



BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 16th January 2007 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors C. B. Lanham (Chairman), Mrs. J. M. Boswell (Vice Chairman), Mrs. S. J. Baxter, A. N. Blagg, Miss D. H. Campbell, G. N. Denaro, Mrs. R. L. Dent, Mrs. A. E. Doyle, J. T. Duddy, Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., B. L. Fuller, C.B.E., Q.F.S.M., Mrs. K. M. Gall, M. H. Gill, Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths, D. Hancox, R. Hollingworth, G. H. R. Hulett, Mrs. J. D. Luck, Ms. J. A. Marshall, P. M. McDonald, D. McGrath, S. R. Peters, N. Psirides, J. A. Ruck, G. G. Selway, C. R. Scurrall, S. P. Shannon, Mrs. M. A. Sherrey, Mrs. C. J. Spencer, Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor, C. J. Tidmarsh P. J. Whittaker and C. J. K. Wilson.

72/06 **PRAYER**

At the request of the Chairman, the Reverend Wendy Moore opened the meeting with a prayer.

73/06 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss S. L. Bushby, A. L. Deakin, A. J. Dent, D. C. Norton, and E. C. Tibby.

74/06 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11th November 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

75/06 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr K Dicks declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 Recommendations By The Executive Cabinet (Viii) Performance & Development Processes – Chief Executive/Acting Chief Executive

76/06 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

(i) Mrs Margaret Lord

The Chairman informed members of the recent death of Mrs. Margaret Lord.

(ii) Holocaust Memorial day

The Chairman informed members of details of the Holocaust Memorial day service which would be held on 27th January at South Bromsgrove High School.

(iii) Charity Concert

On behalf of the Chairman, Councillor Fuller informed members of a concert which would be held at the Artrix on 24th March in aid of the Chairman's Charities.

(iv) Communications Manager

The Chairman welcomed Anna- Marie Dangerfield the Council's new Communications Manager to the meeting.

77/06 **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(i) Performance Improvement

The Leader informed Members that the Council's performance had significantly improved during the previous year and that improvement had been due to the work undertaken by officers. On behalf of the members of the Council the Leader expressed his thanks to the officers.

(ii) Shared Services

The Leader reported his disappointment at the attitude of some of the other authorities in the county towards this Council as a result of the decision taken on the shared services issue.

(iii) Highways Partnership Unit

The Leader informed Members that he had attended a recent meeting with officers and a member from the county Council regarding the performance of the Highways Partnership Unit. He also informed members of a new process for reporting potholes.

(iv) Neighbourhood Management Forums

The Leader reported that the first two Neighbourhood Management Forums had begun meeting.

(v) Parish Councils

The Leader reported on a recent meeting of the Parish Forum and on new arrangements regarding payments for concurrent functions.

(vi) CPA Inspection

The Leader reminded members that the CPA inspection would be taking place in the week commencing 26th February

(vii) Visit To Meet the Minister

The Leader informed members that the next visit to London to meet the Minister regarding the Council's voluntary intervention status would be on 7th February 2007

(viii) Member behaviour

The Leader reminded members of the need to maintain high standards of behaviour especially when addressing officers and of the need to dress appropriately when attending council meetings.

(ix) Briefing on the White Paper and Member Development

The Leader made reference to a recent presentation on the Local Government White Paper. He stressed the importance of members attending such sessions. He also stressed the importance of members taking an active part in the new member development programme.

78/06

PRESENTATION FROM LGIU AND INLOGOV ON THE MODERN COUNCILLOR PROGRAMME

Dennis Reed from the Local Government Information Unit gave a presentation on the Member Development Programme. Following the presentation members asked some questions. The Chairman thanked Mr. Reed for the presentation.

79/06

**RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE CABINET
MEETING ON 6TH DECEMBER 2006 AND 3RD JANUARY 2007**

**(i) Local Government (Early Termination Of Employment)
(Discretionary Compensation) (England And Wales)
Regulations 2006**

RESOLVED, that discretionary powers be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Head of Financial Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder to make a single lump sum payment (including any redundancy payment where necessary) of up to no more than 52 weeks actual pay to any employee in accordance with the criteria set out in the report.

