

Minutes of a special meeting of **Bingham Town Council** held in The Old Court House, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 8th July, 2008**, at **7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Councillor G. Davidson– Town Mayor in the Chair
 " R. Barnett
 " Mrs. A. Bryan
 " J. Eagles
 " A. Hall
 " Mrs. S. Hull
 " F. Kerry
 " Mrs. J. Marshall
 " F. Purdue-Horan (from 9.15 p.m.)
 " A. Shelton
 " J. Stockwood
 " Mrs. M. Stockwood

Also in attendance: Al Hanagan, Sustainable Relations
 " " " Neil Hall, Entec
 " " " Andy Payne, Crown Estate
 " " " County Councillor M. Suthers and fifty+ members of the public.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors Davidson, Kerry and Mrs. M. Stockwood declared an interest in F5865, Item 3, Church clock.

Councillor A. Shelton declared an interest in British Red Cross.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors P. Abbey, F. Purdue-Horan and C. Lancaster.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Since the last meeting, the Town Mayor announced that he had attended the following functions:-

- 1.00 Saturday, 17th May, 2008**, Bingham Town Youth Football Club's presentation of awards.
- 2.00 Saturday, 14th June, 2008**, attended the Town Council's Town Fair
- 3.00 Monday, 17th June, 2008**, attended Building Better Communities event

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continued.....

1. **MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the meetings held on the 6th May and 17th June, 2008, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

It was agreed that Item 4 (Eco-town at Newton) be brought forward to allow a presentation to be made by Neil Hall from Entec and Andy Payne from the Crown Estate.

4.00 **ECO-TOWN - TO CONSIDER RECENT ISSUES:**

Al Hanagan from Sustainable Relations introduced Neil Hall and Andy Payne to the meeting. Al then went on to give a brief explanation as to how the current position was arrived at. Despite the fact that the Crown owns a lot of land around Bingham, a few weeks ago Bingham/R.A.F. Newton had not been earmarked as an eco-town. DCLG identified it as a possible site and now it is up to various organisations to work together to enable an informed view to be taken. Organisations such as TCE/Newton Nottingham LLP/Defence Estates/Rushcliffe Borough Council to name but a few. The initial June submission document is the starting point and sets out:-

- ? Strategic opportunity in this location
- ? Possible area of search
- ? Community and infrastructure issues, and opportunities that might be delivered.
- ? Sustainability Appraisal

The next stage will involve wider consultation in late July and early August, and plans for this are being agreed with Rushcliff Borough Council. In parallel, the landowners will be required to respond to various requests for information to enable DCLG to make a decision. This will focus on Transport Assessments, Financial Assessments and S106 costings and Sustainability Appraisal. Assessment work to be finalised by DCLG over August/September, with a draft PPS expected late summer for consultation. Final decision on up to ten short-listed schemes to be made in October. Search area identified extends some 713 ha; however, basic requirement for a community of five to six thousand homes is in the order of some 240 - 250 ha. It would be a mixed community with wide range of housing, jobs, recreational open space and community facilities. TCE would use Princess Foundation and their enquiry by design process to work up details involving local community at the heart of the process. Benefits to community may be significant improvements to A46, walking and cycling improvements, extension to Robin Hood Line, two to three new primary schools and secondary school improvements, range of housing opportunities, new health and community facility.

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4.00 ECO-TOWN - TO CONSIDER RECENT ISSUES continued.....

Bingham Town Councillors raised several questions such as:-

- ✍ Does Crown Estate see it as a separate entity or just Bingham getting bigger?
- ✍ Response was that it was open to debate?
- ✍ What about the highways alterations/extensions? There would be a full Transport Assessment in consultation with the Highways Agency. In days gone by, trees/open spaces were included in a big development; was this the case? Councillors did not want to see the Green Belt interfered with. Bingham requires job creation and it was felt that not all people living in the eco-town would work within it. It was inevitable that people would still travel. Existing industrial units remained empty - what was the point of creating more? County and Borough Councils have already rejected plans for industrial units and these were sites which had previously been developed.
- ✍ The statistics quoting number of people living and working in Bingham were challenged. Concern was shown re. the fact that, currently, house builders were closing down existing sites and not finishing them; what effect would this have on proposals? Crown Estate responded by saying this area was always subject to peaks and troughs, and there would be a mix of social housing which had yet to be addressed. Concern was also shown due to the fact there was another scheme within eight miles from Newton (Newark Growth Point). Three months ago there had been no plans for an eco-town at Bingham and it was more than a coincidence that when one location (Kingston-on-Soar) was dropped, Bingham came into the frame. Bingham could not support enough employment for an eco-town. Crown Estate responded by confirming all concerns were valid points and the Transport Assessment would highlight any issues in relation to A46/A52/bus lanes etc. New schools would be included if five to six thousand dwellings were built.

