

MINUTES OF THE FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

5 January 2011 7.30pm
The Harlington

Councillors

Robert Schofield (Chair), Richard Appleton, Andrew Macallan, Chris Butler, Paul Einchcomb, Helen Perthen, Alan Hope, Sue Tilley, Steve Forster, George Woods, Sue Fisher, Richard Robinson, Dai Pierce.

Also Present

Shar Roselman – Clerk

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Arthur Hurley.

F.C. JAN 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. There were no interests declared.

F.C. JAN 2011 ITEM 3: PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

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

Resolved to receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of Full Council dated 1 December 2010.

Prop: GW Sec: RR

Resolved to receive the minutes of:

The Policy and Finance Committee 20 December 2010.

It was noted that the minutes should be altered to indicate that revision of *all* buildings contents insurance was to be delegated to the clerk.

The Planning, Development and Control Committee 13 December 2010

The Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee 15 December 2010

A point of clarification was raised on item 4 DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 6b, which referred to possible hire charges that could be levied on new rooms that might be established with renovations to the gym.

The vision Meeting 7th December 2010

It was noted that reservations and questions on the proposed Town Centre Vision would be addressed at a further meeting to be held with Martin Pearson.

The Police Liaison Partnership Meeting 2010

It was recommended that the Partnership Meeting Members be referred to by post, rather than by name in the members list. It was noted that Church Crookham Village Parish had been invited to the meeting only in terms of representing Beat 4 of the Police.

F.C. JAN 2011 ITEM 5: BUDGET 2011/2012

A long discussion on the budget ensued. It was noted that the income budgeted for from the Hampshire County Council, for the Library, is not achievable, and that there is a potential loss on the income on both this year's projections and next year's budget. This could amount to a figure of approximately £6000 per year. Negotiations with the Library will continue once the council has firmer figures on gas costs over the winter.

It was further noted that no provision in the projected budget for this year had been made for the costs of the clerk on loan from Hart County Council, for an amount of £2800, or for the delayed Pondtail election costs, for an amount of almost £5000. In addition, emergency repairs on the sewerage at Basingbourne Park would be likely to amount to £5000. However, a cheque had been received from Hart District Council for Fleet Special Expenses amounting to £12800, which would cover these additional burdens.

The final figure as at the end of the next financial year on Ground Maintenance should amount to £80000, to allow for increases in litter picking.

Resolved to alter the budget as follows:

- **Increase Harlington expenses by £6000 per year in both year end projection and next year's budget these being adjustments for Library charges.**
- **Increase Central Admin Staff contingency expenses in the year end projection by £2800 being for loan of clerk from Hart District Council.**
- **Increase Election costs in Civic and Democratic year end projection by £5000 being for Pondtail election.**
- **Increase Basingbourne expenses Building/Grounds maintenance year end projection by £5000 being for cost of repairs to effluent seepage and blocked drain.**
- **Increase income for Central Admin by £12800 in year end projection being for Fleet Special Expenses received from Hart District Council.**
- **Increase the Ground Maintenance Budget for next year from £71850 to £80000.**

Further resolved to accept into the minutes the budget for 2011/2012 with the above amendments.

Prop: SF Sec: CB

A vote was taken and all members present were in favour of this resolution.

A further potential expense is the increase in the third Service Level Agreement for Ground Maintenance issued by Hart District Council, of approximately £9000. However Fleet Town Council has raised a rigorous objection to this increase.

It was further noted that a business plan was needed for the Harlington, and that costs on the Harlington were increasing by approximately £80000 whereas projected revenue only showed an increase of approximately £70000. The added value in services provided to the community was also discussed. Catering costs needed to be monitored carefully, as the cost of sales projections had moved from a ratio of 4:1 to around 2 ½ :1 in the new budget.

It was noted that it was important to present the request for S106 funding for any Harlington alterations in such a way that it merged into the Hart Leisure Strategy, and that any such funding available would have to incorporate the principles of this Leisure Strategy.

F.C. JAN 2011 ITEM 6: PRECEPT

Considerable discussion was held on this agenda item. Views ranged from a 0% increase to a 5% increase.

Council agreed a 2 ½ % increase to precept.

Prop: RA Sec: RR

A vote was taken. 11 members were for the proposal. 2 were against, each for a different reason.

F.C. JAN 2011 ITEM 7: THE LOCALISM BILL

Council received reports on this bill written by Cllr Appleton and the clerk, and the impact of the bill on the council was discussed. Two areas were considered of high significance to the Fleet Town Council:

1. The general power of competence, which would create the possibility of forming partnerships for undertakings not previously covered by the powers available to local councils.
2. The Neighbourhood Plan. It was considered that Fleet Town Council was well placed to develop such a plan in conjunction with members of the parish. It was recommended that Fleet Town Council write to Hart District Council to notify the Principal authority that the Town Council wished to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

An area of concern was that in future councils will be required to publish all items of expenditure over £500. The details of how this should be published are not, as yet, clear.

