



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 3 January 2018

at The Harlington at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillors Bob Schofield (Chairman), Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Denis Gotel, Alex Gray, Richard Hunt, Kathy Jasper, Dai Pierce, Jonathan Wright, Sharyn Wheale, George Woods

Also Present

Janet Stanton- Town Clerk

Sheila Rayner -Committee Clerk

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park

Dave Harrison- Friends of Basingbourne

Michael Jepson-Local Resident

Chairman's Announcements

Cllr Schofield reported on the following matters:

- Cllr Schofield wished everyone a Happy New Year, but sadly had to report the death, last Sunday, of Cllr Holt's wife Betty, who many of the Councillors had met. Members were invited to add their condolences to a card for Cllr Holt
- Cllr Schofield expressed appreciation to everyone who helped make the Christmas Day lunch a success with some 55 people enjoying the Christmas Festivities in the Harlington. Special thanks were given to Charlotte who gave up Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to organise the event. Thanks were also expressed to Cllr Chenery for playing Father Christmas.
- Alex Robins and his team were thanked for making such a success of the December programme with sell out events and high bar takings.
- Thanks were also expressed to everyone who helped make the pantomime a success of which there had been good reports.

FC/Jan 2018/ ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Hope, Holt, Oliver, Peddell, Robinson, Smith and Walton

FC/Jan 2018/ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Einchcomb Item 9- Friend of Basingbourne

FC/Jan 2018/ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public

FC/Jan 2018/ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

With the correction to item 17 (£! to read £1) and the correction of dates in item 14 (ultimate paragraph) the minutes and the confidential minutes of the meeting of Council held on Wednesday 6 December 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Council received the minutes of the following committee meetings:

Development Control Committee 27 November and 11 December 2017

RLA 20 December 2017

FC/Jan 2018/ITEM 5 HARLINGTON DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Cllr Schofield reported that he had attended HDC's Scrutiny and Overview Committee on 12 December 2017 to hear the debate on the proposed Cabinet Paper to ascertain HDC's position on charging for the land occupied by the new Harlington and the loss of parking.

A broad range of issues were covered by the paper giving a reasonable appraisal of the potential issues. It was clear that the HDC Cabinet Members now appreciate the longer-term development potential of FTC vacating the existing Harlington site.

The resolution of a number of issues, in particular relating to the sub leases in the Harlington, and the need for these to be addressed jointly with HDC accepting their responsibility for relocating sub-tenants, was positive news

There was no clear direction from the HDC Overview &Scrutiny Committee on the level of financial settlement that would be required. The Cabinet debate on 11 January 2018 would give a clear understanding of what the financial implications are for FTC.

The value of the transferred asset appears to be a key issue on which HDC are seeking legal advice.

Design refinement has continued, and the Harlington General Manager had met with BFF and Charcoal Blue to finalise capacities of the two venues in the different performance formats.

A Harlington Working Group meeting was held immediately after the RLA Committee meeting on 20 December 2017, to review all the up to date information and pass any final comments to BFF so that the design layouts could be finalised for costing.

BFF were working up to Christmas Eve to finalise the drawings so it was not possible to have a definitive costing available for this Council meeting as the Quantity Surveyors were closed until 2 January 2018

The final design review, with an up to date costing will be held at the Harlington on Friday 5 January 2018. The Harlington Working Group will be in attendance to question the various specialist designers.

It was suggested at the Harlington Working Group meeting that the scheme should move forward to allow planning permission to be sought either without a final costing or one that

may be marginally over budget. This was because a scheme with planning permission will be more presentable to potential third party funders such as the Arts Council.

The current PWLB lending rates had been checked and the repayment rates remained at the same level as used in the initial cost estimates.

