



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 1 July 2015

at The Harlington at 7pm

**PRESENT**

Councillors Bob Schofield (Chairman), Steve Cattle, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Steve Forster, Denis Gotel, Leslie Holt, Alan Hope, Kathy Jasper, Dai Pierce, Jeff Smith, Neil Walton, Cllr Woods

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk  
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Steven Lugg-Chief Executive of HALC (for item 5)

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park  
David Jackson-Crookham Village PC  
Cllr Pat Lowe-Church Crookham PC  
Cllr Wendy Makepeace-Brown-HDC and Crookham Village PC  
Cllr Sharyn Wheale-HCC and HDC

(The Council received a presentation from Steven Lugg of HALC regarding affiliation to NALC. See item 5 below)

**ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs Gray, Oliver, Robinson and Wright

**ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Chenery-item 11-bus stop in Crookham Road  
Cllr Forster –item 6- Fleet Carnival and Item 8 Parking in Calthorpe Park  
Cllr Woods-item 7- Electoral Review of Hampshire

**ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from the public

#### **ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Having noted that the Fleet Future Open Day had been deferred until October 2015, (item 15), the minutes of the Council meeting held 3 June 2015, were approved and signed by the Chairman

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

RLA Committee	17 June 2015 (noted that membership of Friends Groups was a personal (but not prejudicial) interest
Development Control Committee	8 and 22 June 2015 (add that Cllr Schofield presented his apologies on 22 June)

It was noted that the Watery Lane planning appeal had been allowed for 380 housing units

#### **ITEM 5 FUTURE AFFILIATION TO NALC(taken after Apologies for Absence)**

Steven Lugg, the Chief Executive of Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) delivered a presentation regarding the future affiliation to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

The issues of concern for the seven County Board members were set out in a paper drafted by the Chief Executive of HALC .

Following concerns about NALC's performance raised in November 2014 , the HALC Board gave NALC one year's notice to improve or if not, face disaffiliation.

The following areas were highlighted:

- Effective lobbying
- Legal service
- New legislation
- Employment issues

Larger Local Councils (such as FTC) are concerned that their high population numbers, used to calculate the annual fee, means that high annual costs are not proving to be good value for money in these areas.

Some larger local councils are already cutting their affiliation to NALC

The Chief Executive of HALC reported that he had arranged a private meeting with the Chief Executive of NALC to urge for an improved performance by NALC.

The emergence of Development Partners (local councils no longer affiliated to NALC) but with a relationship with HALC was explained.

It was suggested that up to five County Associations may be considering leaving NALC. The representative of Crookham Village Parish Council commented on the range of issues set out above and there was a general debate amongst members.

## **RESOLVED**

That the current poor performance of NALC be noted and that the situation be kept under review prior to further consideration of FTC's continued affiliation and that FTC would be represented at the HALC AGM in October.

(Cllr Smith arrived during the presentation of the above item)

## **ITEM 6 FUTURE OF FLEET CARNIVAL**

It was reported that Chris Alden would be standing down as Chairman of the Carnival Committee after the 2015 Carnival. It had been feared that several Carnival Committee members would also be standing down but it was now understood that the Vice-Chairman will be remaining and several new volunteers have joined the committee, all of whom are happy to continue to organise the Carnival from 2016 onwards. There was, nevertheless, the need for four to five more new supporters.

FTC's appreciation of all the volunteers who manage and support our local events was voiced.

## **RESOLVED**

That FTC send a formal letter to Chris Alden, the outgoing Chairman of the Carnival Committee, expressing the Council's appreciation of the time, effort and commitment he had shown to the Carnival during his tenure of Chairman of the Committee

## **ITEM 7 COUNTY BOUNDARY CONSULTATION**

The members considered the report of Cllr Schofield on the Boundary Commission's Review of divisional boundaries within Hampshire.

It was explained that The Boundary Commission for England is currently carrying out a review of divisional boundaries within Hampshire as the number of divisions which have an electorate outside a band 10% either side of the average now exceeds the point at which such a review is triggered.

The Boundary Commission has indicated that they are minded to leave the number of divisions at the current number of 78, which is in line with the County Council's view that now is not the time to be increasing the number of County Councillors, whilst with increasing workloads and demands it would also be inappropriate to increase the workloads on County Councillors further still by reducing the number.

The five County Councillors representing Hart have issued proposals on which views are now being sought.

The total projected electorate for Hart at 2021 is 75,250, an average of 15,050 electors per division, just 180 electors below the plus 10% limit. This made room for manoeuvre very limited.

The current electorate of each of our County Divisions is:

County Division, Electorate 2021, Variance from the +10% Upper Limit

1. Church Crookham & Ewshot, 15,162, - 68

2. Fleet 16,703, + 1,473
3. Hartley Wintney, Eversley & Yateley West, 13,984, - 1,246
4. Odiham, 15,717, + 487
5. Yateley East, Blackwater & Ancells, 13,684, - 1,546

The starting point was to look quite widely at whether the five divisions could be completely reconfigured to make this work.

