



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 4 February 2015
at The Harlington at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors Bob Schofield (Chairman), Steve Cante, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Denis Gotel, Alex Gray, Leslie Holt, Kathy Jasper, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Jeff Smith, Neil Walton, Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk
Alex Robins –Harlington General Manager (item 5)

PCSO Greenwood Fleet Police Station
PCSO Rickaby Fleet Police Station

Cllr Wheale-HCC/HDC

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park

2 members of the public were also present

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs Forster, Hope, Robinson and Woods

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

With the confirmation that there was no up-date from the Cricket Club on the lease proposals (item 6), and an amendment to item 8 Pay on Exit parking to read 'Pay on exit parking will proceed unless a party withdraws', the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 14 January 2015, were approved and signed

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

Policy and Finance Committee 19 January 2015 (item 8 amended by deleting 'although a substantial part of this reserve was allocated to earmarked reserves')

RLA Committee 21 January 2015

Development Control Committee 12 and 26 January 2015

Update from the police

Local representatives from Fleet Police Station reported on crimes between 31 Dec 2014 -31 Jan 2015 including statistics on

- Burglaries
- Arrests
- Criminal damage
- Assaults
- Anti-social behaviour
- Public order offences
- Drugs offences
- Speeding

It was confirmed that the local team was still operating from Fleet Police Station but that a move to the council offices was planned. Issues regarding CCTV were discussed and PCSO Rickaby agreed to send details of the outcome of a CCTV meeting held 2 months ago to the Town Clerk

Cllr Einchcomb entered the meeting at 7.15pm

ITEM 5 FINANCIAL REVIEW OF THE HARLINGTON AND THE IMPACT ON RESERVES

Cllr Schofield gave a detailed account of the findings of the Harlington Scrutiny Committee which had met with the officers on 2 February 2015. It was explained that the pantomime had lost £8,200 but with the addition of the budgeted profit there was budgeted loss of £14,000. Overall costs of the Harlington were £100,000 pa with events requiring a further subsidy of £90,000.

Further loss of income against budget had been incurred through the delayed availability of the Dance Studio.

It was confirmed that there was little opportunity to make savings in the current year at the Harlington but the Scrutiny Working Group had identified other areas for savings which provide a realistic year-end projection of a break even position across the budget

The up-to date position regarding reserves was explained as the background to consideration of the possibility of a pantomime in 2015 as the 2014 performance had been a great community success but not a financial one.

The prudent level of reserves was discussed together with the possible risks not covered by the Council's insurance, which were regarded as manageable. It was noted that a one day meeting with RBS had been arranged on the treatment of reserves and their integration into the accounting package.

Members were of the view that within agreed parameters, the Harlington General Manager should be authorised to open negotiations with the production company.

It was

RESOLVED that

- a) Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Council to set the parameters regarding maximum production costs, number of performances etc to be used by the Harlington General Manager in negotiations to achieve a more viable pantomime in 2015
- b) Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, Chairmen of Council, Policy and Finance and RLA Committees to approve the terms negotiated for a pantomime in 2015

ITEM 6 HARLINGTON SURVEY

The members considered a report on the outcome of the recent Harlington survey. Whilst it was disappointing that there had only been 200 replies, the result was believed to be valid because most of the respondents were Harlington users.

Members discussed various aspects of the survey and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would email the full survey to all members, place a copy on the members' portal and report the findings to the general public.

RESOLVED

- a) Members take the opportunity to review the full report/presentation prepared by David Fenton
- b) That the RLA Committee schedule a meeting with the Harlington Manager to discuss the opportunities and issues identified within the Report
- c) The Harlington Working Group take account of the opportunities and the issues raised in the report in their deliberations on the future of the Harlington.

ITEM 7 LAND TO THE FRONT OF ALL SAINTS SCHOOL

The members considered a report regarding FTC's involvement with All Saints School and the associated parking problems.

Members of FTC had met with Governors and the Head teacher in June 2013 when parking options were discussed but no scheme had materialised after All Saints School elected to manage their own development without the involvement of County Education Services. However the Governors had approached FTC again with a view to reviving interest in the project and the views of members were therefore being sought.

Following a discussion about the local and national problem of traffic at school pick up and drop off times it was

RESOLVED

To offer the necessary land to whichever body is charged with providing a parking scheme, on condition the land is used to facilitate a car parking scheme for the school.

