



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 4 March 2015
at The Harlington at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors Bob Schofield (Chairman), Steve Cante, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Steve Forster, Denis Gotel, Alex Gray, Leslie Holt , Alan Hope, Kathy Jasper, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Richard Robinson, Jeff Smith, Neil Walton.

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Cllr Bennison-HCC/HDC
Cllr Wheale-HCC/HDC

Sue Tilley-Fleet Future
George Woods- Fleet Future
Richard Buller-Fleet Future

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park

Christopher Riley-local resident

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs Woods and Wright

Announcements

- a) Cllr Hope presented the Council with an engraved gavel for which the Chairman thanked him on behalf of all the members
- b) The Chairman explained that the layout of the room had been changed to allow the members of the public to better hear the debate
- c) The Chairman asked members to submit any outstanding expenses claims as soon as possible as the 2014/15 accounts were soon to be closed
- d) The Chairman reported on his attendance at a NALC conference , accompanied by the Town Clerk
- e) The Chairman reported that 'Have your Say' grant scheme is now open. It was explained that this will be administered by HVA . A sum of £7,500 will be available for each parish group with a deadline for applications of 27 March 2015 for schemes which benefitted 11-25 year olds. The Chairman agreed to circulate the application papers to all members

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

With the information that the Harlington survey report would be posted on the website and presented at the Annual Residents' Meeting (item 6), that the Chairman had written to the Chairman of the Governors at All Saints School (item 7), and that it had not been necessary to replace the boiler at Ancells Farm Community Centre (item 12), the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2015, were approved and signed

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

Development Control Committee 9 and 23 February 2015

It was noted that two planning applications at Carthona Drive had been withdrawn

ITEM 5 ASSET REGISTER

The members received the Register of Assets as at March 2015.
The Chairman explained that since the Asset Register had been distributed with the agenda, a meeting had been held with the legal department at HDC. It appears that some earlier transfers from HDC shown in the Asset Register, involved land that did not belong to HDC particularly at Dukes Mead, Long Mead and Coxheath. This is currently being investigated and may result in these areas of land being deleted from the Asset Register. This will be brought back to Council for approval if changes to the Asset Register are required. There was a further issue to be resolved at Ancells Farm where the land was still legally registered to Blackwater and Hawley Parish Council.
Following the correction of various spellings and the agreement to correct the value of the Basketball hoop at Ancells Farm, and subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED

That the Council approve and note the Register of Assets as at March 2015

ITEM 6 FEES AND CHARGES

The members received a report on the proposed charges to be applied in 2015/2016. The rationale for proposed charges at the Harlington, hiring of football pitches and pavilions, and cemetery fees was explained.
In particular the cemetery fees had been streamlined and increased to reflect additional grounds maintenance and memorial testing costs.
It was noted that any proposed increases to charges to be applied in 2016/2017 would be presented to Council in the autumn 2015 for inclusion in the 2016/2017 budget

RESOLVED

To approve and note the fees and charges to be applied in 2015/2016

ITEM 7 FINANCIAL MONITORING

The members received information on the following-:

- a) Income received to 5 February 2015
- b) Expenditure up to 25 February 2015
- c) List of payments for January 2015

RESOLVED

To receive into the minutes:

- a) the Income Receipts statement up to 25 February 2015
- b) the Expenditure statement up to 25 February 2015
- c) the list of payments for January 2015

ITEM 8 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The members received and considered the report of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. The Chairman of the Group, Cllr Gray, explained the implications of proceeding with a Neighbourhood Plan in relation to access to 25% of CIL funds and the opportunity to influence where development should take place.

Cllr Schofield informed the meeting of figures which suggested that many designated areas had not actually resulted in many pre-submission of plans or plans which had reached examination in public stage.

The members discussed the possible financial implications and likely timescales and were informed that FTC officers were already fully committed and would be unable to provide support of any kind.

Cllr Schofield reported the following:

- There is a total of 1388 applications nationwide
- The total number of registered designations is 1232
- The number of pre-submissions is 213
- The number of plans ready for examination in public is 121
- The number of Neighbourhood Plans that had gone to a referendum was 54

The Chairman was concerned that this indicated a tortuous process. Many policies were identified as 'aspirational' rather than planning policies, so carried no legal weight and would not therefore be examined by the Inspector, but they could be of community benefit. Furthermore there were only 4 remaining SHLAA sites within the FTC area so the ability to dictate where development took place was limited. There was a lot of preparatory work yet to be done.

Following a lengthy discussion and careful consideration it was

RESOLVED

1. To proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan
2. To promote the whole parish area as the Designated Neighbourhood Area to be endorsed by HDC.

