

Runnymede Borough Council

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

12 December 2002

The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Mrs P.I. Broadhead) in the Chair

Members of the
Council present:

Councillors A. Alderson, Mrs F.M. Angell, Mrs F.J. Barden,
E.G. Barrett, Mrs P.I. Broadhead, M.J. Brown, A. G. Collins, A.J. Davis,
D.P. Easton, J.M. Edwards, J.R. Furey, Mrs L.M. Gillham,
P.A. Greenwood, J.E. Haas, R.K. Habgood, Mrs S E Jacobs, Mrs C.Y. Jones
C. Knight, A.M. Moore, C.J. Norman, Mrs J. Norman, R. Pate, D.W. Parr,
P.J. Poole, Mrs E.E. Price, R.J. Ray, Ms C.M. Simmons, Mrs V.A. Smallman,
N.Thewlis, G.J. Thomas, A.P. Tollett, P.J. Waddell, J.R. Whiteley and
G.B. Woodger

Members of the
Council absent:

Councillors J.R. Ashmore, V.E. Barker, P.C. Elding, Mrs C.E. Gant,
H.W.V. Meares, B.J. Relph, P.B. Tuley and K.J.T. Walmsley

489. FORMER COUNCILLOR K.J. CLARK

The Council stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect to former Councillor K.J. Clark who had recently died. Councillor Clark had represented Addlestone and St. Pauls Ward between 1995 and 2000, and was a former Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee.

490. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 October 2002 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

491. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked those Council staff and others who had made the Mayor's Reception such a success.

492. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ashmore, Barker, Elding, Mrs Gant, Relph and Walmsley.

493. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Jacobs declared a personal and prejudicial interest under the Runnymede Code of Conduct for Members in para. 380, page 695 "Planning Applications" but remained in the room as the matter was a resolved item and not subject to debate.

494. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES - REVIEW BOARD

RESOLVED that -

the recommendation of the Corporate Management Committee as set out in paragraph 393, page 705 (Minutes of 7 November 2002) be approved.

495. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY - CHANGES**RESOLVED that -**

the recommendation of the Housing and Community Services Committee as set out in paragraph 409, page 736 (Minutes of 13 November 2002) be approved.

496. INTERNAL AUDIT

The Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee which had met on 5 December 2002.

It was recommended that the Standards Committee should also assume the role of Audit Committee, thereby receiving reports on the overall control environment, reviewing compliance and assessing exposure to risk. Its terms of reference would be amended, so that it could commence this additional role in the new Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that -

the terms of reference of the Standards Committee be expanded to include the audit responsibilities identified above with effect from the start of the 2003/04 Municipal Year.

497. IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

The Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee which had met on 5 December 2002.

In moving acceptance of the recommendations the Chairman, Councillor Woodger, made some slight amendments which were accepted by the Council.

RESOLVED that -

- i) the contents of the amended Implementing Electronic Government Statement attached at Appendix A be endorsed; and**
- ii) the IT Members Working Group be requested to examine the relative priorities to be applied in adopting the e government modernising agenda set out in the Statement, and report back with particular reference to the cost-benefit considerations.**

498. MATCHING I.T. SUPPORT TO CHANGING REQUIREMENTS

The Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee which had met on 5 December 2002.

RESOLVED that -

- i) the IT staffing establishment be amended by the deletion of the following posts :**
 - a) day time computer operator (p/t)**
 - b) Web Technician (p/t)**
 - c) computer operator (telephone support) (p/t)**
- and the creation of the following posts:**
 - a) Assistant Database Administrator and Network Manager (Oracle),**

- b) **Assistant Database Administrator and Network Manager (SQL Server)**
- c) **Help Desk Officer**
- ii) **Content Management and Customer Relationship Management solutions be investigated with a view to identifying the extent of their value to the future workings of the Council and recommending suitable products for adoption; and**
- iii) **investigation into new forms of working to support IT be undertaken most notably, but not exclusively, in the areas of joint working with other Councils in the provision and support of computer services, the externalisation of all or a number of the IT functions and the off-site location of some or all of the systems including the use of ASP (Application Service Provider) services for key systems.**

499. DETERMINATION OF THE COUNCIL'S TAX BASE FOR 2003/04

The Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee which had met on 5 December 2002.

RESOLVED that –

- i) **the report of the Treasurer for the calculation of the Council's tax base for the year 2003/04 be approved, and**
- ii) **pursuant to the report and in accordance with the Local Authorities' (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by Runnymede Borough Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2003/4 shall be 32,458.**

500. 147/149 STATION ROAD, ADDLESTONE – POTENTIAL ACQUISITION – REFERENCE TO CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee which had met on 5 December 2002.

RESOLVED that –

capital programme provision for the purchase of 147/149 Station Road, Addlestone and a capital estimate in the sum of £386,250 (to include associated costs of the transaction) be made.

501. VACANT AND UNFIT PROPERTIES COMPULSORY PURCHASE – REFERENCE TO CORPORATE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Council considered a recommendation from the Corporate Management Committee which had met on 5 December 2002.

RESOLVED that –

a capital estimate of £1m be approved, to be financed from sales and reinvested on a rolling basis to completion of the acquisition programme.

502. REFERENCE TO COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER 25.10

In accordance with Standing Order 25.10 the Runnymede Independent Group had served notice that it wished the Council to discuss the decision taken by the Economic Development Committee on 14 November 2002 (para. 419, page 742 - "Air Transport in the UK: South East -

Consultation"). This was a resolved item, and the comments which had been forwarded to the Department for Transport are attached herewith as Appendix B.

In accordance with Standing Order 25.11 it was moved by Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Mrs Price, that -

- i) "The Economic Development Committee consider the matter and recommend appropriate policy for similar matters in the future; and
- ii) The Review Board review and report to Council, via the appropriate Committees, on the merits of the decision."

Councillor Moore, in support of his motion, argued that the possible expansion of Heathrow Airport covered a wide area of topics (environment, pollution, employment, health, transport et alia) which had not been fully discussed and which had not been reflected in the response agreed by the Economic Development Committee. It was the view of some Members that the Economic Development Committee should also discuss the development of proper mechanisms and procedures to ensure that such issues were fully considered and that the outcome was approved by full Council.

Accordingly, it was :

RESOLVED that -

- i) the Economic Development Committee consider the matter and recommend appropriate policy for similar matters in the future; and**
- ii) the Review Board review and report to Council, via the appropriate Committees, on the merits of the decision.**

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 9.31 p.m.)