



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 5 March 2014
at The Harlington at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors Bob Schofield (Chairman), Chris Butler, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Sue Fisher, Steve Forster, Denis Gotel, Leslie Holt, Alan Hope, Dai Pierce, Helen Perthen, Richard Robinson, Sue Tilley, Wallace Vincent and George Woods

Also Present

James Corrigan, Town Clerk
Janet Stanton, Deputy Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner, Committee Clerk

Cllr Bennison-HDC/HCC
Cllr Parker-HDC
Cllr Wheale-HDC/HCC

Approximately 40 members of the public

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Appleton, Axam and Oliver

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Members of the public present, made their comments and asked questions during item 6 –Possible 3G at Ancells Park

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 February 2014 were considered later in the meeting.

The Council received the minutes of the following committee meetings:

Planning Committee 27 January 2014
Development Control 10 and 24 February 2014

Policy and Finance 5 February 2014

ITEM 5 FLEET CARNIVAL

This item was deferred until the May 2014 Council meeting

ITEM 6 POSSIBLE 3G SPORT FACILITY AT ANCELLS PARK

The Chairman reminded the members of the background to the consideration of a possible 3G football facility at Ancells Farm Park. As requested by the RLA Committee, the views of the public had been sought and obtained on the proposal and a number of potential issues had been raised with regard to noise, nuisance, car parking, lighting, loss of open space, litter and environmental damage.

The Chairman explained that many of these concerns would be addressed through the requirements of the planning process and that process would also provide a further opportunity for public consultation.

The Chairman informed the meeting of the occasions when the Council had allowed public comment and debate on the proposal and informed the meeting that all the comments had been summarised and circulated to all Councillors. The Chairman therefore asked that only fresh or additional issues should be the subject of further comment this evening.

Isobel Paton, representing the Friends of Ancells Farm Park, explained the objectives of the Friends Group and urged the Council to respect the views of the Group and some local residents. A number of potential issues were raised including the number of youth players in the area, the proximity of similar facilities in adjoining areas, the impact on conservation and wildlife, the amount of information in the Business Plan, shortage of funding, cost of upkeep, traffic and car parking concerns, loss of open space, noise, lighting and drainage and the perceived general detrimental effect on the park and nearby residential areas.

Comments supporting the proposal were then put forward by two young footballers who informed the Council of the impact on their parents of having to drive 500 miles a year to reach the nearest 3G facility and concluded with a plea to agree to progress the proposal.

Comments supporting the proposal were then made by a local resident and parent who spoke of his view on the benefits of young people playing football including, exercise, teamwork, sense of community, confidence-building, school work and decision making. The adverse impact of development should be weighed against all the benefits and the Council was urged to progress a medium-sized 3G facility.

A representative of residents of Oasthouse Road spoke against the proposal citing particularly issues around fencing, proximity to the road, and funding criteria.

Councillor Parker spoke as a member of the HDC Cabinet and Planning Committee member. He asked why local residents had not been consulted earlier and urged FTC to take into account the substantial opposition of residents at Ancells Farm to the proposal.

The meeting then discussed the various issues raised and were informed by the Town Clerk of the implications of seeking Football Foundation support which was likely to increase the

cost to £320,000 compared to a cost in the region of £160,000 by proceeding outside the Football Foundation criteria.

There was discussion regarding the possible alternative option to provide a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) but this would not attract the S106 funding, or to provide a 5 a side football facility

Attention was drawn to the limited information available in the Business Plan and the growing possible provision of 3G facilities close by at Connaught School, Cove, Cody Technical College, Calthorpe Park School extension and Hart Leisure Centre.

The concerns regarding the very tight timescale imposed by the S.106 conditions and the funding liabilities that would be placed on FTC were discussed.

After a thorough and careful debate it was **PROPOSED** and **SECONDED** that,

- In line with the results of the public consultation exercise the Council agrees to proceed with the medium sized (61m x 43m) 3G football pitch at Ancells Farm Park.
- The Council approves a viable business plan prior to the signing of a contract
- The Council authorises the Town Clerk to progress the project through planning as soon as possible.
- The Town Clerk attempts to secure additional funds to potentially cover the costs for drainage at the park and ancillary improvements to accommodate the project.
- The £180,000 S.106 funds are allocated to the project, also a contingency of £18,000 from the capital projects budget, and that any additional finances beyond the allocated budget, are taken to the Council for consideration.

Following the request of Cllr Forster there was a recorded vote

FOR

**Cllr Butler
Cllr Einchcomb
Cllr Fisher
Cllr Gotel
Cllr Holt
Cllr Perthen
Cllr Pierce
Cllr Robinson**

8 for the proposal

AGAINST

**Cllr Chenery
Cllr Forster
Cllr Hope
Cllr Schofield
Cllr Tilley
Cllr Woods
Cllr Vincent**

7 against the proposal

RESOLVED

- I. That in line with the results of the public consultation exercise the Council agrees to proceed with the medium sized (61m x 43m) 3G football pitch at Ancells Farm Park.
- II. That the Council approves a viable business plan prior to the signing of a contract
- III. That the Council authorises the Town Clerk to progress the project through planning as soon as possible.
- IV. That the Town Clerk attempts to secure additional funds to potentially cover the costs for drainage at the park and ancillary improvements to accommodate the project.
- V. That the £180,000 S.106 funds are allocated to the project, also a contingency of £18,000 from the capital projects budget, and that any additional finances beyond the allocated budget, be taken to the Council for consideration.

