

Minutes of a meeting of **Bingham Town Council** held in the Council Chamber at The Old Court House, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 14th February, 2017**, at **7.00 p.m.**

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PRESENT:

Councillor A.R. Harvey
" R. Bird
" Mrs. J. Costello
" K. Hayes-Heath
" Mrs. S. Hull
" Mrs. E. Hutchison
" Mrs. A. Langford
" F. Purdue-Horan
" A. Shelton
" Mrs K. Vallance

In attendance:

6 Members of the public
1 Member of the Press

Prayers, led by the Reverend Tony Jones, were said prior to the start of the meeting.

1.00 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements noted in the absence of the Mayor.

2.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE:

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor J. Stockwood, Councillor G. Davidson, Councillor Mrs. T. Kerry and Councillor Mrs. S. Orr.

3.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Mrs. J. Costello declared an interest on any items relating to Toothill School.

Councillor Mrs. E. Hutchison declared an interest in any items relating to Butt Field.

Councillor Mrs S Hull declared an interest in any item relating to the Allotments.

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4.00 OBSERVATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Queries were raised in relation to:

A - The acquisition of Land in Bingham by Rushcliffe Borough Council and whether any of Bingham's 106 funds were used in the purchase.

Councillors responded that the land acquisition had only just taken place and monies generated would be put towards the leisure facilities in Bingham. It was confirmed that no 106 monies had been used in the purchase of the land. It was also explained that the purchase of the land may open up the possibility of allowing access to Butt Field and the contaminated allotment site, potentially providing an area for a long stay car parking facility for Bingham. The process of how the land will be used will go through the Economic Growth Board and it was anticipated that more details would be known after April

B - Tn explanation of our precept figures and reserves and, why our precept could not be lowered with the plans for Rushcliffe Borough Council to raise their costs.

Members confirmed that the budget and precept figures contained within the Resources minutes, 17th January 2017 8551/8552, would be discussed later in the agenda, so had yet to be confirmed at this stage. It was explained that with plans for car parking and better leisure facilities within the town, the Reserve figures could be used up very quickly and would not cover the costs of projects such as this alone.

C - Progress on a Neighbourhood Plan since the completion of the Community Led Plan.

The Council confirmed that they had made the decision to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan and they were currently consulting others that had been through the process to gain a clear understanding but had some issues gaining a correct boundary plan. Although the process has been slow to start, the Council were aware that funding options to help will be withdrawn in 2018, so it would be moving the process on quicker with this in mind. Members were urged by Councillor S. Hull to attend a meeting regarding Neighbourhood Planning at the Methodist Centre on 28th March 2017.

D - Playground Community Group.

Concerns regarding the need to see action in respect of Play Parks in Bingham.

With regards to the playgrounds the Clerk confirmed that details had been passed to Councillor Mrs. T. Kerry for addition to the list. It was noted that in the community that communication around scheduled playgrounds meetings had been poor. The Council was urged to communicate more openly to ensure public interest was not lost. The Council

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4.00 OBSERVATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC continued.....

confirmed that the Communications Working Group would be looking into better ways of communicating with the public. The Clerk confirmed that details of the Playground Community Group meeting were advertised on the Council's website.

E - Community Chest Funding

Community Chest funding being used for re-paving the whole of Bingham as the pavements were extremely poor throughout Bingham, especially when utility companies complete works.

The Council confirmed that reports of pavement damage due to utilities can be tackled if reported. The Council also confirmed that with the requirement for a community centre, play areas and an accessible bridge, these will all be projects where the Community Chest money would be required along with other funding sources like grants. The Council were aware that one amount will expire in 2021, if not utilised, but with large projects in the pipeline, like access to the old allotment site and other projects, this would be spent before the deadline is reached.

5.00 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the of the Full Council meeting held on the 10th January, 2017, Folios 8530/8537, and 31st January, 2017, Folio 8561, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Deputy Town Mayor as a true record.

6.00 MATTERS ARISING:

01 Rushcliffe Citizens Listening Group

Members noted that the Rushcliffe Citizens Group had confirmed that they will be attending the meeting of Full Council on 14th March 2017.

