

## **FLEET TOWN COUNCIL**

## MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

#### held on

# Wednesday 8 January 2014 at The Harlington at 7.30pm

## **PRESENT**

**Councillors** Bob Schofield (Chairman), Chris Axam, Chris Butler, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Sue Fisher, Denis Gotel, Leslie Holt, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Richard Robinson, Sue Tilley, Wallace Vincent, George Woods

#### **Also Present**

James Corrigan, Town Clerk Sheila Rayner, Committee Clerk

Mike Bye, Friends of Oakley Park

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Chris Alden would be unable to attend the meeting to make a presentation on the 2013 Carnival and proposals for the 2014 Carnival due to a knee injury. An alternative date would be arranged
- The Chairman wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year
- The Chairman reminded members that 2014 was an election year for Fleet Town Council and referred to an internal boundary realignment
- Special thanks were given to Sarah Horton, Matt Rhodes and his son, Nigel Jeffries, Janet Stanton and local residents for all their help with flooding problems in Oakley Park over the Christmas period. Agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to those concerned.
- There will be an Open Day at Fleet Community Hospital on Tuesday 21 January 2014 from 1.30pm

#### ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs Appleton, Forster, Hope and Lewis

## ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

## ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public

## ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

With the correction to read Will Parker from Bill Parker and November 2013 Town Council (not October) at item 6, the minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 December 2013 were signed as a correct record

The Council received the minutes of the following committee meetings:

Development Control 9 and 23 December 2013.

Policy and Finance 16 December 2013 (add Cllr Einchcomb to the list of apologies)

## ITEM 5 FLEET CARNIVAL-PRESENTATION BY CHRIS ALDEN

This item was deferred

## ITEM 6 SETTING OF COUNCIL PRECEPT

The Town Clerk presented his report on the 2014/2015 budget

It was noted that the recent decision of Hart District Council to gradually reduce the Council tax rebate awarded to Parish and Town Councils over a three year period would have a negative impact on how much Council Tax FTC receives. The impact and details of this were not entirely clear, but was estimated at £8000.

The draft budget as presented enabled all the general running costs of the Council to continue as now but set a more challenging target for entertainment and room hire income at the Harlington. It was noted that Ancells Community Centre is now generating a profit and is planned to improve performance further in the coming year.

There was detailed discussion, particularly regarding budget building information, salary allocations, budget provision and the overall level of subsidy for The Harlington and The Coffee Shop. It was also noted that hall hirings had become a significant income generator and the coming months would see increased marketing of the Harlington and Ancells.

It was noted that there had been no salary increase for three years and the members asked that a meeting of the Establishment sub-committee be called urgently to rectify this situation.

The view emerged that the draft budget would allow the Council to set a 0% change on the 2014/2015 Council Tax demand but that the budget working group, comprising members of the Policy and Finance Committee, should meet to agree some targets and set challenges particularly for the Harlington.

After a lengthy discussion it was

# **RESOLVED**

That a precept of £545,045 be set which equates to a zero percent change in Council tax demand for 2014/2015

#### ITEM 7 MEETING TIMETABLE 2014/15

The Council considered the draft timetable of meetings for 2014/2015.

The following amendments were suggested:

Annual Residents' Meeting 1 April 2014 Delete Planning on 27 May 2014

#### **RESOLVED**

To adopt the date for the Annual Residents Meeting as the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 and the Annual General meeting of the Council for the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

To present the proposed timetable to the Annual meeting of the Council on 4 June 2014 for adoption by the new Council.

#### ITEM 8 CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk presented his report on activities during December 2013. Particular attention was drawn to the Pantomime which had been a great success but had been very time consuming for many staff. It was hoped that the break- even point was reached but final figures are still to be established.

Also the significant issues with tree management during the storms and the pending tenders to complete tree management work which it was suggested should be brought forward if affordable to avoid excessive time on tree management in the future.

# **RESOLVED**

That the Town Clerk's report be noted

## ITEM 9 ACTION DAY

Members noted that the next Action Day would be held on 10 May 2014 and it was hoped that all members would support the event.

#### ITEM 10 HDC/HCC UPDATE

It was noted that there was a meeting of the HDC Cabinet on 9 January 2014 when several parking issues would be considered.

## ITEM 11 FLEET FUTURE

It was noted that the AGM would be held on 22 January at 7.30pm at The Harlington

# ITEM 12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 5 February 2014 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08 pm	
Signed:	Date
Chairman	