



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

7 November 2012 at 7.30pm
The Harlington
Fleet

Present

Cllrs Bob Schofield (Chairman) Richard Appleton, Chris Axam, Chris Butler, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Sue Fisher, Dennis Gotel, Alastair Hill, Leslie Holt, Alan Oliver, Helen Perthen, Richard Robinson, Sue Tilley, Wallace Vincent, George Woods

Also Present

James Corrigan-Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner- Committee Clerk

Cllr Evans-HDC
Cllr Parker-HDC
Cllr Wheale-HDC/HCC (arrived at 8.20pm during item 6)

Six local residents

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Forster and Hope and Pierce

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Einchcomb item 7(a) Fleet Festivities
Item 7(b) Fleet Phoenix
Cllr Chenery Item 7(c) Friend of Calthorpe Park

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr James Bittles, representing a group of local residents, made a statement regarding the possible development in Fleet . The group had been formed as a result of the FTC Annual Residents meeting in Spring 2012.

Mr Bittles had made a similar statement to the HDC Cabinet on 17 October 2012 and wished to make the same statement to FTC.

Firstly the group believed that Fleet had been overburdened with new housing developments over the past 20 years to meet Hart's target figure and it was hoped that HDC would now try to redress the balance. The group was content with the 250 additional units for Fleet Town Centre and hoped that the four derelict office blocks would be used to provide the majority of those numbers. There was however a strong objection to any development in Fleet Road or Church Road car park. It was hoped that any S106 funds would be used to redress the balance. The Group claimed it could not establish the number of units built in Fleet in the last 20-25 years including Ancells Farm, Zebon Copse, Elvetham Heath and Edenbrook.

The group agreed that Fleet Town Centre was in need of regeneration but not in the form of a major supermarket development. The group believed that this would not bring any benefits to the remaining shops but would only bring about their demise. Redevelopment would require the loss of the iconic Bakers ironmongers and would bring 2-4 years of noise and traffic. Car parks would be out of commission and shoppers would be driven away to other centres.

If Waitrose did not remain beyond 2014, the group believed this would bring about the demise of the Hart centre.

It was noted that the HDC offices were too large and the Harlington centre was in need of repair and refurbishment. The Group believed the Council office site could be redeveloped with a courtyard development which would generate £2-3m which could be used to refurbish The Harlington and facilitate the move of HDC to rented accommodation and town centre improvements.

The Group would like to see a regular market forum in Gurkha Square, the redevelopment of 3 derelict shops at the junction of Fleet Road/Church Road, and the pedestrianisation of Victoria Road on a Saturday.

The Group would like HDC to engage with the owners of the Hart Centre to make it more vibrant.

The Parking Review was keenly awaited and should be completed as soon as possible. HDC/FTC should jointly promote employment ventures.

The Group regarded the retention of the Leisure Centre as crucial and believed a more modest scheme of redevelopment should be sought. There is concern that if the existing one is demolished a replacement will never be developed.

Cllr Schofield thanked the group for their statement and reminded them of the launch arrangements for the Town Team on 24th November and hoped that members of the group would attend and contribute their ideas.

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

With the correction of item 7 to read 'of' The Town Council received and approved as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3 October 2012.

Council received the minutes of the following committee meetings

Development Control	24 September, 8 October (item 12/01871/HOU amend 'sight' to read 'site') 22 October 2012
Planning	24 September 2012
Policy and Finance	3 October 2012
RLA	17 October 2012 (item 9 Oakley Park amend to read 'area')

ITEM 5 CODE OF CONDUCT

Following the Town Council meeting in October where a decision was taken to recommend that Hart District Council approve the use of the NALC pro forma code of conduct a meeting has taken place with the Monitoring Officer who said he had no objection to the use of the NALC pro forma as it was straightforward and covered all the issues.

Following this meeting there has been debate nationally regarding the granting of dispensations to Councillors to enable them set the precept.

Previously the law allowed for an automatic dispensation pursuant to section 97(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. This has been repealed by Statutory Instrument 2012/1358. The effect of this is that only Councillors who do not live within Fleet could vote on the setting of Precept without fear of reproach if they were not given a dispensation to set the precept.

The following sentence had therefore been added to section 6 of the proposed code of conduct "In the case of a general dispensation for all Councillors the Town Clerk is authorised to grant this upon receipt of a written request from the Councillors to do so.

A training session on the new code of conduct has been organised with Steven Lugg from HALC on the 27th November at 7.30pm at the Harlington. This is a joint event with Church Crookham PC; all members are commended to attend if possible.

