

MINUTES OF THE FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

4th January 2012 7.30pm
The Harlington

Councillors

Bob Schofield (Chair), Richard Appleton (for part of the meeting), Chris Axam, Chris Butler, Paul Einchcomb, Sue Fisher, Steve Forster, Grahame Chenery, Denis Gotel, Leslie Holt, Helen Perthen, Dai Pierce, Andrew Macallan, Sue Tilley, George Woods.

Also Present

Shar Roselman – Clerk
Dr Alan Oliver – later co-opted as councillor
Cllr Jenny Radley
Mr Richard Kilpack – Citizen's Advice Bureau
Ms Ouieda Grant – Citizen's Advice Bureau

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Robinson and Hope.

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Butler declared a personal interest in Item 9 as the District Representative on the Sentinel Housing Association Board.

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 3: PRESENTATION BY THE CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU

Richard Kilpack, trustee of the Hart Citizen's Advice Bureau, gave a presentation on CAB services. The CAB is a registered charity, and is not funded at all by Central Government. Their mission is to provide free, independent, confidential and impartial help to everyone. In Hart they have approximately 21000 volunteers. A survey carried out by the BMRB demonstrated that 100% of those surveyed showed a high awareness of knowledge about the CAB. Around 14000 people used their services in the last year. 15% of all Hart residents have used CAB services. Around 18% of residents in Fleet have visited the CAB. 4000 residents in Fleet used CAB last year. Fleet is defined as residents living in Fleet and Elvetham Heath. The main concerns of people using CAB services are debts and benefits. Of residents in Fleet, 1632 queries were on debt issues, 966 on benefit issues, 581 on employment issues, 359 on housing issues, and 1102 on other issues. They are anticipating a reduction in funding from HDC. Funding from HDC currently stands at £160000 (150,000 and the projected 10% reduction in funding would take this down to 135,000) per annum. HDC also provides office space **for free**. It is unlikely that CAB could reduce costs as 87% of their labour comes from volunteers.

The following questions were asked:

Q1. What are the issues for this parish?

A1. This year for the first time benefit queries have exceeded debt queries.

Q2. Are the CAB aware that the New Homes Bonus given by Central Government to HDC was based on affordable housing, and that therefore a proportion of this could be allocated to support services such as CAB?

A2. This was being investigated.

Q3. If a parish makes a contribution, can the parish be guaranteed that the funding would go directly into services for that parish?

A3. Issues such as this can be negotiated.

Q4. Why do people go to the CAB instead of going to HDC directly on queries about housing?

A4. Because the CAB is impartial and free, and because the CAB deal with multiple issues an individual may have.

Q5. Can the CAB split statistics into relevant age groups such as youth, or the elderly.

A5. Yes. Information can be provided on a quarterly or monthly basis, giving a break down as required by funders.

Q6. Why is there a supposition of reduced funding from HDC?

A6. There have been hints that funding will be reduced in the future. Even if it is not, need for this service is growing alarmingly during this economic downturn and some costs are subject to inflationary increases.

The chairman thanked the members of the CAB for their presentation.

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 4: QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

There were no questions from members of the public, but Cllr Radley wished the Town Council a happy New Year.

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 5: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved to approve the minutes and the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2011 with some amendments to the voting on item 6, an alteration to the statement in item 8, under bullet point 2 to read to *adopt the Core Strategy but with a shortened time frame for housing delivery, and to begin work in the near future on a follow up plan*, and an amendment to Cllr Butler's proposal on page 4 item 6, to read *that staff increases were limited to 1%, not to 0%*.

Prop: RA Sec: GW

Resolved to leave the Establishment Sub-Committee minutes to be dealt with within the confidential items.

Prop: BS

The following minutes of committees were received by Council:

The Planning, Development and Control Committee 12th December 2011

Cllr Appleton expressed disappointment that the Committee had not raised any issue over the possible impact of the new development on the cycle away along Fleet Road nor on the extent of the landscaping on item 11/02525/MAJOR.

The Police Liaison Partnership 6th December 2011.

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 6: CASUAL VACANCY CALTHORPE PARK WARD.

The time period for the notice for election for a casual vacancy had elapsed without any person being put forward to fill the vacancy by election. Therefore the Town Council now have to co-opt into this position. A resident, Dr Alan Oliver, had put forward a request to be considered for co-option.

Resolved that Dr Alan Oliver be co-opted to the post of Councillor for the casual vacancy for the Calthorpe Park Ward.

Prop: RA Sec: CB

Alan Oliver accepted the position of Ward Councillor for Calthorpe Park Ward, signed the Declaration of Office and accepted the code of conduct for Councillors in the presence of the Council. The Declaration of Office was co-signed by the Clerk. Alan Oliver also handed in his completed and signed Declaration of Interests and was invited to join the other councillors at the Council Table. He was welcomed to the Council by the Chairman.

It was noted that the vacancy for the post for Councillor for Ancells Farm Ward remains open.

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 7: ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS/STAFF ABSENCE

The attendance list for councillors at meetings and the staff absence statistics for the year was received.

It was noted that in future councillors would prefer the attendance list to highlight councillors' attendance rather than absence, and would like to reflect staff absence only in terms of days lost.