3. To secure a government grant in support of the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan
4. To allocate £15,000 from General Reserves to Earmarked Reserves in preparation for the Neighbourhood Plan process

ITEM 9 EXTERNAL AUDIT

Members were reminded that the P & F Committee on 20 October 2014 had considered the report of the external auditors and were recommending that the report of the completion of the audit for 2013/2014 be approved and adopted by the Council.

Members added their congratulations to the Town Clerk that the audit had revealed no areas for concern and

RESOLVED

That the Council formally adopts the report of the external auditor for 2013/2014

ITEM 10 FLORAL DISPLAYS CONTRACT

The members considered a report which explained that the town centre floral display contract expires at the end of the 2015 flowering season. The last four years have produced excellent floral displays with a good service from the contractor.

It was therefore suggested that the Council may like to consider the contractor's offer to extend the existing contract for a further 2 years at no additional cost

RESOLVED

Subject to conforming with legal requirements and the Councils Financial/Standing Orders, that the existing floral displays contract be extended for 2 years to expire after the flowering season in 2017

ITEM 11 BOUNDARY SIGNS ELVETHAM HEATH

Members were informed that the Council had received a letter from Elvetham Heath Parish Council asking for the FTC 'Welcome to Fleet' sign to be removed as it had been placed within the Elvetham Heath parish boundary on land owned by EHPC..

Cllr Wheale reported that the sign had been located in its current position on the advice of HCC Highways' engineers to meet highway safety requirements.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

That the sign remain in its current position as it is, or that it remains in its current position and that the FTC logo be removed

ITEM 12 FLEET FUTURE

The Chairman reminded members that he had circulated an email which set out the Fleet Future activities for 2015/2016.

There was a general discussion and a recognition that there may be some crossovers between the work of Fleet Future and the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. It was noted that the Food Festival was now an event managed by the Fleet and District Festival Committee.. The continuing work of Fleet Future was supported and it was

RESOLVED

To support, in principle, the following activities of Fleet Future for 2015/2016

1. Rerunning the Town Centre benchmark
2. Open Day (follow-on from the 2012 event) (to be held on 1 August 2015)
3. "The Fleet Experience", the branding exercise
4. Forming a retailer led Town Team
5. Production of the cycle route and footpath map

ITEM 13 ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING

The Chairman reported that a meeting of the Annual Residents' Meeting Group would hopefully be arranged during the week commencing 9 March 2016. It was noted that the outcome of the negotiations on a 2015 pantomime would be reported to the Annual Residents' meeting

ITEM 14 STAFF LIST

In accordance with audit requirements the members noted the list of FTC permanent and zero hours contract staff as at 28 February 2015

It was noted that under the new pension legislation there was no obligation to offer the local government pension scheme and private pension schemes meeting government conditions were acceptable. Staff earning in excess of £10,000 pa were eligible to join the Council's pension scheme on a voluntary basis.

ITEM 15 FLEET FUTURE UPDATE

A representative of Fleet Future, Sue Tilley, reported on the achievements of the last month:

- the benchmarking exercise had been commenced with completion expected in July 2015
- objectives had been agreed for Open Day on 1 August 2015
- the new website was due to be operational very shortly
- the cycle route team were continuing with the work to produce a cycle map
- delivery of information for digital high street training course to businesses in Fleet
- a Facebook page was available
- a presentation had been made to HVA
- CIC registration has commenced
- a new treasurer had been appointed

ITEM 16 HCC/HDC

Cllr Wheale reported on the following matters:

- the Amey highways maintenance contract with a possible transfer of responsibilities to District and Parish Councils
- the Lengthsman scheme and weed control
- utility companies works affecting highways

Following a comment from a Councillor that they had been blocked from accessing the M3 from the M25 it was pointed out that the Highways Agency web site is updated daily, showing highway works including road and junction closures.

Cllr Bennison reported on the following matters:

- Boundary review of the county divisions to be in place by May 2017
- Embryonic cycleway proposals through Gally Hill, Coxheath and Netherhouse Moor linking with Calthorpe School
- The HDC leisure centre planning application to be presented to HDC in April 2015

Cllr Oliver reported on the following matters:

- Decision regarding the Leisure Centre to HDC cabinet on Monday 9 March 2015 with a view to a start in September 2015 and completion in December 2016
- Progress on the Local Plan
- Fleet car park charges to be considered by the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee in April 2015
- Meeting with HCC and Stagecoach to discuss bus services in rural areas for vulnerable users.

ITEM 17 ELECTRONIC AGENDAS

The members noted the requirement under the Local Government Act 1972 that a summons to attend meetings must be sent at least 3 days before a meeting. Members content to receive only an electronic copy were invited to complete a consent form.

ITEM 18 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

The members noted the update report of the Town Clerk and were also invited to suggest items for inclusion in the new Fleet Guide.

A request was made for the availability of the taxi-sharing service to be included

ITEM 19 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 1 April 2015 at the Harlington at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 9.18 pm

Chairman.....Date.....