

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

7 June 2006

Attendance:

Councillors:

Rees (Chairman) (P)

Bennetts (P)
Berry (P)
Beveridge (P)
de Peyer (P)
Higgins (P)
Hiscock (P)
Love (P)
Mather (P)
Maynard (P)

Nelmes
Nunn (P)
Pearce
Pines (P)
Saunders (P)
Stephens
Tait (P)
Worrall (P)

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Rees be elected Chairman for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Bennetts be appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

3. **DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Members discussed the dates of future meetings as published on the agenda. In noting that the October and November meetings would receive budget reports, Members requested that the timetabling of the February meeting be reviewed so as to provide sufficient time to consider and influence the 2007/08 budget process and grant applications.

Whilst the Forum had sympathy with a suggested start time of 7.00pm to assist those Councillors in full-time employment, it was agreed that future meetings should continue to commence at 6.30pm. The Chairman also agreed to cancel any future meetings if there were insufficient business items.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to confirmation of the 8 February 2007 meeting, the timetable of future meetings be agreed as set out on the agenda, with each meeting starting at 6.30pm.

4. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Nelmes, Pearce and Stephens.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Forum, held on 18 January 2006, be approved and adopted.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No statements were made or questions asked.

7. **RECREATION GROUNDS OUT-TURN 2005/06**

(Report WTF73 refers)

The Report had been presented to the Forum following its previous meeting on 18 January 2006, where a £30,000 saving had been recommended from the Recreation Grounds budget.

In response to Members' questions, the Director of Communities explained that an officer group was investigating a claim from the Council's contractors Serco that, although the number of facilities (such as playgrounds) had increased through Open Space Funding, the financial terms of the contract did not reflect this increase. The Director confirmed that the group's conclusions would be reported to the next meeting of the Forum.

Members also debated how Open Space Funding from developments could be used (for example whether it could be used on waterways or maintenance costs) and in light of a forthcoming Cabinet report (CAB1276 refers), the Director agreed to update the Forum at its next meeting.

The Forum congratulated the Environment Officer, Mr Ivan Gurdler, for his work and noted that budget options for a programme of tree plantings would be included in a report to the next meeting. The Director also answered further questions regarding the cost of emptying dog bins and on the budget's income.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Communities present to the next meeting of the Forum reports on the scope for the use of the Open Space Fund, the maintenance costs of open spaces and playgrounds, and tree planting.

8. **VISION FOR WINCHESTER DOCUMENT**

(Oral Report)

The Chief Executive reported on the latest draft of the Vision for Winchester document. The Draft had been agreed by the group of Members which had

been appointed by the 23 November 2005 Town Forum meeting to advise the Chief Executive.

In response to comments, the Chief Executive explained that the document would evolve to reflect changes in the town; that it was part of the Council's new role as community leader and, to be as inclusive as possible, it had deliberately avoided naming institutions in the town.

Following debate, it was agreed to delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with a representative from each political group serving on the Forum, the power to approve the Vision on behalf of the Forum; taking into account any comments Members may subsequently submit. Once the document was agreed, it would be published for wider consultation with groups such as the City of Winchester Trust and then returned to the Forum in advance of its consideration by Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to approve the Vision for Winchester Document on behalf of the Forum, prior to consultation with the advice of representatives of each of the Forum's political groups (Councillors Rees, Saunders and Bennetts were appointed).

9. **WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM – 2006/07 PUBLIC MEETINGS PROGRAMME**

(Report WTF72 refers)

Councillor Beveridge declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in this item as a member of the Council of the City of Winchester Trust which had suggested a topic for debate in the Report. Councillor Beveridge spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Berry declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in this item as a member of the City of Winchester Trust which had suggested a topic for debate in the Report. Councillor Berry spoke and voted thereon.

Taking into account the suggested subjects outlined in the Report, the Forum agreed to delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the programme of public meetings from the following subjects:

- Youth Issues: To engage both university and pre-university age ranges in a debate with the City Council to be held at venue away from the Guildhall. It was suggested that a Youth Council for Winchester could be discussed along with links to volunteering;
- Presentation from the City of Winchester Trust regarding Heritage Town Status for Winchester;
- Café Culture;
- Traffic: although some reservations were raised by some Members about this subject, others suggested that it would generate interest from the public with regard to parking issues and the County Council's new 15 year access plan for the town.

RESOLVED:

That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman set the 2006/07 Public Meetings Programme for the Forum, in light of the above discussion.

10. **“MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT” PUBLIC MEETING NOTES, 9 MARCH 2006**
(Report WTF70 refers)

In discussing the above meeting, the Forum expressed its thanks to Mr Heathcock (Head of Environment) for an excellent presentation to the Forum.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

11. **“MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT” PUBLIC MEETING 9 MARCH 2006 – RESULTS OF QUESTIONNAIRE**
(Report WTF71 refers)

Whilst noting some of the public’s comments, the Chairman agreed to review with the City Secretary and Solicitor the publicity arrangements for future public meetings so as to maximise and broaden its attendance.

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.25pm.

Chairman