

## SANDHURST TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Kitty Dancy Room, Sandhurst Community Hall Complex on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 at 7.30 p.m. ending at 8.48 p.m.**

-----

**PRESENT:- Councillors: N Allen (Chairman), D Birch, P Bettison, R Blair, A Blatchford, N Bowers, M Brossard, Mrs C Cupper, Cllr Edger, A Haseeb, Mrs D Honey, R Inions, Mrs D Pidgeon, B Piggin (from minute 124), G Ramsey, A Ronca, Mrs A Shephard, R Simonds, A Ward, D Worrall.**

**APOLOGIES:- Councillors: J Abrahams, Mrs J Bettison, J Blowfield, N Skinner.**

-----

116. Announcement. The Council stood for a minute's silence in memory of John Webb who served as a Town Councillor for Sandhurst from May 2000 to May 2003.

117. Book of Remembrance. The Council remained standing as the Mayor turned a page in the Book of Remembrance.

118. Order of Business. The Mayor announced that the order of business would be as set out in the calling papers.

119. Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items. Members were asked to declare any interests in agenda items whenever relevant.

120. Public Question Time.

121. Minutes. It was Proposed by Cllr Allen and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Cupper that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting, held on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007, be accepted and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

122. Correspondence for information only.

(a) Bracknell Forest Borough Council asked for comments on the proposed Cultural Strategy 2008 – 2012. The closing date for comments is February 8<sup>th</sup> 2008.

(b) South East Water sent notification of the construction of major new pipeline between Bray Water Treatment Works, near Maidenhead and two reservoirs in Swinley Forest.

(c) The Berkshire County Scout Council request nominations for the role of County Chairman.

(d) We were informed by the British Legion that a total of £692.36 was collected at the Sandhurst Memorial Park Remembrance Service.

123. Correspondence for decision - Nepali Support Worker Initiative.

Correspondence referring to a Nepali Support Worker Initiative had been distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. The letter from Dawn Day of the Extended Services Team at Bracknell Forest Borough Council asked for financial support towards employing a Nepali Support Worker.

It was proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Ronca that Sandhurst Town Council should not support the worker by way of funding.

Cllr Birch highlighted the fact that insufficient information had been provided and there was no business case to answer to.

Cllr Ronca thought that this could set a precedent as the Nepali community were not the only ethnic minority group in Sandhurst making this an open ended commitment.

A Vote was taken finding all in favour of the motion not to support the part funding of a Nepali Support Worker. **NOTED.**

124. Chairman's Report.

Mayoral Engagements during the period:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 5 November 2007  | The Mayor attended the Bracknell Forest Citizenship Ceremony at Easthamstead Park.  |
| 17 November 2007 | The Mayor attended a charity concert by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas at the Harlington Centre in Fleet, organised by the Gurkha Welfare Trust.        |
| 27 November 2007 | The Deputy Mayor attended the Annual General Meeting of the College Meadows Residents Association in the Kitty Dancy Room.                                  |
| 29 November 2007 | The Deputy Mayor attended the opening of the new Waitrose Store in Yorktown Road, College Town.   |
| 1 December 2007  | The Mayor presided over the festivities at the lighting up of the Christmas Lights at the Council Offices.  |
| 8 December 2007  | The Mayor joined the Sandhurst Tug of War Club at their Annual Dinner Dance in the Community Hall and the Sports Club.                                      |
| 13 December 2007 | The Mayor attended the Nativity Play by the Little Sandhurst Nursery Group in St Michael's Church.  |
| 14 December 2007 | The Mayor attended the Sandhurst Silver Band Christmas Concert in the Community Hall.   |
| 18 December 2007 | The Mayor joined in the celebrations at the Sandhurst Day Centre Christmas Lunch.   |
| 24 December 2007 | The Mayor represented the Town Council at the funeral of John Webb held at Easthamstead Crematorium. John Webb represented Owlsmoor Ward from 2000 to 2003. |

125. Minutes of the Planning Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Ronca and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Shephard that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting, held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007, be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

126. Minutes of the Planning Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Piggin and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Shephard that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting, held on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007, be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

127. Minutes of the Planning Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Piggin and Seconded by Cllr Ronca that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting, held on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007, be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

128. Matters arising for information only.

Minute 113(a) – 390 Yorktown Road, College Town, Sandhurst. Cllr Inions queried the fact that although the four banners erected in front of the Waitrose store had been refused by Bracknell Forest Borough Council and they have been marked as temporary, they were still in place. Cllr Edger said that Bracknell Forest Planning Officers were aware of the situation. **NOTED.**

129. Minutes of the Environment Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Mrs Cupper and Seconded by Cllr Blatchford that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 be accepted as a true record subject to the following amendments.