(ii) Code Of Practice Relating To Licensing Matters

RESOLVED that the revised code of practice in relation to licensing matters, as set out in the appendix to the report, be approved.

(iii) Scheme Of Delegation – Gambling Act 2005

RESOLVED that the table of delegations set out in the appendix to the report be approved.

**(iv) Submission Of Comprehensive Performance
Assessment Self ASSESSMENT**

RESOLVED that the Acting Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with group leaders, to agree the CPA self assessment.

(v) Local Protocol On Relations Between Members

RESOLVED that the Local Protocol on Relations between Members, as now amended and set out in the attached appendix, be approved and adopted subject to the first sentence in paragraph 4.3 being amended to read as follows:

“Members’ integrity should not be questioned in public in any media nor should they be subject to any name-calling or abuse.”

(vi) Committee Timetable 2007/08

RESOLVED that the Committee Timetable for 2007/08, as set out in the appendix to the report, be approved.

(vii) Longbridge – Approval For Joint Development Plan Document

RESOLVED that Bromsgrove District Council and Birmingham City Council work jointly to prepare a Development Plan Document in relation to the Longbridge Area Action Plan.

(viii) Performance & Development Processes – Chief Executive/Acting Chief Executive

RESOLVED

- (a) that the proposed Performance Development and Review (PDR) process for the Chief Executive as outlined in the report be approved;
- (b) that the proposed PDR process for the Acting Chief Executive as outlined in the report be approved and that responsibility be delegated to the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development in consultation with the Leader of the Council to ensure that agreement to vary the Acting Chief Executive's current contract of employment is reached through a proper process of consultation with him;

Having declared an interest Mr. K Dicks left the meeting and took no part in the consideration of the above matter.

80/06 **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

No questions had been submitted.

81/06 **MOTION SUBMITTED UNDER NOTICE**

Members considered the motion submitted by Councillor P. McDonald.

“That this Council recognizes the strong and compassionate pleas of Bromsgrove residents in their wish to see senior citizens and disabled parking charges introduced in May 2006 withdrawn and that the pre May 2006 charging policy be reintroduced. Therefore, we call upon the Council to adjust to budget for 2007/8 to reflect this.”

RESOLVED that consideration of the motion be deferred until the budget meeting to be held on 27th February 2007.

82/06 **MOTION SUBMITTED UNDER NOTICE**

Members considered the motion submitted by Councillor S.P. Shannon.

“Bromsgrove District Council, through its economic development department promote and encourage private land owners to participate in 'The Penalty Charge System' method of parking enforcement. This system can provide an alternative to the controversial practice of wheel clamping/vehicle seizures that is currently bringing Bromsgrove's reputation as a nice place to visit or shop into disrepute.”

The Chairman announced that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.4, consideration of the motion would be deferred until the following meeting to allow the submission of an officers report.

83/06 **PETITION**

Councillor P. McDonald submitted a petition relating to senior citizens and disabled parking charges.

The Chairman, in accordance with the Council Procedure Rule 20, received the petition and referred the petition to the Executive Cabinet for consideration.

84/06 **PARISH COUNCILS REVIEW**

RESOLVED that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be given delegated powers to make Orders under Section 17 of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997.

85/06 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

RESOLVED that the Acting Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition, be authorised to accept and implement the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the review of Members' Allowances for 2007/08 subject to the Panel being asked to

- i) Reconsider the proposed increase in the allowance for the Chairman of the Standards Committee in light of the fact that the Chairman of the Committee is not an elected member and the Committee does not meet frequently; and
- ii) Consider making a payment to all group leaders based on the size of their respective groups and making a separate payment for the roles of Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition.

86/06 **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

RESOLVED that

- i) Councillor Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths be appointed to serve on the Bromsgrove Youth Strategy Group; and
- ii) The Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Spatial Strategy and Customer Care be appointed to serve on the Board of the Worcestershire Hub

The meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

Chairman