

SANDHURST TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Kitty Dancy Room, Sandhurst Community Hall Complex on Thursday 6th March 2008 at 7.30 p.m. ending at 9.19 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillors: N Allen (Chairman), R Blair, A Blatchford, J Blowfield, N Bowers, Mrs C Cupper, R Edger, A Haseeb, Mrs D Pidgeon, B Piggin, G Ramsey, A Ronca, Mrs A Shephard, A Ward, D Worrall.

APOLOGIES:- Councillors: Mrs J Bettison, P Bettison, D Birch, M Brossard, Mrs D Honey, R Inions, R Simonds, N Skinner.

146. Announcement. The Chairman welcomed Graham Fradgley, David Ashworth and Derek Hampshire who were attending the meeting in order to present an update on the Coffee Spot project.

147. Book of Remembrance. The Council stood in silence as the Mayor turned a page in the Book of Remembrance.

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

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

150. Public Question Time.

- (a) A member of the public asked what steps the Council had taken to alleviate the anticipated traffic problems once the proposed development had taken place on the Sandhurst Forge and Sandhurst Garden Centre sites.

Cllr Piggin replied that the first time the planning application came up at a Town Planning Meeting it was recommended for refusal. Bracknell Forest Highways Department had commented on the development and it was felt that the traffic in this area would be less problematic due to the closure of the Forge. However, the application was subsequently refused at Bracknell Forest Borough Council.

Cllr Worrall commented that, at this time, there was no valid planning application for this area that could be considered. **NOTED.**

151. Presentation on the progress of the new Coffee Spot Bbuilding.

The purpose of the presentation was outlined in four key areas. The first was a reflection on past systems bringing the thinking up to where the proposal stands today. The second covered the draft business plan including capital and revenue projections. The third objective was to gain support to enable the proposals to move forward. The fourth was to agree the next steps.

The presentation reflected that the initial idea to build a two-storey building was too costly. The thinking had therefore moved to a single storey structure. The need for core staffing was critical to the success of the project and current projections moved towards less reliance on voluntary staff.

The structure itself was now heavily inclined towards being an Environmental showpiece. Incorporating some of the latest environmentally friendly construction material and service installation techniques.

Papers were circulated showing a breakdown of anticipated building and revenue costs. Potential funding sources had been identified including Lottery, grants, local fund raising activities, Business sponsorship, personal gifts and legacies.

It had been recognised that a full consultation exercise was needed to gain public support. A series of public meetings would be held. If the support was there then the project could progress to Design and Planning stages, fund raising teams could be established for tendering and construction.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their presentation and opened up discussions by inviting questions from Councillors.

There followed a question and answer session. The type of general questions included reference to tree preservation, location, parking issues, planning issues, funding, staffing and the core running cost plans.

The Chairman drew matters to a close by stating that the Town Council would need time to look at the paperwork provided and reflect on the new proposals. The March meeting cycle would be the first opportunity to do this. He said that the work undertaken by the Architects AED had been good value and thanked the whole feasibility study team for their efforts to date. Feedback on the proposals would be given in due course. **ACTION.**

152. Minutes. It was Proposed by Cllr Allen and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Cupper that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting, held on the 3rd January 2008, be accepted and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

153. Correspondence for information only.

- (a) Bracknell Forest Borough Council had sent notice of temporary closure of various footpaths and bridleways in Sandhurst. **NOTED.**
- (b) Bracknell Forest Borough Council Youth Services confirmed that the Youth Bus is back in service after being off the road for some time. Borough staff have continued to work with the Skate Park group and with groups of Nepali young people.
- (c) Bracknell Forest Borough Council had sent notice of a temporary road closure at A321 Yorktown Road and A321 High Street, Sandhurst. **NOTED.**
- (d) The Communities and Local Government had sent a consultation on orders and regulations relating to the conduct of local authority members in England. This would be passed on to the Strategy and Policy Committee. **ACTION.**
- (e) The Town Council received a copy of a letter from the Sandhurst Group Practice to the East Berkshire PCT expressing their disappointment that the PCT did not support the request for funding for a Nepalese support worker in Sandhurst and asked them to reconsider their decision. **NOTED.**
- (f) The Audit Commission has appointed Mazars LLP as auditor to Sandhurst Town Council. **NOTED.**
- (g) Bracknell Forest Borough Council had sent notice of a road adoption for Alford Close, Sandhurst. **NOTED.**
- (h) Bracknell Forest Borough Council had sent notice of a TPO on Land at 11a College Road, College Town, Sandhurst. **NOTED.**