Of greater concern was the low threshold of parishioners required to call for referendums on any issue, or to veto council tax rises. In Fleet this would mean that no more than 500 people need to complete a petition to force the council to hold an expensive referendum,

which might cost in the region of £20000. It was recommended that the council reply to HALC regarding their response to the localism bill, siting this matter as being of concern.

Resolved to delegate responses on this bill to the Policy and Finance Committee.

Action: Cllr Appleton will produce a short set of recommendations for resolution at the next Policy and Finance Committee Meeting, to be held on 17th January, 2011.

F.C. JAN 2011 ITEM 8: CLERK'S REPORT

The council received a report from the clerk. The clerk explained why the formal letter to the election officer requesting permission to hold elections for the vacancies on the council needed to be delayed until February 2011, in order to fit in with the District Council election schedule. The success of the Playbuilder bid for Ancells Farm was noted, and the clerk explained the limitations of the consultation procedure to the council.

F.C. JAN 2011 ITEM 9: RISK ASSESSMENT

Cllr Schofield reported that the Policy and Finance Committee had recognised a risk in terms of loss of business income of the Harlington, and had taken out insurance to cover this risk, at a sum of approximately £100.

It was noted that the council will need to make a formal series of statements regarding controls in the Financial Statements at year end, and that it was necessary to conduct a formal assessment of risks facing the council.

Resolved to set up a working group to identify risks facing the council.

This working group will consist of Cllrs Perthen, Robinson, and Forster. Cllr Hurley was also nominated in his absence to form a part of the working group. The group will determine an appropriate date to meet, and will consult with the clerk on preliminary work done and sources of information.

Resolved also to approve the purchase of a risk assessment computer package to assist in assessing risk.

Council adjourned for two minutes for a coffee break at 9.28 pm.

F.C. JAN 2010 ITEM 11: VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION

Hampshire County Council has received an application to turn the open space available at Durnsford Avenue into a town green. Hart District Council have passed a resolution that this land could only be passed onto Fleet Town Council on the basis that the land is retained for bridge footings for a cycle path. This bridge is also a component of the Fleet Town Access Plan.

Resolved to write to Hart District Council, asking for a copy of the formal legal transfer documentation on this land.

Resolved also to write to Hampshire County Council, explaining the conditions under which the land has been transferred to Fleet Town Council.

Prop: RA Sec: GW

A vote was taken and all were in favour.

Action: The clerk

F.C. JAN 2011 ITEM 11: TOWN CENTRE VISION

Following the last vision working group, a decision was taken to address further queries and concerns on the Town Centre Vision at a meeting to be held after the visit to Horsham and Southwater, planned for the 28th January 2011. Cllr Forster will drive, and members are to meet at 9 am at the Harlington. The visit will culminate in a meeting in the early afternoon at the Harlington. Councillors who will be undertaking the trip are: Cllr Maccallan, Cllr Pierce, Cllr Forster, Cllr Fisher and Cllr Tilley. Cllrs Woods and Schofield might drive to Horsham separately on the day.

Another visit to Brentwood can be arranged at a later date. Five councillors are interested in this visit.

F.C. JAN 2011 ITEM 12: POLICE PARTNERSHIP LIAISON MEETING

Cllr Woods reported that he had been pleasantly surprised by the number of attendees, although there were concerns that the group might become too large to manage. There was also a need for a more senior ranking police officer to attend these meetings in the future, and Cllr Woods had taken steps to invite them to this meeting.

Agenda items raised for the next Partnership meeting are:

Speeding

Vandalism

The need for responses to 911 calls to come from Farnborough.

Action: Councillors are asked to send in to the office any other items they would like raised on the agenda, with full detailed explanations of the concerns, by 16th February 2011.

F.C. JAN 2011 ITEM 13: CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

Resolved to approve all members of the Policy and Finance Committee as cheque signatories.

Prop: RA Sec: RS

It was resolved to reverse the order of the following two items on the agenda, and further resolved that, in terms of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Exclusion of the Public Section 1(2), by reason of the confidential

nature of the Football Club’s financial accounts, the Public and Press would be excluded from the meeting, for agenda item 14.

F.C. JAN 2011 ITEM 15: HARLINGTON CENTRE VISION

The need for a vision and formalised business plan for the Harlington was discussed.

Resolved to form a working group for the vision and business plan of the Harlington comprising of Cllrs Perthen, Schofield, Woods, Macallan, Hope and Einchcomb, with Alex Robins as the officer.

Action: Members of the working group are to convene a meeting as soon as possible.

F.C. JAN 2011 ITEM 14: FOOTBALL CLUB

Cllr Schofield presented a brief report on the football club and on the replacement of the lights at the club to reduce glare. The financial situation of the club was discussed. It was recognised that although the issue of noise abatement had received some attention by the club, there may still be concerns on this element, and residents would be approached in the future regarding this matter. Cllr Schofield had discussed the need for a new tannoy system with the club.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 10.23 pm.

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

Signed.....

Date:.....