RESOLVED

- That the Council adopts the Code of Conduct with immediate effect
- That the Town Clerk be delegated to approve dispensations in instances that affect all/most councillors
- That Councillors note their responsibilities in the new code and attend the training session on 27th November if possible.

ITEM 6 PRECEPT 2013/2014

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk regarding the preparation of the 2013/2014 budget which was now underway.

It was noted that the precept had improved by approximately £14,000 due to an additional 251 dwellings.

Cllr Schofield explained the general assumptions that had been applied and sought an indication as to the level of Council Tax for 2013/2014 that would be acceptable. Following the explanation of the difference between Council Tax level and the Precept the Council

RESOLVED

The Policy and Finance Budget Working Party aims to set a budget that will require a zero percent Council Tax increase in 2013/2014

ITEM 7 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT/ USE OF CALTHORPE PARK

a) Fleet Festivities Partnership

The Council considered an application from the Fleet Festivities Partnership for a grant of £3592 towards the expenses of Fleet Festivities.

Following a lengthy debate which revolved around how much the Town Council should be subsidising an event with commercial participants a grant of £3592 was approved with the following conditions

- The cost of the stage to be met once only either by FTC or Fleet Festivities but must be part of the £3592 grant.
- The grant to be released on evidence of invoice
- The submission of a set of accounts for the current year
- Any application for 2013 together with accounts for 2012, be submitted by the end of September 2013 at the latest so that the business case and the necessity to raise funds can be examined

Cllr Vincent wished it to be recorded that he objected to funding SIA licenced door staff

b) Fleet Phoenix

The Council considered an application from Fleet Phoenix for a grant of £5,000 to cover the cost of parking during operational hours.

Following debate and careful consideration the Council

RESOLVED

- That the application for a grant of £5000 to cover the cost of parking during operational hours be not approved
- That support be given to Fleet Phoenix to apply to HDC for support

c) Use of Calthorpe Park

The Town Clerk reported the receipt of a request from BBC2 to film an event at Calthorpe Park for a programme called 'The Fixer' which was about a local family undertaker.

RESOLVED

The use of Calthorpe Park by BBC 2 was approved subject to the following conditions

- The use of bio-degradeable balloons
- The removal of any litter etc from the area after the event
- A Bond in the sum of £200
- The invitation to make a donation to The Friends of Calthorpe Park

ITEM 8 RUSHMOOR AND HART PASSENGER TRANSPORT FORUM

The Council sought a volunteer to attend the Rushmoor and Hart Passenger Transport Forum on Wednesday 28 November 2012

RESOLVED

That Cllr Gotel be appointed to act as the Council's representative at the Rushmoor and Hart Passenger Transport Forum on Wednesday 28 November 2012

ITEM 9 DATE FOR 2013 ACTION DAY

The Council considered a possible date for the Action Day in 2013

RESOLVED

That the Action Day in 2013 be held on Saturday 13 April

ITEM 10 UPDATE REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Council noted the report of the Town Clerk on activities since the last meeting and target issues to be dealt with in November.

The Town Clerk was asked to send a further reminder to HDC regarding the outstanding questions on the proposals for the Harlington so that a further meeting of the FTC Working Group could be called.

ITEM 11 REPORT FROM HART DISTRICT COUNCIL/HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Council noted the report of Cllr Appleton and the oral report of Cllr Gavin Evans which dealt with HDC matters. HDC had approved :

- The Local Development Framework
- The CCTV service
- Fleet Pond Visitor Strategy
- Proposed appointment of consultants to carry out a town centre retail study

The Council noted the oral report of Cllr Wheale which dealt with HCC matters:

- New information kiosk in Fleet Road
- Adoption of the Station Action Plan
- Station junction review to be introduced into FTAP
- Cove Road works
- Kings Road improvements
- Feasibility study on an additional cycle/pedestrian access from Elvetham Heath to Calthorpe Park
- School placements
- Speeding in Elvetham Road
- 20mph schemes

ITEM 12 CHRISTMAS 2012

Council noted the arrangements to celebrate Christmas 2012

ITEM 13 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11 November 2012

Council noted the arrangements to mark Remembrance Sunday on 11 November 2012

ITEM 14 TOWN TEAM- UPDATE

Council agreed to the appointment of Cllrs Perthen and Tilley to represent FTC on the proposed Town Team. It was also noted that a workshop on the Benchmarking exercise would be held on 19th and 22nd November at 9am with a representative of Action for Market Towns and lasting for 30-40 minutes. There would be an opportunity, immediately post the workshop, to be involved in some bench marking exercises. Members were asked to support the Public Event on 24th November and volunteer to man one of the eight themes being discussed on the day.

ITEM 15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 December 2012 at 7.30pm at The Harlington.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.17 pm

Signed.....

Date:.....