ITEM 8 FINANCIAL MONITORING

The members received information on the following-:

- a) Income received to 28 January 2015
- b) Expenditure received up to 28 January 2015

RESOLVED

To receive into the minutes:

- a) the Income Receipts statement up to 28 January 2015
- b) the Expenditure statement up to 28 January 2015
- c) Cllr Robinson confirmed that the bank reconciliations for December 2014 (previously circulated at the 19 January 2015 Policy and Finance Committee) equals zero and that he has signed the bank statements and payment schedules.

ITEM 9 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Members considered a report regarding the Council's Grounds Maintenance contract which expires in September 2015.

The contract provided for an initial period of 3 years with an option to extend on a year by year basis, up to a maximum period of 6 years. The original contract had already been extended for one year.

It was noted that the contractor's performance was generally good with a noticeable improvement in the Council's green spaces including the condition of the football pitches.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

- a) To extend the Grounds Maintenance contract for 2 years until September 2017
- b) The officers, the contractor and a representative of Friends of Oakley Park meet on site to discuss contract monitoring.

ITEM 10 FLEET LINK

The members considered a report regarding the possible extension of the existing contract with Rushmoor Voluntary Action, through HCC.

Following the withdrawal of support from rural bus services by HCC, FTC Church Crookham and Elvetham Heath PC's had agreed to take over Hart Call and Go and rebrand it as Fleet Link securing match funding from HCC. The parishes agreed to share the cost on a usage ratio. The cost to FTC is just in excess of £14,500pa.

Crookham Village PC has now requested the extension of the service to cover Crookham Village following revision to the local bus service.

Following discussion and careful consideration it was

RESOLVED

- a) That the Town Council agree to extend the Fleet Link bus service for a further two years and two months to March 2017 on the existing terms and conditions.
- b) That Fleet Town Council agree to further investigate the incorporation of Crookham Village into the Fleet Link Agreement with a proportionate contribution
- c) Depending on the outcome of those investigations that the nominated representatives report back to the Town Council on whether to dilute the service and contribute a lesser amount or agree an increased service to be funded by Crookham Village Parish Council.

ITEM 11 ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING-TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2015

Members received a verbal update on the work of the Annual Residents' Meeting Working Group as follows:

- Time 7pm for 7.30-9pm
- Local charities/societies to be invited to mount an exhibition
- The Views display of development proposals
- Agenda to include
 - welcome
 - progress report
 - achievements
 - how money was spent
 - the panto decision
 - The Harlington survey
 - possibilities for future of the Harlington with indicative costs and precept implications
 - Neighbourhood Plan (if approved by Council in March)
- Open forum for questions/answers
- Publicity to be included in Town Talk, press release. email, Facebook, and local organisations.
- Possible use of video clips and old photos of Fleet
- Success of Friends Groups
- Use of display/story boards

ITEM 12 ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE BOILER-APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY EXPENDITURE

The Members noted that approval had been given to the repair/replacement of the boiler at Ancells Farm under emergency powers within Financial Regulations. It was reported that that there were further urgent problems regarding the front door and a failing alarm system.

RESOLVED

To proceed with the repair/replacement of the boiler, the replacement of the front door and the renewal of the alarm system, to be funded from £11,212 held in earmarked reserves (table tennis tables in parks)

ITEM 13 FLEET FUTURE

Cllr Schofield reported that the Fleet Future Committee AGM was imminent and that an application for a CIC was being progressed. It was noted that any funds outstanding in the event of the CIC winding up would pass to HVA as the donor charity.

In answer to a question Cllr Schofield reported that the Fleet Future web site was being set up and that he would speak to Michael Butcher about transparency of the organisation

ITEM 14 HCC/HDC

Cllr Wheale commented on

- Thanks for FTC support for Fleet festivities
- Work on Fleet Food Festival about to begin
- Repairs by TWA in Avondale Road
- Review of the Amey contract
- Lengthsman scheme

Cllr Oliver commented on

- New green waste bins
- HDC budget due to be considered by Cabinet on 5 Feb 2015 with 0% increase
- Climate change and environmental impact on projects

ITEM 15 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

The members received and noted the update report of the Town Clerk, in particular

- Release of £67,500 from NHTS funding for Basingbourne paths
- The start on Basingbourne Pavilion roof
- Update on the recruitment of a Maintenance Supervisor
- Leak at Ancells Farm pavilion

ITEM 16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 4 March 2015 at the Harlington at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 9.28 pm

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