

MINUTES OF CORPORATE DECIDING COMMITTEE
Tuesday, 10th April 2001 at 8.20 pm

PRESENT: Councillor John (Chair), Councillor Beswick (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Brown (for Lorber), Cribbin (for Joseph), Kansagra (for R Blackman), D Long, Reeder and Van Colle.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Blackman, Joseph and Lorber.

1. Declarations of Interests

There were none.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 14th March 2001

RESOLVED:-

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th March 2001 be approved as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

There were none.

4. Recommendations of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee – 2nd April 2001

RESOLVED:-

that the recommendations be noted.

5. Deputations

There were none.

6. Petition regarding John Billam Sports Pavilion

The Committee received a report containing a petition with over 1,300 signatures and some other letters objecting to the disposal of John Billam Sports Pavilion on a 125-year lease.

Councillor Van Colle proposed an amendment to defer the sale for six months to enable consultation with former users and an investigation of alternative funding. On being put to the vote the amendment was declared LOST.

Councillors Brown, Kansagra and Van Colle asked that their assent to the amendment be recorded.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the petition be noted;
- (ii) that the Council proceed with the disposal of John Billam Sports Pavilion with associated car parking area to the Gujarati Arya Association; and
- (iii) that officers proactively consult sports and other community users in their negotiation of the continuing use condition.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 46(d), Councillors Brown, Kansagra and Van Colle asked that their dissent from the above decision be recorded.

7. Brent Sports Centres – Increase in Activity Charges

Members received a report outlining a new pricing structure for the Council's Sports Centres. The new price increases were for activities at Vale Farm, Charteris and Willesden Sports Centres. Councillor Van Colle expressed concern with regard to the extent of some increases and asked why such large increases were deemed necessary. In response Councillor Beswick mentioned that the price increases amounted to justifiable "catch-up" measures. He also reminded Members of the Committee that extensive consultation had taken place on the issue.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the new pricing structure and proposed increases take effect from the 1st May 2001; and
- (ii) that it be noted 300 Brent Leisure Cards have been made available to the Quality Protects Task Scheme for use by young people and carers as part of the Council's corporate role for children in its care.

In accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 46(d), Councillor Brown asked that his dissent from the above decision be recorded.

8. Data Network Review

Members were informed that the Council needed to change the primary manufacturer of equipment for its data network because of the withdrawal of the current supplier, 3Com, from the data networking market. It was proposed to adopt Cisco Systems as the new manufacturer. As part of the migration from 3Com to Cisco equipment it was also intended that the Council's basic network structure be

redesigned to improve its resilience and capacity and to take advantage of new technological developments.

RESOLVED:-

that the adoption of Cisco Systems as the Council's primary supplier of data networking equipment be approved.

9. Community Development Directorate Capital Schemes 2001/2002

The Committee had before them a report seeking approval for schemes at the new Bridge Park Complex, as detailed in the Council meeting papers of 5th March 2001. An indicative capital allocation of £360k is made to Community Development Directorate of which £138k is identified for schemes at the new Bridge Park Complex.

Councillor Van Colle proposed that the £138,000 allocated for Bridge Park be re-allocated to improve facilities at John Billam Sports pavilion. On being put to the vote, the proposed amendment was declared LOST.

Councillors Kansagra and Van Colle asked that their support for the amendment be recorded.

RESOLVED:-

that the schemes for the new Bridge Park Complex within the Community Development Capital Programme for 2001/2002 be approved.

10. E-Government Strategy

Members were informed that the Government was actively promoting electronic government and had set targets for public sector electronic service delivery – 25% by 2002 and 100% by 2005. Local Authorities are expected to produce strategies to demonstrate how they intend to develop their own e-government programmes and meet those electronic service delivery targets. The Council's e-government strategy outlined the overall policies and vision for the development of electronic services to meet the needs of Brent residents, business and partner organisations.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the recommendations detailed in the E-Government Strategy document be agreed; and

- (ii) that there be a meeting of the IT Issues Group to consider the E-Government Strategy and the issues raised in the report to go to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in further detail.