7.00 COMMITTEE MINUTES:

All Committee Minutes were presented and it was

RESOLVED to approve the following:

- (a) Resources Committee - 17th January, 2017, Folio 8538/8552

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Councillor S. Hull presented her report and she and other members responded to members questions as follows:

- i) Santa's Grotto - Councillor Mrs. J. Costello asked why the cost of the shed for the Santa's Grotto seemed high and why items had been paid by Members. Councillor Mrs. E. Hutchison confirmed that the shed was of heavy construction for annual put up and dismantle and was aesthetically chosen as a grotto. It was also confirmed that Sponsorship had been gained for this specific item. In the absence of the Town Clerk, members had to purchase the items required and claim the expenses via the Council. All items were purchased utilising the local business sponsorship funding.
- ii) Reports on the Councils Website - Councillor F. Purdue-Horan commented that supporting documents no longer appeared on the Council website for the public. It was agreed that this would be rectified on future agendas.
- iii) The Deputy Mayor requested that the Resources Committee examine contractors the Council utilised to undertake building and repair works to ensure that the Council is not relying on a limited number of contractors and check that the public liability insurance for such contractors were up to date.

It was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of this committee be accepted.

RESOLVED: (minus the Budget Folio 8551/8552)

Folio 8539/5.00 Terms of Reference

Folio 8539/7.00 Accounts for Payment, Report 'B'

Folio 8539/8.00 Accounts Paid, Report 'C'

Folio 8539/9.00 To approve Bankline payments

(b) Planning Committee – 24th January, 2017, Folio 8553/8555

Councillor Hayes-Heath presented his report and it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee be accepted.

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7.00 COMMITTEE MINUTES continued.....

(c) Personnel Committee – 24th January, 2017, Folio 8556/8557

Councillor Mrs. K. Vallance presented her report and it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee be accepted.

(d) Planning Committee – 31st January, 2017, Folio 8558/8560

Councillor A. Shelton presented his report and it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee be accepted.

8.00 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS:

01 County Councillor Purdue-Horan

County Councillor Purdue-Horan updated members on the following:

a) Issues with Chapel Lane - Councillor Purdue-Horan had been advised that due to the impending trial, after the death of a local boy, he could not comment in relation to that specific incident. He confirmed to members that there had been no previous incidents on the road in the last 20 years and the County Council, to expend funds for a short period of time, as alterations would be made as and when the Crown Estate development proceeded. Councillor Purdue-Horan confirmed that Councillor Langford's request to cut back vegetation in that area, could not be confirmed by the County Council, as it involved private land owners. Councillor Hutchison commented safety should be the priority, not money, and that cutting back anything overhanging the pavements to make them wider would not involve high costs. Councillor Mrs. A. Langford confirmed that the encroaching grass growing over the pavements were causing an issue with narrow pavements. Councillor Purdue-Horan confirmed that he would look into increasing the pavement width with regards to reducing overgrowth. Councillor R. Bird commented that action needed to be taken as a boy had lost his life and this was supported by Councillor K. Hayes-Heath who expressed frustration at the lack of intervention, but noted that this fell outside the Council's jurisdiction.

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8.00 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS continued.....

b) Crossing Access Facilities - Councillor Purdue-Horan informed members that one member of the public had been instrumental in arranging for the lowering of buttons on the lights making them more accessible for the disabled. He urged more individuals to come forward with any issues like these.

It was:

RESOLVED that the Deputy Mayor write in response to the letter received from Via East Midlands to suggest the cutting back of grass or trees narrowing the pavements on Chapel Lane.

02 Rushcliffe Borough Councillor Mrs. S. Hull

a) Rushcliffe Borough Council Local Development Framework Committee - the Committee had met and the Green Belt strategy was going back for consultation.

b) Growth Board – The Board had been updated on the Bingham Christmas Market and the positive comments received. The lighting issue over the market place at the Christmas Fair had taken until two weeks ago to rectify and one light outside Costa Coffee remained unlit. Councillor Hull updated Members that it is an NCC lighting column and County Councillor Cutts was following up on this matter. The Growth Board had also discussed the use of Bingham Market Place. Members were also updated that Jonathan Hammond and members of the Bingham Business Club are looking at a website for local businesses.

The Deputy Mayor confirmed that he had provided Growth Board Officers with a report prior to the meeting on the use of the market place. Local businesses had been approached and consensus was that a European feel with tables and chairs on the market place would be welcomed, although there are potential issues of storage this could be overcome with investment. The Manor House, falling into disrepair remained an issue but without the issues of car parking being resolved, any use of it could increase the parking issues so this needs to be addressed first. Councillor Hutchison commented that the parking meter arrangements in Radcliffe On Trent were working well and there were unnecessary delays to bring similar plans to Bingham. Councillor Hayes-Heath confirmed that the local community events group are looking to utilise the market place for events

c) Union Street - The County Council had completed its work on a traffic survey of Bingham and Nottingham County Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council would be working on the results of this together.

d) Poacher Line - Rushcliffe Borough Council were currently working on a business plan for the Poacher Line to Skegness in conjunction with other agencies to try and secure better facilities and more frequent trains.

