

AT A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE OF BRACKLEY  
TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE UPPER HALL, TOWN HALL, BRACKLEY ON  
MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2007 at 7.43 pm

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Present: Councillors C O Cartmell (Chairman), C S Billingham, C J Blunden,  
K D Bonner-Dunham, D Dunham, J R Hawkins, T D Hayward  
D M Shaw and P H Stocker

Apologies: The Worshipful the Town Mayor (Councillor P J Broomfield)  
Councillors K Dixon and W B Stimpson

In Attendance: Councillors P Joyce and G Rhys

#### **246. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Non pecuniary interests declared by Councillors Billingham, Blunden, Bonner-Dunham, Cartmell, Hayward and Stocker in item 247/07 in respect of the applications submitted from the various organisations.

#### **247. HALF YEARLY FINANCIAL BUDGET COMPARISON AND ESTIMATES FOR PRECEPT 2008/09**

Detailed information on monies required for next year was contained in the Report. No monies had been allocated for Town Hall improvements and any works would have to be funded from reserves. The figures on the Financial Budget Comparison were based on an increase in the precept of no more than 15%. Figures were also given which showed an increase on last year's £234,000 precept figure and how this would affect the Council Tax for the bands A to H for the forthcoming year.

A list of groups requesting donations was detailed in the report. Councillor Bonner-Dunham commented that each year the budgeting becomes more and more difficult and whilst she accepted that the requests came from good causes, there was not the money available. She also said that the groups could apply for grants from various bodies and she felt very strongly that only a nominal amount of £200 should be given. Councillor Billingham said there were requests from several groups which did not qualify under Section 137 in that it should be for the majority of Brackley residents.

Councillor Hayward queried why organisations had been asked to submit applications when there insufficient money available. After much discussion it was agreed that no donation would be given to Chernobyl Children, Samaritans, Round Table, Opal Project, Northampton Rape and Incest, Methodist Church and Service Six.

It was

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the above be put forward to the budget meeting  
and that further discussion take place on the amounts to  
be donated to the other groups who submitted applications.

That the Town Clerk draw up figures based on an increase  
in the precept of 15% and one at 20%.

CONTINUATION OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY MEETING  
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**248. TRAINING**

Members attention was drawn to the fact that four places had been booked and paid for on a recent training course and only one councillor had attended. This brings the total to four places over the year at a cost of £104.00 to the Council. Councillor Billingham suggested that a maximum of two places be booked in the future. It was also suggested that Members pay the fees and be re-imbursed by the Council.

**249. REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Members were advised that there would be a small rehearsal on the Piazza on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at 4 pm. Members noted.

**250. JOINT MEETING WITH TOWCESTER AND BRACKLEY**

Members were advised that a provisional date of Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 at 7 pm had been organised for the Towcester and Brackley Town Council, together with Mrs Morgan, Chief Executive of South Northamptonshire Council, to discuss the rejuvenation of the Town Centre Partnerships. Mrs Isaacs, Towcester Town Council, is checking for availability with her Council Members. Councillor Blunden suggested that if the Council Chamber at SNC was not available, the Town Hall could be used. Members were asked to advise the Town Clerk of their availability.

**251. THE PUBLIC CATALOGUE FOUNDATION**

Members views were sought on the oil paintings in the Upper Hall being included in the Public Catalogue Foundation. The aim is to produce a list of oil paintings in public collections in Britain. After discussion it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the oil paintings in the Upper Hall be included in the  
Public Catalogue Foundation.

**252. CPRE - NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Members were advised that a Project Management Course would be held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 from 9.30 am. Any Member wishing to attend was asked to advise the office. Members noted.

### **253. MEMBERS REPORTS**

#### a) Brackley Vision

Councillor Bonner-Dunham said reports had been given after each meeting. The meeting arranged for Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007 had been cancelled and re-scheduled for the following Wednesday. She advised that there would be no representative from the Town Council at this meeting and it was suggested that another Councillor be nominated to attend as a substitute. Councillor Bonner-Dunham disagreed with this as she felt there would be no continuity. Members replied that the representative would only be there as an observer so that a report could be made to the Council. It was agreed that contact be made with the Chairman, Mr Mike Pearson, to ask if this would be acceptable and Councillor Cartmell agreed to be the representative.

#### b) JAG Meeting – Councillor Broomfield

A report had been circulated to Members on the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

#### c) Brackley Town Strategy – Councillor Hawkins

A report had been circulated to Members and Councillor Hawkins enlarged on this at the Meeting. He said input would be welcomed from any source. Councillor Dunham said he thought this was an excellent idea and agreed the Council must move forward. He suggested the formation of a working party and this was seconded by Councillor Hawkins. The working party would then put proposals together and submit them to a Council meeting. Councillor Billingham said the next meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee was on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007 and she suggested that something a little more detailed could be brought to that meeting, especially in light of the meeting with Mrs Morgan on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 and how it can be fitted into the Brackley Vision and partnership boxes. Councillor Billingham asked that the sub committee ensure that it wasn't duplicating what was being aimed for by Brackley Vision.

Councillor Bonner-Dunham suggested that Councillor Billingham be a member of the sub committee. It was therefore

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Councillors Billingham, Dunham and Hawkins form a sub committee to discuss a town centre strategy.

That the sub committee put proposals together to be submitted to the Finance and Policy Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

## **254. FINANCE REPORTS**

### **i) Lists of Accounts 7B**

Lists of Accounts 7B had been circulated with the Agenda.

#### **RESOLVED:**

a) That List of Accounts 7B in the sum of £7,181.25 be approved and passed for payment.

ii) Income Report given to Chairman

iii) Councillor Internal Audit Report – Councillor Joyce reported that this had been undertaken and no problems found.

## **255. INFORMATION REPORT**

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

a) Publications Received

b) Hands off our Horton – Letter attached to Report

c) South Northants Council – An invitation from Councillor Graham Smith to a reception on 14<sup>th</sup> November to discuss matters concerning the district

d) Youth Strategy Group

e) Brackley Community Association – Councillor Bonner-Dunham reported that a successful disco had taken place, tea dances were to be organised, another disco to be arranged and the group was moving forward.

Meeting closed at 8.42 pm

Chairman