



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 5 November 2014
at The Harlington at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors Bob Schofield (Chairman), Steve Cante, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Steve Forster, Denis Gotel, Alex Gray, Leslie Holt, Alan Hope, Alan Oliver, Richard Robinson, Jeff Smith, Neil Walton, Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park
David Way- Girl Guides
Cllr Bennison-HCC and HDC

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Jasper, Cllr Pierce and Cllr Woods

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 6 Cllr Forster – Member of the Carnival Committee

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

With the correction to the spelling of Rounton Road at item 8(b) and the correction to Hart District Council at item 13, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 1 October 2014 were approved

Cllr Forster entered the meeting at 7.15pm

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

Development Control Committee	13 and 27 October 2014
Planning Committee	13 October 2014
RLA Committee	15 October 2014
Establishment Committee	20 October 2014
Policy and Finance Committee	20 October 2014

ITEM 5 ADJUSTMENT TO 2015/2016 PRECEPT

The Chairman explained that the Budget Working Group was working on the budget for 2015/2016 for future presentation to the Council. The first draft of the budget had not balanced and the Council's guidance in principle was sought on whether an increase in precept would be acceptable to Council to deal with this.

Currently the precept was approx. £550,000 and there had only been one small increase since the formation of the Council in 2010 . The HDC grant was expected to reduce by £8,000

A range of opposing views were expressed with regard to increasing or containing the current precept level in the light of the requirement for capital expenditure and any expectation from income from further new housing, though this was likely to be limited to infill sites only within the Town Council boundary.

An alternative was to help meet any shortfall through an increase to fees and charges although it was recognised that for some services this could be counter-productive.

Following careful consideration it was PROPOSED and SECONDED that there be a 0% increase in the precept in 2015/2016

Following a request from Cllr Forster there was a RECORDED VOTE

For the proposal

Cllr Cantle
Cllr Chenery
Cllr Forster
Cllr Gray
Cllr Holt
Cllr Smith

Against the proposal

Cllr Einchcomb
Cllr Gotel
Cllr Hope
Cllr Robinson
Cllr Schofield
Cllr Wright

Abstentions

Cllr Oliver
Cllr Walton

The voting being 6 for and 6 against, the Chairman used his casting vote

For the proposal 6 against the proposal 7

RESOLVED

The Budget Working Group be made aware of the Council view that a proposal for a 0% increase in the precept be not carried and that the Budget Working Group present its proposed draft budget to the Council on 3 December 2014

Cllr Oliver entered the meeting at 7.45pm during discussion on the above item

ITEM 6 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Following the request of Cllr Forster, the members considered whether they would like the Council to seek formal membership of the Carnival and Friends of Fleet Hospital Committees

RESOLVED

Fleet Town Council do not seek formal representation on the Carnival or Friends of Fleet Hospital Committees

ITEM 7 GIRL GUIDING LEASE (taken after item 4)

The Girl Guides wished to allow a pre-school to use the Guide Hall for 7 sessions per week and were seeking clarification regarding the requirement within the lease not to sub-let for more than 72 hours. The members considered the relevant section of the lease (para 7.8 .1)and

RESOLVED

The Council was content for the use of the hall by a pre-school to proceed on the proviso that it is made clear that it is used by the pre-school on a sessional basis and does not imply a tenancy of the accommodation

ITEM 8 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

It was reported that enquiries had been made of HALC with a view to providing training for new councillors and refresher training for others. It had not been possible to secure Saturday sessions thought to be preferable as so many members worked during the week.

It was noted that there was a session at Eastleigh on Wednesday 19 November 2014 and enquiries were still underway regarding training availability generally.

Members requested a list of NALC training courses and indicated support for a weekday evening session if this could be arranged

ITEM 9 FINANCIAL MONITORING

The members received a list of income and expenditure up to 29 October 2014.

Members commented on the level of financial contribution for the Basingstoke Canal. They were concerned that FTC made a significant contribution but had no representation on the managing body and this was compounded by the apparent lack of investment in the Fleet section of the canal

RESOLVED

- a) To accept into the minutes the income and expenditure payments up to 29 October 2014
- b) To write to the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee with a view to securing representation

ITEM 10 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME

The members were reminded that there was a wish list of capital projects which the members may wish to formalise into a Capital Programme. It was suggested that this task could be undertaken by a Capital Working Group

During discussion, the Chairman explained the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) formula whereby there would be an automatic payment of 15% of CIL received which increased to 25% if a Neighbourhood Plan was in place.

Cllr Oliver informed the meeting of the current consultation on CIL and urged members and all interested parties and residents to visit the HDC website to take part in the important consultation exercise.

So far as any FTC capital programme proposal was concerned it was agreed that this should ideally feed into the budget building process.

Due to the nature of many projects in the wish list it was agreed that it would be appropriate to ask the RLA Committee to review the list, possibly at a specially arranged meeting before its next meeting on 21 January 2014

ITEM 11 CHRISTMAS TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS

The members discussed the Fleet Town Council opening arrangements over the Christmas period together with the arrangements to deal with emergencies and essential services which will be posted on noticeboards and the FTC website

RESOLVED

To authorise the closure of the Town Council office from 12.30pm on 24 December 2014 with the re-opening at 9am on Monday 5 January 2015. Town Council staff will take 4 days leave to cover this closure period

ITEM 12 HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

The members received and considered a paper on the suggested establishment of a FTC Highways and Transport Working Group to replace the Highways Partnership Group which was not successful for a number of reasons.

There was general agreement that this would be beneficial and the members concerned expressed a willingness to serve (Cllrs Forster, Gotel, Hope, Jasper, Pierce and Smith)

During debate Cllr Schofield reported that a meeting of the Hart and Rushmoor Transport Group would be held on 8 December 2014 at 10am at Rushmoor Borough Council offices, when the outcome of the Bus Review would be discussed. It was reported that all three Fleet services would be detrimentally affected.

Cllr Schofield also reported on the outcome of the first Community Speedwatch AGM. Notices had been issued for 734 vehicles and 17 residents had received 2 notices. The offending rate was 11.6% with Elvetham Road suffering the highest excessive speeds.

Members asked for the officers to ensure that the Council's insurance covered the speedwatch equipment when it was on loan outside of the Town Council boundary and suggested that a scale of charges for borrowing the equipment be drawn up

RESOLVED

To set up a Highways and Transport Working Group comprising the same members who had served on the Highways Partnership

ITEM 13 FLEET FUTURE UPDATE

It was reported that the Fleet Future Fashion Show had been a resounding success

ITEM 14 HCC/HDC

- The CIL consultation
- Preferred option in the Local Plan. To be discussed by HDC Cabinet on 6 November 2014 at 7pm and at HD Council on 27 November 2014
- New Hart Leisure Centre item going to HD Council meeting on 27 November 2014
- Refuse collection pick up points under active consideration
- Glass collection-overfilling
- The support of Cllr Bennison was sought regarding the Basingstoke Canal issue

ITEM 15 WAR MEMORIAL

The members expressed their appreciation of the work to the War Memorial carried out by Mr Colin Francis and asked that a letter of thanks be sent

ITEM 16 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report was noted, in particular the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday on 9 November 2014 and the need for volunteers for the Christmas Light switch-on event on 26 November 2014

ITEM 17 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 3 December 2014 at the Harlington at 7pm

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the public in accordance with Section 1(2) and by reason of the confidential nature of the business of the Establishment Sub Committee, the Public and Press were excluded from the Meeting.

ITEM 18 CONFIDENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE ON 17 SEPTEMBER ,20 OCTOBER and 5 NOVEMBER 2014

Chairman.....Date.....