologies to the Office by telephone if they were unable to attend.

After much discussion it was

### **RESOLVED**

That Members sign the attendance register at each Meeting and the reasons for absence, where given, be recorded in this and not published in the Minutes.

CONTINUATION OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY MEETING  
OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL,  
BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007 at 7.08 pm

---

**87. COUNCILLORS ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS Cont'd.....**

Councillor Billingham asked what would happen if a Member refused to give a reason for absence. It was agreed that this would have to be accepted.

**88. TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY**

Members were advised that three applications had been received so far for the vacancy on the East Ward. All the applicants had been invited to give a presentation at the Council Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

Councillor Blunden suggested that the successful candidate be asked to sign the Acceptance of Office immediately to enable them to take part in any following Meetings.

**89. MEMBERS REPORT – COUNCILLOR CARTMELL**

A report on a recent NCC Parish Council Conference, which Councillor Cartmell attended, had been circulated to Members.

The main point from the meeting appeared to be that County Councillors had been allocated £10,000 to spend in ‘their areas’ and Councillor Cartmell questioned whether the Town Council should be submitting an application for a community based project for a share of this money. Councillor Stimpson suggested requesting a contribution towards a skatepark. Councillor Blunden suggested a contribution towards the play equipment in the Park as this project was well under way and the cost known.

The Town Clerk advised that she had received an email from County Council for suggested projects which had to be completed before the end of the month and it was unclear whether this was connected with the money allocated to County Councillors. Members again commented on the limited timescale allowed and said that it was totally unrealistic to expect responses within such a short period. Members asked that an extension until July be requested. Councillor Billingham suggested that Councillors Grant and Sawbridge be contacted to clarify the situation.

It was

**RESOLVED:**

That the Chairman and Town Clerk be authorised to make the decision on the project to be put forward.

CONTINUATION OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007 at 7.08 pm

---

**90. FINANCE REPORTS**

a) Lists of Accounts 3B

Lists of Accounts 3B had been circulated with the Agenda. It was

**RESOLVED:**

That List of Accounts 3B in the sum of £6,794.68 be approved and passed for payment.

b) Income Report given to Chairman

c) A copy of the End of year NALC Audit Report 2006/07 was attached to the Agenda. Members noted.

**91. BRACKLEY COTTAGE HOSPITAL**

The Chairman welcomed Mr David Brookhouse to the Meeting. Mr Brookhouse gave a brief resume of the work undertaken over several months by the Hospital Trust and the major problems they had encountered during this time. After a lot of hard work and determination, funding had been obtained for the second half of this year and the first quarter of next year.

He then went on to say that there was very little happening about the new Hospital as there had been some difficulties regarding loss of paperwork and an indication had been given that the whole process may have to start again.

Councillor Stimpson said that Mr Brookhouse deserved a vote of thanks for his sterling work. The Chairman thanked him for coming along to the Meeting and said if there was anything the Town Council could do to help, to make contact. Councillor Billingham commented that if the number of man hours given by volunteers were added up it would be interesting to see how much this would have added to the NHS budget.

**92. CRIME AND DISORDER**

Members were advised that Mr Peter Kaye would be attending the Town Hall on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 4 pm.

**93. QUALITY COUNCILS**

Members were advised that Mr Danny Moody from NALC would be available to speak to Members about Quality Councils on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2007 at 6 pm. Members noted.

CONTINUATION OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007 at 7.08 pm

-----

#### **94. DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES COMMITTEE**

Because the Direct Responsibilities Committee had to be postponed because there was not a quorum, it was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007 after the Planning and General Works Committee. The Chairman and Town Clerk would decide on the urgency of the items to be discussed and a relevant Agenda would be drawn up.

#### **95. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was

##### **RESOLVED:**

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

#### **96. PLAY EQUIPMENT – BRACKLEY PARK**

Reference Minute 47/07, following a recommendation from the Direct Responsibilities Committee that Sutcliffe Play Ltd (Playground Services) be selected to design, supply and construct the new equipment for Brackley, Members were asked if they wished to recommend to Council the purchase of this equipment.

After discussion it was

##### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:**

That the purchase of the play equipment proceed on the condition that £77,000 comes from reserves and the remainder be loaned from reserves to be recouped from the precept, £6,000 annually for a maximum of ten years.

Meeting closed at 8.32 pm

Chairman