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8.00 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS continued.....

e) Hammerhead Land - Further to the confirmation of the land purchased by Rushcliffe Borough Council in Bingham, once a plan had been developed they will contact the Town Council to discuss it further. The land was about to be marketed, so this meeting would hopefully be arranged soon and then discussions over possible access to the contaminated allotment site could take place. Councillor Hutchison commented that the input and opinions of Bingham Town Council would be better taken before the land was marketed. The Deputy Mayor confirmed that he had written to Rushcliffe Borough Council already to put that view forward.

f) Community Chest - Councillor Hull also confirmed that she had updated all members on the latest figures of the Community Chest fund and any future plans for playparks could utilise part of the fund if required.

Councillor Purdue-Horan stated that he had noted some concern from another Rushcliffe Councillor with regard to information to assist with funding, however the Deputy Mayor noted that this was an issue for Rushcliffe Council and not the Town Council.

With the agreement of the Council Standing Orders were suspended to allow an oral update from Mr Ashton of the Friends of the Manor House Group who reported that the Group had reached a point where they are currently waiting for contact from the owner before looking at potential funding options.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

03 Rushcliffe Borough Councillor Purdue-Horan

Councillor Purdue-Horan confirmed that Rushcliffe Borough Council would be discussing the Leisure Strategy including the future of Bingham Leisure Centre next week. They had cautiously looked a 5 year time frame and after approval of the draft strategy the priority would then move to Bingham. Councillor Purdue-Horan confirmed that he will request a site visit to the leisure centre as this had not been done for 5 years so he considered this an urgent priority.

9.00 OTHER REPORTS:

Police Priority Setting Group

Councillor Bird updated members meeting of the Group held in January at which Inspector Craig Berry had updated the Group that Rushcliffe currently had 2 Senior Officers, 6 Police Officers and 10 PCSO's to cover the Rushcliffe area, but was currently recruiting. Police bases had gone down from 3 to 2, West Bridgford and Cotgrave. The Police had reaffirmed the importance of community engagement. Crime figures were given as a guide, 4% increase in Radcliffe On Trent, 7% in Bingham compared to the national average of 8%.

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9.00 OTHER REPORTS: continued.....

There had been burglaries and distraction burglaries in the area. The priorities for the next three months were confirmed as the anti-social behaviour issues between Newton and Bingham, Cycling and motorists and etiquette with horses.

Councillor Purdue-Horan confirmed that due to complaints of speeding drivers on Mill Hill and Mallow Way, he had written requesting an interactive speed sign for the area. It was also noted that the local increase in crime was also due to many incidents of petrol station drive offs.

Members agreed to discuss item 11 before item 10 on the agenda as any decision on Item 11 could impact on the Budget.

11 GRASS CUTTING WORKING PARTY UPDATE

Councillor Hull updated members on the meeting of the Grass Cutting Working Party. The principle recommendation from the Group was that the Council consider employing an extra full time member of staff as this would give the Council more control of maintenance on land the Council owned and greater flexibility in times of sickness and holiday.

In considering the proposal, members expressed the need for clarification on whether this post should be a full time position, contract position or whether an apprenticeship was a possibility.

Accordingly, It was **proposed** by the Deputy Mayor and **seconded** by Councillor Mrs Costello to ask the Personnel Committee to discuss the options of a full time employee, fixed term contract or an apprentice and to provide a recommendation for discussion at the next meeting of the Council.

10.00 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

01 Draft Budget Proposal

Members discussed the budget recommendations from the Resources Committee.

RESOLVED subject to the following alterations:

- (a) Finance Budget – addition of website/it budget of £1400
- (b) Finance Budget - addition of Recruitment Budget of £2000
- (c) Finance Budget - increased to £4000
- (d) Promotions Budget - deletion of £1500 for website
- (e) Promotions Budget - combined total of £12,000 for the Summer/Xmas fairs

In order to demonstrate commitment of the Council to improving recreational facilities in Bingham Councillor Purdue Horan moved that the Recreational reserve be increased to £100,000. Councillor Purdue-Horan requested a recorded vote and the voting was as follows:

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10.00 BUDGET AND PRECEPT continued.....

For (6):

Councillor R. Bird, Councillor Mrs. J. Costello, Councillor A. Harvey, Councillor K. Hayes-Heath, Councillor F. Purdue-Horan and Councillor A. Shelton,

Against (4):

Councillor Mrs S. Hull, Councillor Mrs. E. Hutchison, Councillor Mrs A. Langford and Councillor K. Vallance

Abstentions (0)

RESOLVED by recorded vote of 6 to 4 in favour, to increase the Recreation Reserve to £100,000 by moving £34,000 from the General reserve Account to the Recreation Reserve.

