

MINUTES OF THE FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

2 February 2011 7.30pm
The Harlington

Councillors

George Woods (Chair), Richard Appleton, Helen Perthen, Alan Hope, Sue Tilley, Steve Forster, Richard Robinson, Dai Pierce, Arthur Hurley.

Also Present

3 members of the public, 2 being from the Fleet Pond Society.
Shar Roselman – Clerk

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Robert Schofield, Cllr S Fisher, Cllr A Macallan, Cllr C. Butler, Cllr P. Einchcomb.

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the items under consideration at the meeting and the nature of those interests. Cllrs Tilley and Forster declared a personal interest in the Fleet Pond Society, as they were members.

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 4: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved to receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of Full Council dated 5 January 2011.

Prop: RR Sec: SF

The chair brought the pink papers of confidential minutes to member's attention.

Resolved to receive the minutes of:

The Policy and Finance Committee 17 January 2011 (including confidential item)

The Planning, Development and Control Committee 10 January 2011

The Planning, Development and Control Committee 24 January 2011

It was noted that the ward member for Calthorpe was Cllr Appleton, not Cllr Robinson, but the matter had been progressed by Cllr Robinson.

The Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee 19 January 2011

It was noted that the offer for Fleet Town Council to join with Hart District Council on the Basingstoke and Deane tender for Ground Maintenance was still open.

The Highways and Transport Committee 22 December 2010

Council noted that work on street lights will begin during 2012 and that there may be a need for work to be done by Fleet Town Council on positioning of these lights.

The Highways and Transport Partnership Meeting 18 January 2011

The Establishment Sub Committee Confidential Minutes 7 January 2011

The Establishment Sub Committee Confidential Minutes 25 January 2011

Resolved to approve the Fleet Town Council Pension Policy as follows:

The Fleet Town Council Pension Policy is to follow prevailing employment Legislation on pensionable age of employees.
Employees will be notified 6 months in advance of their coming of pensionable age of 65 that they will be retired as at that date.

This policy will be amended with any further changes to Government Legislation.

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 3: PUBLIC SESSION

The chair welcomed the Fleet Pond Society and another member of the public. The chair altered the order of items to accommodate a member of the public.

A statement was made by a member of the public regarding Postal Services in Fleet, stating that postal service had been below acceptable levels since October 2010. Although complaints had been made no response had been received, other than that efforts were being made to mitigate the situation. However, even now the level of postal service was not up to standard. It was pointed out by the member of the public that the compensation process was torturous, and that conditions for successful claims were almost impossible to meet. The member of the public added that he would like the Fleet Town Council to meet with the postal service to enquire why individual complaints were being met with denials. He suggested that, where the Post Office had a problem, there was a need to keep consumers informed.

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 8: POSTAL SERVICE

The chair thanked the member of the public for his comments. Members commented that they were in agreement with the need to keep consumers informed. Cllr Appleton mentioned that an email to Councillors had spotlighted several problem areas in Fleet. It was pointed out the Council has no direct control over or powers to deal with the Post Office. Various views were put forward by members, regarding the level of service in Fleet, including the problem of temporary staff being used over the Christmas period.

Resolved to write to the Post Office to ask for an explanation of the variable levels of postal service over the last few months, requesting them to communicate if they were experiencing problems such as major absence of staff.

Prop: SF Sec: HP

Action: The clerk

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 5. FLEET POND

A presentation on Fleet Pond was given by the Fleet Pond Society represented by Colin Gray and Jim Storey. An organisation called OPEL had chosen Fleet Pond as their project of choice, and were providing information on the levels of silt in the pond. Water was less than .5 of a meter in many areas of the pond, including in an area providing access to the island where herons nest, making them vulnerable to attacks from dogs and walkers. The problem of silting had been exacerbated by the MOD using track vehicles for training, and by the removal of hill tops to allow landing of planes. It was noted that the hill tops had been removed prior to the placement of silt traps and that the pond had silted up considerably during this period.

The Fleet Pond Society were seeking funding from various sources and there was now a high level stewardship scheme in place which had already achieved a significant grant towards the total cost of the work required. Proposals to diminish the problem included diverting the Gelvert Stream, but this was likely cause a problem with alkaline water overflowing from the stream onto the Acid Marsh Lands. Brookly Stream could be diverted through a reed bed when in high flow. Other proposals that would help were to dredge at Sandy Bay, Boathouse Corner, and Brookly Stream, and removal of fish in defined areas to increase the plankton, which in turn would help to clarify the pond. The Clearwater Campaign was now underway operating on a plan that divided the pond into sections, so that silt could be removed from each of these areas in turn. This meant fund raising was easier, as they were seeking smaller amounts of money to deal with each section instead of a lump sum.

It was suggested that the Fleet Pond Society get in contact with Daryl Phillips of Hart District Council to discuss ways in which CIL funding (replacing s106 funding under the new localism bill) could be used for restoration of the pond.

It was further suggested that the Clearwater Campaign might like to produce a small article for one of the Fleet Town Council Newsletters.

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 6: CORE STRATEGY

A proposed letter to Hart District Council on the Core Strategy was received, and debated. A number of issues were raised, including the need for social housing versus low cost housing. Cllr Appleton questioned the issue of growth, based on population figures. Major concerns regarding infrastructure before further development were considered.

It was resolved to write to Hart District Council outlining the Fleet Town Council view on Housing Growth in the area, and the Fleet Town Vision.

Action: The clerk

The chair thanked Cllr Schofield for his efforts in constructing the document.

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 7: BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW

Cllr Appleton explained that the proposed boundary review would affect Hart District Council Boundaries, and that Fleet Town Council could ask for the parish boundaries to be altered to match the District Boundaries. Hart District Council had put forward 33 councillors, which had been accepted by the Boundary Commission, resulting in a change to 5 three-member wards across Fleet and Church Crookham.

Resolved not to respond at this time, but to review a response at the point of consultation.

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 9 : PROMOTION OF THE BUDGET/PRECEPT AND CONSULTATION ON THE FLEET TOWN COUNCIL VISION

Resolved that the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting should be:

Welcoming Address	5-10 minutes
Council Vision	30 minutes
Questions on the Vision	10-20 minutes
Budget and Precept	20 minutes
Further questions	10 minutes
Invitation to become a councillor and the role of a councillor	10 minutes

Resolved that an A5 double sided supplement should be sent out before the middle of March 2011, asking for interested members of the public to become councillors, and inviting parishioners to the Annual Parish Meeting.

It was noted that this supplement would then be used for flyers to be handed out to members of the public, and for pinning on notice boards throughout the town.

Voluntary organisations, traders, other organisations, businesses and clubs will be invited to the event. Voluntary organisations and local traders will be asked to display a copy of the flyer on their boards.

Action: The clerk

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 10: PLANNING ISSUE

It was established that the land under consideration on the planning application at 7 Richard Close was private land, not Fleet Town Council or Hart District Council land.

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 11: STAFF REVIEW PROCEDURE

A procedure for staff review was received by Council. It was suggested that the review process need only take place once a year.

Resolved that the Fleet Town Council adopt a staff performance review procedure.

F.C. FEB 2011 ITEM 12:

Council received a proposed meeting schedule. Discussions took place regarding the need to schedule an additional Policy and Finance meeting in December to ensure that budget and precept preparation went smoothly and concern were expressed regarding the reduced number of full council meeting. These views will be discussed at a meeting of committee chairs, who would make a recommendation to council.

Action: The clerk

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.45 pm.

The next meeting will be on 2nd March 2011, at the Harlington, at 7.30 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....