

**FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday 15 December 2010 7.30pm
The Harlington**

Councillors

Paul Einchcomb, (Chair) George Woods, Sue Fisher, Helen Perthen, Sue Tilley.

Also Present

Shar Roselman – Clerk

Cllr Forster – Until 8.35 pm

Cllr Macallan – Until 10.30 pm

Cllr Appleton – Arrived at 8.10 pm.

DEC /2010/RLA ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Cllr Schofield.

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Fisher and Einchcomb declared a personal interest in the Baptist Church Playgroup.

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 3: PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions raised at this meeting.

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 4: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved to receive and approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the RLA meeting held on the 17 November 2010. Sian Taylor to be included as a member of the public for the purpose of these minutes.

Owing to the pre-meeting event held by Fleet Festivities the order of the agenda was changed to accommodate their presentation.

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 10: TIMING OF MEETINGS

Resolved to maintain the start time of the meeting at 7.30.

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 9a: USE OF OPEN SPACES

A lengthy discussion was held around the principals of open space use, and the relevance to the booking of community buildings. The clerk explained that many parishes separate the two, almost inevitably charging hire fees for community buildings, but allowing use of parks and open spaces for free providing two criteria were met:

Firstly that the event was a not-for-profit event.

Secondly that the event brought benefit to the community at large.

Resolved to approve the use of the football pitch at Basingbourne for Community Trust sessions, for this football season only, at no charge.

Prop: GW Sec: HP

Resolved to approve the request from the Fleet Baptist Pre-School to continue to use the Views during term time at no charge.

Resolved to approve the use of the Views for the parade of the Scouts, Girl Guides, Beavers and Cubs in Fleet on Sunday 13 March 2011 at no charge.

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 11: REPRESENTATION ON THE POINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

An outline of this role was given by the Point children's centre manager. The committee discussed putting a representative on this committee.

Resolved to agree that Fleet Town Council should have a representative on this committee.

Action: Cllr Perthen is considering this role.

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 5: FLEET FESTIVITIES

The Fleet Festivities Team gave a review of the festivities, and an action plan for the forthcoming year's festivities. It was noted that the team was now a formally constituted organisation, with Andy Binnersley as Chair.

The Fleet Festivities Team reported that they had been grateful to Hart District Council for all their help in completing the legalities, and to Fleet Town Council for the contributions made to funding. Fleet Forward funds had also played an important part in ensuring the Festivities took place.

It was reported that road closure was an ongoing problem, because closing the road further down the high street beyond Church Road had previously resulted in a number of safety issues, not least of which was that the wardens responsible for the traffic light junction were legally responsible for any accidents. A formal letter will be written to retailers, inviting them to join into a discussion to find solutions to this problem.

Two minor incidents had occurred during the festivities, which were easily treated with plasters. There was one lost child incident, and the procedures for next year for lost children will be revised. One resident had made a complaint, and discussions had been held with this resident. One business complaint had been raised, and this had also been dealt with.

For the forthcoming year stall holder charges and community charges will be reviewed. Consideration will be given to approaching other parishes for contributions.

The Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee formally thanked the Fleet Festivities team for their work on the festivities.

DEC /2010/RLA ITEM 6a: THE HARLINGTON

A report on the Harlington was received from the centre manager. The indications were that there had been an increase of approximately £3000 per month on hall hire takings, over the last three months and that, during the same period, an average increase of approximately £2000 per month was evident on catering.

Future plans include:

A large dance event on Saturdays, and tea dances on Tuesdays.

The Rock Choir, which should also bring in bar trade.

The return of old customers who no longer use the centre.

The Youth Theatre.

Resolved to approve £600 for the hire of a lead band for 4 music events to take place at the end of January/February.

Prop: GW Sec: HP

It was noted that cost breakdowns of these events must be made available to council as soon as the events were finished.

Action: Alex Robins

These music events are to be advertised on a flyer within the Town Council News letter.

Action: Alex Robins

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 6b: SPACE UTILIZATION

Cllr Macallan indicated that he had not as yet had the opportunity to determine whether there were any other ideas for housing the staff other than the existing staff office, or the gym. He was also not yet able to provide a proposal on the coffee shop.

Action: Cllr Macallan to meet with Alex Robins to discuss plans for the coffee shop in detail. Other interested members should indicate their intention to join in this discussion.

Cllr Perthen put forward a proposal that Squirrels move to the gym area. There was no seconder for this proposal.

At the next meeting a cost and square meterage per new room available for hire under different proposals will be made available to council.

Action: Alex Robins

A resolution was taken to stand down the standing order that meetings must take no longer than three hours.

Cllr Perthen left the meeting at 10.30

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 7: CEMETERY ASHES PLOT

Ashes plots at the cemetery will run out in about 8 months. Three proposals for a new ashes plot were presented to council. No decision was taken. Councillors will visit the cemetery before the next RLA meeting, where this matter will be discussed again.

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 8: CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

Verbal feedback from Cllr Woods was presented to the committee on this matter. Concerns were raised about the inclusiveness of the current committee, and the openness to new idea.

Resolved to write a letter to the Carnival Committee advising them that the Fleet Town Council would wish to support the Carnival and would like to invite the Carnival Committee to produce a large scale plan of an inclusive event, including the timely application to Fleet Town Council for utilization of the parks required for this event. The letter to further indicate that Fleet Town Council would like meet with representatives of the Carnival Committee to discuss the event.

Prop: RA Sec: GW

Action: Cllr G Woods/the Clerk

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 9b: CALTHORPE PARK PLAYGROUND

A proposal to erect a sculptural playground at Calthorpe Park using available S106 funds was put forward by Cllr Einchcomb. Discussion ensued as to whether this was the best use of S106 funding.

Cllr Einchcomb explained the background to the proposal, including the reasons for siting the playground near the old trim trail track. The issue of adding benches to the equipment to allow for suitable picnic seating was raised.

Resolved to approve an approach to Hart District Council to spend £11600 on this playground. A vote was taken on this matter. There were 4 votes for, and 0 against.

Prop: PE Sec: SF

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 12: EMERGENCY, OTHER REPAIRS, AND ACTION ITEMS REPORT

A report produced by the clerk was noted.

DEC/2010/RLA ITEM 13: OTHER QUOTATIONS FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

A quotation was received to spend £2525 to increase the size of the rubberized base of the swing at Oakley Park. The committee noted that it does not conform to current safety

standards, but that it had met safety standards at the time of construction. No incidents had been reported, and the area was considered relatively safe for the extension of the swing.

Resolved to monitor the situation and to review the decision again at a later date.

A quotation had been received for pruning Horse Chestnuts at Ancells Farm, removing low branches on Field Maples, felling four dying Horse Chestnuts and removing root boles. It was noted by the committee that this work had already taken place, having been given the go ahead by Hart District Council despite no authorization having been given by the clerk.

Resolved to write to Hart District Council, explaining this situation.

There being no further business
the meeting closed at 23h50

The date and time of the next meeting is 7.30 19 January 2010, at the Harlington.

Signed.....

Date:.....