The Precept figure after alteration was £258,558

02 Setting of Council Tax Precept

Following the various additions and deletions to the budget, members determined to reduce the total precept figure by removing £6650 from the Property Development Reserve to give a final precept figure of £251,908 to maintain the recommendation from Resources Committee. Folio 8574/8575

RESOLVED to approve a precept of £251,908 which reflects council tax for a Band 'D' of £73.19, giving a 1.01% increase from 2017/18.

12.00 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members noted that the Officers had suggested savings on the Council's current subscription costs. Members agreed that Resources Committee would discuss the savings for recommendation at the next meeting of the Council.

13.00 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND CIVIC AWARD ARRANGEMENTS

Members were updated and it was noted that the Mayor was organising the refreshments and other arrangements with the office.

RESOLVED that the office would look to arrange display boards with pictures of Bingham events, grant aid awards for the last two years and to liaise with the Methodist Centre for the showing of the 'B' Fest video to promote Bingham Events.

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14.00 MANAGING THE COUNCILS RESPONSIBILILITES:

14a. Memorial Bench

Members considered the request for a Memorial Bench in the Grounds of Bingham Cemetery.

RESOLVED to give permission for a bench and plaque to be ordered and installed at the costs stated.

14b. Warners Paddock Geophysical Search Request

RESOLVED that Members had no objections to the Geophysical Survey taking place but requested that Councillor Mrs T. Kerry contact the tenant before making any arrangements.

The Clerk was requested to update the Crown Estates before the survey commences.

14c. Rugby Club – Additional Container Request

Members were updated that the Bingham RUFC had made enquiries as to whether the Council would approve the siting of an additional container to store equipment on the Wynhill site.

Members had no objection in principal but would require Bingham RUFC to take on the planning application and provide Members with more detailed information of the size, location and aesthetics. The Clerk was asked to update Bingham RUFC and to make them aware of the planning expiration of the container already on site.

14d. Christmas Opening Hours - Concern

Members noted a concern raised over the office closure over the Christmas Period for a family wishing to arrange a funeral.

RESOLVED that in future years local Funeral Directors would be supplied with emergency contact list.

14e. Geocache Request for Linear Walk

RESOLVED that members had no objection for the siting of a Geocache, subject to the approval of the Friends of Linear Park. The Clerk to contact before issuing permission.

14f. Fencing – Butt Field

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14.00 MANAGING THE COUNCILS RESPONSIBILILITES: continued.....

Due to the significant size of the area, Members requested the Clerk provide further photographs of the area and other potential accesses for Motorbikes and report to Council with quotes for further consideration.

15.00 To consider any correspondence received, including:

01. Great British Spring Clean

Members noted the short timescale and it was RESOLVED to ask the local Community Events Group that have expressed an interest in the event, to organise a Bingham Spring Clean prior to the Summer Fair. Any costs for equipment could be considered through a Grant Aid application.

02. Chapel Lane - Update

Members noted the earlier update, Folio 8566/8.00

16.00 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

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

The following matters were discussed:-

- 01 PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 103, 104, 105, 106, 107 & 108
- 02 COPELAND GROVE
- 03 IT ISSUES - UPDATE
- 04 WARNERS PADDOCK
- 05 BRIDLEWAY – UPDATE
- 06 INSURANCE – UPDATE
- 07 STAFFING ISSUES

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 11.17 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN.

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Earmarked Reserves 2016/17 - transactions est. year end.

	31.03.16	Rcpts	Pymts	31.03.17	Resources Comm 2017/2018	Full Council 14.02.17	31.03.18
Allotments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cemetery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community	2700	350	230	2,820	0	0	2,820
Depot	29122.49	5600	690	34,033	5,600	5,600	39,633
Environment	2000	500	0	2,500	0	0	2,500
Gen Reserve	184,998	0	6444	178,554	0	-34,000	144,554
Office Eqpt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Old Court House Reserve	4265	1000	0	5,265	1,000	1,000	6,265
Promotion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Risk Management reserve	11000	2500	0	13,500	0	0	13,500
Property Development Reserve	101418.71	23000	2,250	122,169	23,000	16,350	138,519
Recreation	45546.48	10000	-645	56,191	10,000	34,000	100,191
	381,051	42,950	8,969	415,032	39,600	22,950	447,982

Budget Requirement 16/17	246268
Council Tax Base	3410
per band D	£72.22

Budget 17/18	251,908
Council Tax Base	3441.9
per band D	£73.19

Confirmed
1.3% increase