- (i) Bracknell Forest Borough Council had sent notice of a TPO on Land at 80 Yorktown Road, Sandhurst. **NOTED.**

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- (j) The Council received a copy of a letter from the Sandhurst Residents Association to the Bracknell Forest Borough Council Environment and Leisure Department outlining the need for more car parking in Central Sandhurst. The matter would be taken to the Environment Committee. **ACTION.**
- (k) A public consultation document from the NHS 'Right Care, Right Place – Our NHS, Our Future' is available for viewing in the office. The matter will be taken to the Environment Committee. **NOTED.**

154. Chairman's Report.

Mayoral Engagements during the period:

- 27 January 2008 The Mayor hosted the Sandhurst Town Council Annual Civic Service at St George's Church, Owlsmoor. The service was followed by a reception at the Owlsmoor Community Centre where the Community Awards were presented.
- 3 February 2008 The Mayor attended the Bracknell Forest Borough Council Civic Service at the Church of St. Michael and St. Mary Magdalene, Easthampstead.

155. 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 17th December 2007, be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

156. Matters Arising for information only.

Minute 128(b) P.A. 07/00769 – 48 Park Road, Sandhurst. The appeal for planning the application was rejected by the inspectorate. **NOTED.**

157. 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 7th January 2008, be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

158. 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 21st January 2008, be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

159. An error on the agenda showed the last two meetings in December 2007 when they were in January 2008. **NOTED.**

160. Minutes of the Planning Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Pigin and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Shephard that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting, held on the 4th February 2008, be accepted as a true record with the following amendments.

- (a) Minute 158(a) – 5 Branksome Hill Road, College Town, Sandhurst. The sentence should read ‘replacement of garage door’. **NOTED.**

Recommendations were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

161. Minutes of the Environment Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Mrs Cupper and Seconded by Cllr Ramsey that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on the 10th January 2008 be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

There were no matters arising.

162. Minutes of the Leisure Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Bowers and Seconded by Cllr Allen that the minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting, held on the 17th January 2008, be accepted as a true record.

Recommendations were accepted.

163. Matters Arising for information only.

- (a) Minute 51(c) – Sandhurst Cultural Events. The ‘Town Mouse, Country Mouse’ show was a great success. Thanks were given to the ground staff and the Executive Officer for their help on the day with the parking arrangements. **NOTED.**

164. Minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee. It was Proposed by Cllr Allen and Seconded by Cllr Mrs Cupper that the minutes of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting held on the 24th January 2008 be accepted as a true record subject to the following amendments.

- (a) Minute 52(g) – Consort Chain. Take out the word ‘minute’ in the title. **NOTED.**

Recommendations were accepted.

165. Matters Arising for information only.

- (a) Minute 52(g) – Consort Chain. It was agreed that a consort’s chain be purchased. **ACTION.** The Chairman announced that a benefactor would provide the funds for the full cost of the chain. **NOTED.**

- (b) Minute 52(i) – Budgets 2008/2009. It was **RECOMMENDED** that the precept for 2008/2009 should be raised by 3% to £532,615.

All were in agreement the **RECOMMENDATION** was accepted. **NOTED.**

166. Borough Councillors Report.

- (a) Cllr Ward explained that the 4.9% Borough Council tax rise was because of the gearing effect and to keep it this low would mean some reconfiguration of services. **NOTED.**

- (b) Cllr Edger reported that as of 11th February 2008 Bracknell Forest Borough Council were no longer owners of any council house as they now all belong to Bracknell Forest Homes. **NOTED.**

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167. Councillors Reports.

- (a) Cllr Mrs Cupper gave feedback on the Day Centre AGM she attended on 16th January 2008. **NOTED.**
- (b) Cllr Mrs Pidgeon commented on the lack of available parking spaces in the Broadway. Parking tickets were being issued for not parking in bays and with the closure of the post office in Little Sandhurst more residents will need to use the area. The matter will be passed to the Environment Committee. **ACTION.**

168. Balance at the Bank. The Executive Officer reported the Balances at the Bank as at 29th February 2008.

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| Current Account | £2,000.00 |
| Business Reserve | £109,917.00 |
| Capital Reserve | £435,580.00 |

169. Accounts. It was RESOLVED that payments for cheque numbers 8182 to 8274 inclusive be approved. Receipts for December 2007 and January 2008 were **NOTED.**
170. Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on Thursday 1st May 2008 in the Kitty Dancy Room commencing 7.30 p.m.
171. 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.