11. Sub-Committee Membership Changes

There were none.

12. Delegated Powers Decisions

There were none.

13. Minutes of Sub-Committees

RESOLVED:-

that the following sets of minutes be received and agreed:-

- (i) Ad Hoc Staff Appeals (No 4) Sub-Committee – 25th January 2001
- (ii) Ad Hoc Staff Appeals (No 4) Sub-Committee – 31st January 2001
- (iii) Brent Pension Fund Sub-Committee – 20th February 2001
- (iv) Corporate Deciding (GP) Sub-Committee – 7th March 2001
- (v) Ad Hoc (Senior Staff) Appointments Sub-Committee – 9th March 2001.

14. Any Other Urgent Business

There was none.

15. Exclusion of Press and Public

The following items were not for publication as they contained a category of exempt information as specified in Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, namely:-

“Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the Authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

16. Proposed Telecommunications Installation at Mapes House, Winchester Avenue, London NW6

The Committee received a report setting out the terms for the grant of a lease of the Roof of Mapes House, Winchester Avenue to Orange Personal Communications Services Limited. Councillor Brown suggested that the Council should have a definitive strategy on the issue. In response Suresh Kamath (Environmental Services) stated

that a report was being put together for a future Public Services Deciding Committee.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that it be agreed to grant a 10-year lease of part of the Roof top of Mapes House to Orange Personal Communications Services Limited at an initial rent as set out in the report from the Manager, Corporate Property Services; and
- (ii) that the Manager, Corporate Property Services be authorised to agree such other terms as are in the best financial interest of the Council in granting the lease.

17. Willesden Sports Centre – Redevelopment: Additional Potential Funding Source

Members received a report updating them on the redevelopment of Willesden Sports Centre and bringing to their attention the newly announced Private Finance Initiative Credits [PFI] which has available £90m over the next three years for leisure projects.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the contents of the updated report be noted; and
- (ii) that the Director of Community Development be authorised to submit a stage one bid for PFI credits in order to include an option to rebuild the sports centre.

18. Brent House Lease Renewal

The Committee had before them a report concerning the proposed renewal of the Council's leases at Brent House, 349-357 High Road, Wembley. Councillor Van Colle enquired as to whether the proposals had been independently audited. In response, Bernard Diamant (Director of Corporate Services) informed Members that the Director of Finance had the duty of looking at such proposals.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that it be agreed the Council renew its leases at Brent House on the terms proposed in the Detail of the report (*paragraph 5.20 refers*);
- (ii) that the Manager, Corporate Property Services be authorised to agree such other terms in the renewed lease that are deemed to be in the best interests of the Council;

- (iii) that it be noted there may be some disruption to Council services whilst air conditioning is installed in the floors occupied by the Council and that some Service Units may be required to decant to other premises for periods of time to facilitate the installation works; and
- (iv) that a further report be submitted if the costs of the temporary moves are likely to reach £250,000.

19. Advertising Hoardings: Neasden Recreation Ground – Lease Renewal and Update on Portfolio Review

Members considered a report seeking their consent to renew the lease of the advertising hoarding at Neasden Recreation Ground. The report also gave details of progress made on the review of the advertising portfolio.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that it be agreed to grant a new 3-year lease of the advertising hoarding at Neasden Recreation Ground on the terms and conditions set out in the report from the Manager Corporate Property Services;
- (ii) that the Manager, Corporate Property Services be authorised to agree such other terms as are in the best financial interest of the Council;
- (iii) that in the event that the operator declines to proceed with the lease on the terms noted, the Manager, Corporate Property Services be authorised to offer the hoarding to another advertising operator on similar or better terms; and
- (iv) that the progress made to date on the review of the advertising portfolio be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.55 pm

A JOHN
Chair

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