

MEETING OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 15TH MARCH 2010 at 7.22 pm

Present: Councillors C J Blunden, K D Bonner-Dunham, C O Cartmell, D Dunham, T D Hayward, L Ross, W B Stimpson and P H Stocker (Chairman)

Apologies: The Worshipful the Town Mayor (Councillor Caryl Billingham)
Councillor D Shaw

In attendance: Councillors P J Broomfield, K Dixon and P Joyce

532. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

533. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

534. TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

A list of training courses was attached to the Agenda. Any Members wishing to attend were asked to advise the office. Members noted.

535. NCALC AUDITORS REPORT

Reference Minute 487/09 details of a matter raised by the auditor regarding the amendment to a standing order were outlined in the report. Members agreement to recommend the amendment to Council was requested. It was

RECOMMENDED:

That Standing Order 57 be amended to read 2007 and this be Recommended to Council

536. ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

A request was made for the Mayor and three Chairmen to write an article to be included in the Annual Report.

537. INFORMATION COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Members approval was sought to pay a fee of £35 by direct debit to the ICO to register as a data controller. An information security policy is also required.

It was

RESOLVED:

That the direct debit payment to the ICO and the provision of an Information security policy be approved.

538. ANNIVERSARY OF GRANTING OF BOROUGH STATUS

Councillor Blunden advised that arrangements were progressing well. It was intended that the event would run from approximately 11 am to 3 pm and various entertainment would be happening throughout the event.

539. FINANCE REPORTS

List of Accounts

List of Accounts 12B had been circulated with the Agenda. It was

RESOLVED:

That List of Accounts 12B in the sum of £15,946.51 be approved and passed for payment.

Income report – received by Chairman

540. INFORMATION REPORT

a) South Northants Council

b) New Healthcare Complex

Councillor Stimpson expressed concern about the recent news regarding the proposed rail line which would come very close to the new health complex. Comment was made that this was the first plan and only affected part of the site. It was also pointed out that this would affect the Master Plan and it was understood that South Northamptonshire Council had taken the matter up with the Transport Minister. Councillor Dunham felt that the matter should be discussed at the Planning Committee where it could be looked at in more detail. Councillor Stimpson said that he did not join in discussions at the Planning Committee because of his involvement at District Council so he would prefer the matter to be discussed at the Council meeting.

Councillor Blunden said that he had had a meeting with Jean Morgan and Adrian Colwell and as far as the Master Plan was concerned, WYG have been asked to come up with a plan A and plan B. The priority at the moment is to look for an alternative site for the healthcare complex because they are very much aware that there is a deadline for the Cottage Hospital and a meeting is being held next week to look at another site. Liaison is also taking place with the PCT. Comment was made that a general election in 2/3 months time could mean a different route. Jean Morgan had agreed to send to the office some of the paperwork which is available and this can be passed to Councillors. She also said that either she or Adrian Colwell would be happy to attend a meeting of this Council

Councillor Joyce advised that he had been in discussion with some members of NATCRAG. Councillor Dunham advised that there is to be a public consultation starting in August 2010. Councillor Blunden commented that SNC are aware that it will have to be a joint approach with Warwickshire and Buckinghamshire. He said that Jean Morgan had been involved with HS1 and the 18 points that Kent County Council put forward had been replicated and used for this proposal.

540. INFORMATION REPORT Cont'd.....

Councillor Joyce said that the Council must push for the Cottage Hospital to be built. Councillor Hayward said "that a lot of people have put in a great deal of their time and effort and a site would be found". She asked that this be recognised that the project had come so far.

Councillors Bonner-Dunham and Cartmell agreed that there was no point in discussing the healthcare complex at the Council meeting until more information was available and it was then suggested that Jean Morgan and/or Adrian Colwell be invited to attend at 6 pm prior to the Council meeting on 12th April 2010.

After much discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That Jean Morgan and/or Adrian Colwell be invited to update Members at 6 pm on Monday 12th April 2010 prior to the Council meeting.

That the papers forwarded by Jean Morgan be emailed to Members.

- c) Community Panel Meeting – 24th March 2010 at 7 pm in the Methodist Church
- d) Northamptonshire County Council

541. RADSTONE FIELDS

A invitation had been received from Engage Planning about a public exhibition to be held on 18th March 2010 at The Crown Hotel, Brackley about the Radstone Fields development. Members noted.

542. FOOD BANK

A letter had been received from Reverend Tuck thanking the Town Council for its support for the provision of a Food Bank in the town. Members noted.

543. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from this Meeting during discussion on matters relating to staffing, Town Partnership and improvements to the Town Hall as publicity would be prejudicial to the public by nature of the business to be transacted.

544. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOWN HALL

Members were informed that a Fire Risk assessment for 2010 had been carried out by Mr A Leather of Fire Risk Pro and a list of his recommendations was detailed in a report attached to the Agenda. Members were advised that several of the points had already been dealt with and it was important that the remainder be actioned. Mr Leather was in attendance at the meeting to answer Members queries and he outlined the two key items which needed addressing. After discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That a specification be drawn up and quotations sought from three companies for the provision of an alarm system.

That an evac-chair be purchased.

That these items be financed from reserves.

Members were also asked to approve the purchase of 100 chairs as there were a number in the lower hall which needed replacement or repair. It was

RESOLVED:

That 100 Grosvenor chairs be purchased at a cost of £1,795.00.

545. TOWN COUNCIL HANDBOOK FOR STAFF

Further to Minute 499/10 Members were asked to approve the adoption of the above handbook which had been compiled by the Society of Local Councils Clerks HR advisor. A copy had been emailed to the Members of this Committee. It was

RESOLVED:

That the adoption of the Town Council handbook for staff be approved.

546. TOWN PARTNERSHIP

Members views were sought on the way forward for a Town Partnership between Brackley and Towcester. A report, compiled by Councillor Bonner-Dunham, was circulated at the Meeting and Councillor Stimpson handed out a draft copy of minutes of a cabinet meeting at SNC. He then left the meeting. After discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That a working party is not formed, as referred to in Minute 513/10, until such time as the Master Plan is published and SNC have identified what support it will give.