ITEM 7 POSSIBLE USE OF FORMER RVS ACCOMMODATION AT THE HARLINGTON FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

The members considered a proposal that the former RVS accommodation be used as the venue for all future Council meetings.

The view was expressed that the accommodation was suitable for Planning Committee meetings and other small committee meetings but was not suitable for Full Council meetings.

RESOLVED

- I. The majority of committee meeting be held in the accommodation formerly used by the RVS
- II. One Council meeting in each municipal year be held at Ancells Farm Community Building
- III. All other meetings of Council be held in the Dance Studio (formerly the Carnival Hall) at The Harlington, subject to the studio not being required by a local dance group.

ITEM 8 RISK ASSESSMENT

The risks for the Council had been reviewed by the Risk Working Party. Members noted the insertion, in the Action Plan, of an additional risk by the Town Clerk as the Responsible Officer regarding the securing of legal advice with indemnity of the Council's decision to opt out of the LGPS.

RESOLVED

- I. That the suggestion that securing of legal advice with indemnity regarding the opting out of the LGPS be considered at the next meeting of the Risk Management Working Group
- II. That the Risk Assessment Document and Action Plans are adopted by Council and be reviewed every six months in July and January

ITEM 9 ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING 31 MARCH 2014

The members discussed the draft format of the Annual Residents' Meeting to be held on Monday 31 March 2014. Comments were made with regard to the possible involvement of local organisations and the commitment of Town Councillors who all gave freely of their time.

During discussion it was requested, if possible, that a map showing ward boundaries be circulated to all members.

RESOLVED

That a working party comprising Cllrs Chenery, Forster, Gotel, Schofield, Tilley and Woods be formed to finalise the content of the Annual Residents' Meeting .

(Working Party meeting now fixed to meet on 12 March 2014 at 7pm)

ITEM 10 PANTOMINE 2014 BUDGET APPROVAL

The members considered a report on the provisional budget for the 2014 Pantomime. The following projections were noted:

At 60% occupancy in 2014
6720 seats
Income £94,080
A profit of £18,505 on the projected budget achieved

70% occupancy in 2014
7840
Income £109,760
A profit of £34, 185 on the projected budget achieved.

RESOLVED

The Council commits to co-produce the 2014 Pantomime based on the provisional estimates of production / marketing income and expenditure set out above

ITEM 11 HDC CAR PARK WORKING PARTY

The members received and noted an update on the progress of the HDC Car Park Working Party on which FTC is represented by Cllrs Forster and Gotel.

RESOLVED

That this is noted

ITEM 12 STAFF LIST HDC/HCC

In accordance with audit requirements, the members noted the FTC staff list at 27 February 2014.

RESOLVED

That this is noted

ITEM 13 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

There was no Town Clerk's report. It was intended that an update report would be circulated to members on Tuesday 11 March 2014.

RESOLVED

That this is noted

ITEM 14 HCC/HDC UPDATE

The members noted the update report of Cllr Evans of HDC as follows:

The budget was passed with no rise in council tax by HDC.

An amendment to parking charges was adopted as follows: To introduce half-hour free parking during evenings after 6pm and on Sundays in Fleet's car parks.

This amendment was designed to deal with two unintended consequences of the £1 flat rate:

Anyone who wishes to make a short visit to the town centre at these times has to pay £1. The flat rate was designed for longer stays.

If you arrive at ten to six in the evening, you have to pay £1.20 for half an hour. This is because the machines cannot have overlapping schemes, and at 6pm the charges must start again. So you pay 20p for the 10 minutes to six o'clock, plus £1 for the twenty minutes afterwards, totalling £1.20. With a free half hour after 6pm, anyone arriving at ten to six would pay 20p for half an hour, just as they would during the rest of the day.

RESOLVED

That this is noted

ITEM 15 FLEET FUTURE UPDATE

The Fleet Future work to progress the Food Festival was noted

RESOLVED

That this is noted

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 will be excluded from the Meeting.

Standing Orders were waived to allow discussion on the following item to continue beyond 10.30pm

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2014

The Chairman of the Establishment meeting had requested this item be considered at the end of the Council meeting. Following a discussion regarding the accuracy of the minutes of the Establishment Sub-Committee held on 13 January 2014, and the correction to £3830.07 at item 7(a), the minutes of the Council held on Wednesday 5 February 2014 were signed as a correct record. It was suggested that an Establishment Committee meeting be convened as soon as possible to discuss the items raised.

Cllr Perthen left the meeting at 10.35pm during discussion of the above item

ITEM 16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 2 April 2014 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.50 pm

Signed:..... Date.....

Chairman