Standing orders were suspended to allow public participation.

Members of the public expressed various concerns including:-

- ✍ What about the ecological and environmental impact?
- ✍ How will traffic to Nottingham be accommodated?
- ✍ If only one third of land was highlighted for an eco-town, would the remaining two thirds be left as it was?
- ✍ A6097 is a commuter route and exceptionally busy at peak times.

The Crown Estate reiterated its statement that the Transport Assessment would highlight any issues due to bus lanes/busy junctions/road improvements necessary etc. It went on to state that the Borough was only consultees; however, normal planning applications and procedures would stand for the development.

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4.00 ECO-TOWN - TO CONSIDER RECENT ISSUES continued.....

Councillors expressed their concern that they had only been made aware of the plans approximately ten days ago, whilst other areas had known since last Autumn. This meant that little time was available before the fifteen names in the frame were whittled down to ten. It was felt that due to the tight schedules, the views of Bingham residents would not be heard.

Councillor Davidson confirmed that anyone wishing to pursue "objections" could attend a meeting 9th July, 2008, at 7.30 p.m. in The Old Court House.

Standing orders were reinstated.

It was

UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to object to an eco-town being developed on the R.A.F. Newton site.

2.00 COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Reports were submitted on the following meetings:

Planning Committee – 13th May and 10th June, 2008.

Community Committee – 13th May, 2008.

Recreational & Cemetery Committee – 27th May, 2008.

Environment Committee – 10th June, 2008.

Policy & Resources Committee – 24th June, 2008.

Councillors Davidson, Kerry and Mrs. M. Stockwood declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting.

3.00 CHURCH CLOCK - TO CONSIDER GRANT AID APPLICATION:

Councillor J. Eagles took the Chair for this item.

A request had been received from St. Mary & All Saints Parochial Church Council for a donation towards the repairs of the church clock. It was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** that grant aid of £1,000.00 be awarded.

Councillors Davidson, Kerry and Mrs. M. Stockwood returned to the meeting.

5.00 STANDING ORDERS:

It was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** as from 14th July, 2008, to adopt the Standing Orders as circulated to all Councillors as per the report 'C' submitted.

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6.00 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE:

01 Lambert, Smith, Hampton

Letter received re. Co-op. Noted.

02 Rushcliffe Borough Council

Letter received re. use of compulsory purchase powers. Noted.

03 Rushcliffe Borough Council

E-mail received from Recycling2Go re. a six months' trial for the glass recycling micro sites. It has been agreed that if problems arise or not used, the sites will be removed. It was agreed that these sites appeared to be the way forward. Although some sites had been abandoned (Shelford Road, Hill Drive, Moor Lane and Derry Lane), installation of the other sites had been completed and consultation carried out.

The Town Council supported the micro sites in principal but agreed that more initial consultation should have been carried out before installation.

7.00 OBSERVATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

The following issues were discussed:-

Glass recycling micro sites. Various residents objected to the one on Derry Lane and, after a brief discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Davidson would speak to Mr. Banks at Rushcliffe Borough Council with a view to the site being withdrawn.

8. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960:

PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE NEXT BUSINESS, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS PROPOSED, SECONDED AND CARRIED:

“That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.”

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8. **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960** continued.....

The following items were discussed:

STAFF REVIEW – Subject to amending Recommendation No. 1 to read “with effect from 1st August, 2008,” & C.Malloy being paid at the top of the scale it was **Proposed** by Councillor Mrs. Hull, **Seconded** by Councillor Kerry and

UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to accept the recommendations and implement them.

REPLACEMENT TRACTOR - It was **Proposed** by Councillor Eagles, **Seconded** by Councillor Mrs. Hull, and

UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to set up a working group with a view to negotiating the best way forward for leasing a new tractor for the minimum cost. The Working group to consist of Councillors Davidson, Purdue-Horan, Kerry and the Town Clerk.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN.

Report to the Town Council Meeting – 8th July 2008**Matter for Decision – Agenda item 8 refers****Standing Orders- Adoption**

1 Purpose of Report

To adopt revised Standing Order as recommended By the Policy & Resources Committee.

2 Budget Provision

Not applicable.

3 Information

The Policy & Resources Committee has considered a revised set of Standing Orders – see Folio 5865/3.00

All Councillors were circulated with the draft set on 11th June.

The Policy & Resources Committee has made the following alterations to the draft set:

Page 8, Standing Order 21.1. '66' was amended to read '36'

Page 20, paragraph 29. The words "For this reason it should meet at least once a month" were deleted.

Page 20, paragraph 33. All the words in brackets after the last sentence were deleted.

4 Recommendation

It is recommended that the new Standing Orders as circulated to all Councillors on 11th June and as amended by the Policy & Resources Committee, be adopted with effect from 14th July 2008.

Peter Butcher