(a) Minute 30(c) – Land in front of Rackstraw Public House. The sentence should read ‘on this piece of land’. **NOTED.**

(b) Present/Apologies. Cllr Ray Simonds sent his apologies for this meeting. **NOTED.**

(c) Minute 30(k) – Councillors Reports. Christmas lights should be plural not singular. **NOTED.**

130. Matters arising for information only.

(a) Minute 31(a(v)) – Community Transport. Cllr Edger asked who was going to invite Mr Fred Rule of Keep Mobile to make the presentation to the Full Council Meeting. Cllr Mrs Cupper said that Cllr Mrs Bettison would be the one asking Fred. **ACTION.**

131. Minutes of the Leisure Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Bowers and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Pidgeon that the minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting, held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007, be accepted as a true record, subject to the following amendments.

(a) The minute number 36 has been omitted. **NOTED.**

132. Matters arising for information only.

(a) Minute 39(c) – Sandhurst Cultural Events. Councillors were urged to support the ‘Town Mouse, Country Mouse’ show by promoting ticket sales where possible. **NOTED.**

(b) Minute 39(e) – Nepalese Community. Cllr Edger reported that at the last NAG meeting they were concerned about the Nepalese community and would try as well as they could to take care of their wishes. Cllr Edger will ask if a Nepalese representative would like to become a member of the NAG Forum. **ACTION.**

133. Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Allen and Seconded by Cllr Bowers that the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

134. Matters arising for information only.

(a) Minute 43(f) Induction Programme. All Members were asked to respond to the invitation to the Induction Day. **NOTED.**

135. Borough Councillors Report.

(a) Cllr Bettison gave an update on a meeting with John Healy, a visiting Minister from Local Government, in which he pointed out that as Bracknell Forest Borough Council has the third lowest Council Tax in the country, the capping regime works against this as the percentage band is smaller. **NOTED.**

(b) Cllr Birch reported on Bracknell Forest Borough Council Social Services, which is currently a two star authority, the trajectory is very positive. **NOTED.**

The stock transfer for Bracknell Forest Homes will be fully established in February with all the staff appointments having been made. **NOTED.**

(c) Cllr Ward commented on the financial unfairness of the distribution of funds by the Government with the major indicators being free school meals and English spoken as a second language. There were no indicators in place for communities like Sandhurst with an aging population. **NOTED.**

136. Councillors Reports.

(a) Cllr Mrs Pidgeon gave an update on the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnerships' Annual Meeting. As a result of the withdrawal of funds by Bracknell Forest Borough Council and Surrey Heath, the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership were having to draw on reserves and it will not be sustainable after March 2009. **NOTED.**

(b) Members were reminded of the 'Love Parks Week' to be held in June 2008. **NOTED.**

137. Motion.

To consider the following Motion:

"This Council deplores the proposed closure of the post office in Mill Parade and will respond to the consultation by the 31<sup>st</sup> January presenting the reasons why it feels the post office should not close for the following reasons:

The closure will have a detrimental effect on the lives of many residents particularly the elderly, vulnerable and those without transport as there is a wholly inadequate service through Little Sandhurst.

The closure will have an adverse effect on the area of the alternate post office in Yorktown Road, as the customers from Mill Parade would seek to park outside the shops and surgery leading to increased traffic problems.

The closure of the post office side of the shop in Mill Parade will lead to the complete closure of the whole shop removing from the Little Sandhurst community the last remaining convenience store in the area.

And

Such other relevant reasons as may be presented to the Council for inclusion in its submission prior to dispatch."

Proposed by Cllr Birch. Seconded by Cllr Bettison.

Cllr Blatchford declared a prejudicial interest in the Motion and left the room. **NOTED.**

Cllr Birch introduced the Motion referring to the Post Office at Mill Parade, which has been given a notification for closure subject to the consultation process.

Cllr Birch outlined the criteria for urban post offices that would have to be satisfied to prevent closure, which included the fact that 95% of the total population must be within one mile of the nearest post office. The alternative post office in the vicinity of the Broadway shops would leave just 74.5% of the population within a 1mile radius where there is already insufficient parking. The public transport in this area is inadequate especially with the local demographics of 2001 showing that 13 - 14% of people living in the area were of pensionable age and this will have increased. It would also have an impact on the local economy as this would have commercial implications on the shops as a whole.

A vote was taken all were in favour.

The motion was carried.

Thanks were voiced to Val Crosby-Clarke, the Sandhurst Residents Association and the Council for their support with the campaign.

138. Balance at the Bank. The Executive Officer reported the Balances at the Bank as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007.

Current Account	£2,000.00
Business Reserve	£100,830.00
Capital Reserve	£485,580.00

139. Accounts. It was RESOLVED that payments for cheque numbers 8094 to 8181 inclusive be approved. Receipts for October and November 2007 were **NOTED**.

140. Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in the Kitty Dancy Room commencing 7.30 p.m.

141. In Committee Exclusion of Public and Press.

It was resolved that pursuant to section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the Meeting for the consideration of items, which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of schedule 12A of the Act.

Information relating to employees of the Council.  
Information relating to terms of Contract.