

AT A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 20TH AUGUST 2007 at 7.47 pm

Present: Councillors C O Cartmell (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) and Councillor C S Billingham

In Attendance: Councillors P Joyce and G M Rhys

166. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

167. REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT

Following a letter from Mr K Lane, Monitoring Officer at South Northamptonshire Council, Members were asked to complete a new Notification of Interest form and return it to the Office as soon as possible. Members noted.

168. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POLICE

Members were advised that Inspector Stuart Hitchon would come to the public question time on Monday 8th October 2007. It was suggested that this be advertised on the website and notice board. Members noted.

Councillor Bonner-Dunham was concerned that the Police Station had not been open on several mornings, despite the new morning-only opening hours. The Chairman said he would take this matter up at the next Western Area Neighbourhood Watch Meeting with the Police.

169. TOWN TALK

The next issue of Town Talk was due out shortly and Members were asked to submit any articles before 10th September 2007.

170. MEMBERS REPORT

BRACKLEY VISION - COUNCILLOR BONNER-DUNHAM

Minutes of a meeting of Brackley Vision held on 18th July 2007 were circulated to Members.

Item C in the report referred to Town Signs and Councillor Bonner-Dunham emphasised that the wording on the signs must be generic. Councillor Blunden suggested that the Town Council's representative reports to a future meeting with the proposed wording and siting for these signs. He also said that the 'mock up' Town map which had been shown to Councillors at a previous meeting had several spelling errors and perhaps this could be approved at the same time.

CONTINUATION OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY MEETING
OF BRACKLEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL,
BRACKLEY ON MONDAY 20TH AUGUST 2007 at 7.47 pm

170. MEMBERS REPORT Cont'd.....

After much discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman liaise with Councillor Bonner-Dunham and the Town Clerk to agree the design, wording and positioning of the fingerboards and Town map.

171. FINANCE REPORTS

i) Lists of Accounts 5B

Lists of Accounts 5B had been circulated with the Agenda. It was

Councillor Blunden queried the amount being paid out on individuals telephones and asked if this was being monitored. The Town Clerk gave an assurance that this was being done. Members asked that investigations be made into the costs of having three telephones on contract and this information brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

a) That List of Accounts 5B in the sum of £14,880.70 be approved and passed for payment.

b) That costings for three telephone on contract be brought to a future meeting of this Committee

ii) Income Report given to Chairman

iii) Annual Return – Audit for Year ended 31st March 2007

Members were advised that the above Audit had been completed and the relevant notice had been posted on the notice board to advise members of the public.

The level of the fidelity guarantee was insufficient and this had now been increased. The Auditors noted that invoices had been paid on behalf of the Carnival Committee and VAT claimed back. The recommendation made by the Auditors had now been put in hand and a new constitution is awaited.

Councillor Blunden said that an overpayment had been made to the Carnival Committee in respect of VAT and he asked if the Town Council wished the balance to be returned.

171. FINANCE REPORT Cont'd.....

Councillor Blunden said the Carnival Committee had been grateful for all the help given by the Town Council and without this the Carnival may have run at a loss. He asked if it would be possible to receive a donation in April 2008 and was advised to send a letter requesting this by the end of September. Members suggested that an article be placed in the public notices of the local newspapers advising the various organisations of the deadline for these requests.

After much discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Return 31st March 2007 be approved and accepted by the Council.

That the amount of the refund due to the Town Council from the Carnival Committee be established and a request made for this to be refunded.

That an article be placed in the public notices of the local newspapers inviting the various organisations within the Brackley area to apply for grant funding by 30th September 2007.

172. INFORMATION REPORT

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

a) Letters Received

A copy of an email from Mr Colin Land was attached to the Report regarding the Town Council rejuvenation.

Councillor Bonner-Dunham commented that the Piazza was a Brackley Vision project and she felt that the promotion of this area was a task for that group. Councillor Stimpson said that the piazza was a success and people were beginning to use it more and this will grow. He agreed that the promoting of the area should be in conjunction with Brackley Vision.

Contrary to Mr Land's thoughts, Councillor Blunden said that he did not think the Town Council should invest any money in the Piazza and that local organisations should be encouraged to use the area. He commented that mid week was probably a 'no goer', Friday was taken up by the Market, the winter could be discounted, Farmers Market was held on the third Saturday of the month and spending the amount of money mentioned in Mr Land's email was ridiculous. Councillor Hayward seconded Councillor Blunden's thoughts and said that the Music Festival had also

172. INFORMATION REPORT Cont'd.....

used the area. She commented that organisations were probably not aware that they could use the Piazza and the weather this year had been a problem.

Councillor Bonner-Dunham again reiterated her comments about Brackley Vision being involved and stressed that there was now a good relationship with the group and Mr Mike Pearson, the present Chairman, was the person driving the group forward and he had the backing of South Northamptonshire Council. She also asked that this information be included in Town Talk.

After much discussion it was

RESOLVED:

That the promotion of the Piazza be a joint venture between the Town Council and Brackley Vision and that local organisations be made aware of the facility and encouraged to use it.

b) Publications Received

c) South Northamptonshire Council

d) Brackley Community Association Steering Group

Members asked that a copy of these Minutes be forwarded to them

e) NCC Priorities 2008 Consultation

173. COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Bonner-Dunham had received a request from Councillor Andrew Grant for the two County Councillors to meet with the Town Council on a regular basis, but not at public question time. It was

RESOLVED:

That an item be put on the Council Agenda for the next Meeting on 3rd September 2007.

That a time of up to ten minutes be allocated for this.