The final cost commitment will be known following the Design Review on 5 January 2018 and HDC's Cabinet Meeting on 11 January 2018 . It is therefore proposed that an Extraordinary Council Meeting be held on Wednesday 17 January 2018 to bring all design and cost information to Full Council. This will be confirmed as soon as possible

It was reported as a matter of information, that the CCTV survey of the utility services under the Harlington had revealed that the sewer and surface water drains were blocked.

RESOLVED

To note the current position and support the programme intentions of the Harlington Working Group

FC/Jan 2018 ITEM 6 PRECEPT 2018/2019

It was noted that the tax base for calculation of the FTC Council Tax 2018/2019 had been received from HDC. In line with the Resolution passed by Council on 1 November 2017, that a 0% increase in the 2018/2019 FTC council tax rate should be applied, it was confirmed that the precept for 2018/2019 will be £1,031,584.26 which equates to £99.81 per Band D property

It was reported that increased income generated by additional dwellings, amounted to just over £20,000

This sum has therefore been allocated to Civic and Democratic Services to fund the 2018 Town Council election

Members were also reminded that the Ground Maintenance tender was due back on 10 January 2018

RESOLVED

- a) To approve the revised budget for 2018/2019 including the allocation of £20,000 to fund the 2018 Town Council election
- b) To approve for signature the 2018/2019 precept statement of £1,031,584.26

FC/Jan 2018 ITEM 7 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The members received the Internal Auditor's report and Action Plan

RESOLVED

To receive the Internal Auditors report and approve the Action Plan following the visit of the Internal Auditor on 6 December 2017

FC Jan 2018 ITEM 8 FINANCIAL MONITORING

The members received the financial monitoring statements

RESOLVED

To receive into the minutes

- a) Cash book up to November 2017
- b) Reconciliation for November 2017 (yet to be checked by Cllr Robinson)
- c) List of Payments for November 2017

FC Jan 2018 ITEM 9 BASINGBOURNE PARK PLAY AREA

Members were informed that the RLA Committee at its meeting on 20 December ((item 10) had approved a proposed play area scheme for Basingbourne Park and RECOMMENDED to Council that an application be made to HDC for S106 funding up to £40,000

Sufficient S106 funds would remain for Calthorpe Park and the Garden of Remembrance

RESOLVED

To approve the RLA committee recommendation that an application be made to HDC for S106 funding up to £40,000

FC Jan 2018 ITEM 10 BOUNDARY CHANGES

Members noted that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England had approved the boundary changes to provide for HDC to combine the Court Manor, Courtmoor and Wickham Road parish wards into one Courtmoor Parish Ward thus reducing the number of FTC parish councillors from 19 to 18 members

FC Jan 2018 ITEM 11 BASINGSTOKE CANAL

The members noted the report of Cllr Smith on the latest meeting of the Basingstoke Canal Joint Management Committee

FC Jan 2018 ITEM 12 FLEET LINK

Cllr Schofield reported on the outcome of a meeting held in December 2017 with Church Crookham and Crookham Village Parish Councils, HCC and Rushmoor Voluntary Action.

It was reported that usage numbers were very low and a suggestion was that the service could be reduced to a Monday-Friday service to make some savings

HCC had requested a further future meeting to review usage and have asked Rushmoor Voluntary Action to seek a 10% cost cut, representing a saving of £1,300 to FTC

It was noted that there was a commitment to a service being continued throughout 2018/2019

FC Jan 2018 ITEM 13 HCC/HDC

HDC

Cllr Gray reported on

- Progress on the new Local Plan
- Possible implications of purdah

It was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group recommended the launch of the Neighbourhood Plan for consultation at the Fleet Annual Residents' meeting on 27 March 2018.

FC/Jan 2018 ITEM 14 TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE

The members noted the Town Clerk's update with the additional information that 2 trees had fallen in the recent high winds

FC/ Jan 2018 ITEM 15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 7 February 2018 at the Harlington at 7pm

Members were advised of the possibility of an extraordinary meeting of Council on 17 January 2018 to consider the Harlington development

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.47 pm

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