



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 17 October 2018

at The Harlington at 7pm

Councillors

Bob Schofield (Chairman), Ruth Ashworth, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Leslie Holt, Alan Hope, Kathy Jasper, Mike Peddell, Dai Pierce, Richard Robinson, Sue Tilley, Sharyn Wheale, Peter Wildsmith, Ruth Williams, George Woods

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Alex Robins-General Manager The Harlington
Sheila Rayner- Committee Clerk

Cllr Bennison –HCC
Cllr Collett-HCC
Cllr Forster-HCC

33 Local residents

EFC Oct 2018 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology for absence from Cllrs Kirkpatrick, Oliver and Wright

EFC Oct 2018 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

EFC Oct 2018 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Q 1 Mr T Smart compared the democratic nature of the recent parish poll with the recent FTC public consultation. He asked how FTC planned to deal with the effect on services if it proved not possible to keep the library open during any development period?

A 1 All professional advice suggested that all the buildings could continue to remain open, including the library

Q 2 Mr Burt asked about the number of accidents in Gurkha Square during public events and where and how these had been recorded and reported ?

A 2 A transcript of the statement at the Q & A session on 17 September 2018 had been submitted to HDC

A copy of the transcript will be sent the Mr Burt.

Q 3 Mr S Barnes asked about how long the new building had been designed to last?

A3 To ensure the building had a design life longer than the loan period, the development had been designed to last 50 years.

Grants would also be sought from, for example, the Arts Council and s106 funding associated with the Hartland Park development had already been secured which meant the period of loan could be reduced.

Q3a If the costs increase will the precept be capped?

A3a If the final tender is significantly higher than the budgeted estimate, then FTC would not commit without reference back to Fleet residents.

Q 4 Ms E Russell asked why a letter displayed on Facebook by Cllr Schofield did not indicate that he was Chairman of FTC?

A4 Cllr Schofield has rights as a resident and is not required to disclose that he is Chairman of FTC when he is expressing a personal opinion

Q 5 Cllr Forster asked if there was an opportunity for further questions following the agenda item regarding the outcome of the public consultation?

A5 A majority of councillors indicated a willingness to allow further questions.

Q6 Mr J Merriman asked if the cost plan provided for a building with a 50 year life span?

A6 It was confirmed that the cost plan made this provision.

EFC Oct 2018 ITEM 4 HARLINGTON CONSULTATION

The Chairman explained the process of verification by the independent assessors.

The following was reported:

Households eligible to vote	9179
Household voted	1719
Voting cards returned	1874

Of the 1874 returned, 149 were ineligible:

- 42 address not on electoral register
- 18 no or only part of an address
- 22 more responses than residents on electoral roll
- 31 addresses outside Fleet
- 36 received after the closing date

Number of cards included in the count	1725
Households returning more than 1 card	6
Total number of households in the count	1719 (19% of households)
Total number of votes received	3124 (18% of eligible voters)

YES 1245 (39.9%)

NO 1874 (60.0 %)

UNCLEAR /no vote 5 (0.1%)

It was suggested that there was no value in an immediate lengthy debate as the matter would now need to be submitted to HDC as the freeholders of the Harlington and Gurkha Square

The Harlington Working Group would be convened to assemble the questions, to be approved by Council in November 2018, to be put to HDC

The Chairman then permitted local residents to ask further questions

Q 7 Cllr Forster asked if, in the light of the vote, FTC intended to proceed with asking questions of HDC and if, as the chairman had attempted to steam roller the project through, he would resign?

Q 8 Mr T Smart disassociated himself from Cllr Forster's last question that the chairman should resign and asked if options 1 and 2 would now be revisited?

A 8 FTC has no mandate to proceed with options 1 and 2 at this stage. HDC's intention in relation to their assets needs to be known first.

Q 9 Mr D Wilkins made the statement that the vision of a need for a new facility is respected. HDC should take the initiative to work with FTC toward a 'joined up' plan

A 9 FTC is willing to work with HDC but their intentions need to be known first

Q10 Mr S Barnes asked about the effect on the precept?

A 10 It was confirmed that if HDC were unable to approve any development (hit the red button) then no further funds would be raised through the precept

Q 11 Mr C Russell asked why when strong public feeling was known, no other options were being considered as a backup?

A 11 There was an earlier clear mandate for option 3

Q 12 Mr J Merriman asked if the professional teams were still working on the project?

A 12 Consideration of the outline planning application had led to some additional analysis being undertaken but no other professional work had been undertaken since April 2018. Most of the work undertaken on the superstructure of the building would be transportable to any other site, particularly the theatre/auditorium design.

Q 13 Cllr Wheale asked if as many residents supported a scheme, but not on Gurkha Square, would refurbishment be considered?

A 13 No further options can be considered until HDC's position is known

Q 14 Mr R Chapman asked if a commitment for the current Harlington site had ever been obtained from HDC?