Resolved that the Establishment Sub-Committee should review a process to manage absence.

Prop: RA Sec: GW

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 8: DIS SUBSCRIPTION

Resolved to agree to the renewal of the DIS subscription from NALC at a cost of £135 per annum plus VAT.

Prop: RA Sec: GW

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 9: ACCESS LICENCE CEMETERY ROAD

Fleet Town Council had approached Sentinel Housing to seek approval to use a short length of private road belonging to them to access the side road leading into Fleet Cemetery for waste disposal purposes. When a charge of £120 per annum was levied for an access licence, Fleet Town Council wrote to Sentinel stating that the Council felt that in the spirit of co-operation and because the Council was providing a service to residents, including to those in Sentinel Housing, Sentinel should offer this access free of charge. However, Sentinel had replied that they felt that the charge was justified, and mentioned the legal cost of drawing up the access agreement.

Resolved to approve paying £120 for the access agreement.

Prop: RA Sec: GW

The clerk to write to the Sentinel Housing Association Board to express displeasure at being charged an annual access charge for what amounted to access no more than 6 times a year for the purposes of maintaining a public amenity.

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 10: LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

A paper was received from Cllr Schofield regarding the Lengthsman Scheme proposed by HCC.

Resolved to enter into an Agreement with HCC to undertake a Lengthsman Pilot Scheme.

Prop: BS Sec: CB

Resolved to include the identified work within the current Ground Maintenance Contract.

Prop: BS Sec: S. Forster

Resolved to delegate to the clerk and the Highways and Transport Committee responsibility for drawing up the Schedule of Work to be undertaken within the Agreement.

Action: Any items for the proposed work schedule to be sent to the clerk by Councillors.

Prop: CA Sec: BS

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 11: YOUTH SERVICES

Cllr Schofield apologised for not writing a paper on this subject. As discussed at the Youth Services Working Group, he had arranged a meeting with June Bing and Sally Woods of HCC Youth Services. They were advised that Fleet Town Council was considering allowing anyone who was providing youth services in Fleet to use the Point for free. 2 tenders had been issued for the supply of an afternoon drop in centre, and for the supply of outreach services. The tender results will be decided early in February 2012. It was possible that the tenders could be awarded to different service providers. June Bing had stated that she was a strong supporter of youth shelters. However she expressed concerns about Calthorpe Park being an unsuitable and unlit area for a youth shelter, dangerous for young girls. She also recommended that Fleet Town Council wait for the results of the HCC tenders before setting out the Town Council's own requirements.

Cllr Schofield had also opened discussions with the Trustees of Fleet Phoenix. He explained that there was a great deal of confusion amongst the Trustees about the role being played by Fleet Town Council, and that there was strong resistance to the idea the Fleet Town Council would take back the management of the Point, and release it free of charge to any youth service provider. The Trustees of Fleet Phoenix were very keen to take up a short term lease for the premises. There were however, some signs of flexibility from the trustees towards Fleet Town Council requirements.

Resolved that Kitty Yarwood would be the designated officer for placement on the Hart Children's Partnership, if this was approved by the Partnership.

Prop: BS Sec: RA

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 12: CAPITAL PROJECTS CIL/S106

Fleet Town Council had been asked by HDC Planning to draw up a list of short term projects for S106 projects, and a longer term list for future CIL projects.

It was recognised that the projects to appear on the planning policy document should be those on the longer list, to ensure that leisure and recreational requirements in Fleet were not short-changed as further development took place in and around Fleet.

Resolved that the following projects be shortlisted as immediate development projects:

- **Multi-age group playground Calthorpe Park provision for ages 2 – 12.**
- **Youth shelter, possible in Calthorpe Park, provision for ages 13-17.**
- **Youth shelter in Basingbourne Park, provision for ages 13-17.**
- **Landscaping, gardens, and bandstand at the Views.**
- **Remembrance garden/ashes plot at Fleet Cemetery.**

Prop: CB Sec: BS

Action: Cllr Tilley and the clerk to write up SI06 project proposals for these five projects, and to ensure that HDC planning incorporate the full list of projects into their planning strategy.

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 13: ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING

The Town Council Annual Residents' Meeting takes place on the 14th March 2012.

Subjects to be covered at that meeting are:

- A report back on the performance of the council throughout the year.
- The LDF, the survey and the Town Council response to the LDF.
- The Vision for the Town Centre.

Residents who attend will be engaged in an interactive consultation process with the Council including surveys and questions, possibly on capital projects for leisure infrastructure, and on the vision for the town centre.

Distribution of invitations and publicity for the event will be discussed through the Policy and Finance committee.

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 14: CLERK'S REPORT

Council received a clerk's report. Of concern was the large expenditure needed for the repair of a collapsed drain for surface water at Basingbourne Park.

F.C. JAN 2012 ITEM 5 - return to this item: CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

Council resolved that, in terms of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the public Section 1(2), by reason of the item referring to an individual/s and to confidential information, the Public and Press would be excluded from the following item on the agenda.

Prop: CB

Council received the confidential minutes of the Establishment Sub-Committee.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 10.24 pm.

The next meeting will be on the 1st February 2012, at the Harlington, at 7.30 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....