The first proposal made, therefore, was to move the Winchfield parish (554 electors) from the Odiham division into the Hartley Wintney, Eversley & Yateley West division. This brings the Odiham division into the correct range without overloading the Hartley Wintney division. It also reunites all parts of the Hartley Wintney district ward into one division.

This left Fleet as the only division outside the acceptable range. With an excess of 1,473 electors and capacity within the Yateley East, Blackwater & Ancells division for an additional 1,546 electors, it was clear that a transfer of around 1,500 electors was the logical way forward.

The three principal criteria established by the Boundaries Commission were:

- i) the same number of voters in each ward
- ii) divisions should reflect community interests and boundaries should be identifiable
- iii) electoral arrangements should promote effective and convenient local government

Discussion revealed that the prevailing view was that the suggested solutions were flawed but the transfer of Elvetham Heath represents the lesser of the two evils but that all the proposals did not address the three key criteria

Following debate and after careful consideration it was

## **RESOLVED**

That Fleet Town Council formally responds to the Boundary Commission's consultation indicating a preference for the transfer of part of Elvetham Heath to equalise numbers with Yateley East, Blackwater and Hawley but is strongly of the view that the suggested solution is flawed and that the review should recognise the need for the formation of six divisions.

## **ITEM 8 PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN CALTHORPE PARK**

The members considered a report prepared by Cllr Oliver regarding parking in Calthorpe Park.

It was noted that Calthorpe Park has limited parking available within its boundaries and users are directed to the public car parks off Reading Road North or by agreement to the FTFC car park. Parking is currently restricted to 15 bays. Proposals to provide parking at the Merivale end of the park were rejected by FTC in 2014.

During the weekend and organised events the limited parking is not sufficient to meet demand. Before installation by HDC of the new footpath/cycleway through the park, parking along the main access road (RRN/Cricket Club entrance) was controlled by use of dragon's teeth. This maintained emergency access and prevented damage to mature tree root structures.

The installation of the new footpath/cycleway replaced the dragon's teeth with a raised kerb. The height of this kerb was expected to stop parking on the new access route. Dropped kerbs to allow access to parking bays have allowed cars to park on the footway and hence block for pedestrians, cyclists and parents with buggies.

Following questions and general discussion, it was

## **RESOLVED**

That FTC request HDC to consult on a Traffic Order to restrict parking on the northern side of the Calthorpe Park access road (RRN to Park Access gate by the Scout Hut - parallel to new footpath/cycleway) to provide no parking at any time ( except in parking bays which should be limited to 3 hrs maximum stay and no return within 3 hrs (Monday to Fri)

## **ITEM 9 LEASES**

Members were reminded that the Council had worked with its Solicitors to regularise certain aspects of the leases that the Council has in place with Basingbourne Scouts, Calthorpe Park Scouts and Fleet Cricket Club.

Members received a range of documents which showed suggested amendments together with a suggested paragraph dealing with non-compliance with the terms of any lease. The annual rental levels of £500 for the Scouts and £3,750 for the Cricket Club, payable in four equal instalments were noted.

## **RESOLVED**

- a) To approve the proposed amendments to the lease documentation
- b) To approve for inclusion in the covering letter to leases :

‘to waive the rent set out in the Particulars to the lease so long as the Tenant shall act in the spirit of the lease and occupy the premises fully in accordance with the terms of the lease. The Tenant's performance against this waiver shall be reviewed by the Council annually. Failure to comply with the said terms shall result in reinstatement of the full rent as set out in the Particulars’

## **ITEM 10 BASINGSTOKE CANAL JMC MEETING-FLEET TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

The members considered the report of Cllr Oliver on his attendance as an observer at a meeting of the Basingstoke Canal JMC on 25 June 2015

FTC had sought co-option onto the JMC with voting rights based on its significant annual contribution (£18,000)

The JMC members rejected the request and suggested that all interested parties (canal users, canal businesses, parish and town councils) be invited to compete for the Special Interest Group (SIG) vacancy , with the voting rights issue to be dealt with post-selection at the October 2015 JMC meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

- a) To express an interest in joining the JMC in advance of their October meeting as the Special Interest Group with Voting Right status
- b) If FTC are given Observer rather than Voting Right status (SIGs do not contribute direct financial support) any grant payment should be based on an annual grant application by

BCA to FTC to ensure proper scrutiny and transparency on behalf of local residents in line with FTC grant policy . Core Client status would need to be afforded to BCA to allow them to submit a claim in consecutive years.

- c) The Clerk should advise BCA of this requirement and send them a grant application form.

#### **ITEM 11 PROPOSED BUS SHELTER IN CROOKHAM ROAD**

Members were reminded that historically there had been a proposal to provide a bus shelter in Crookham Road with funding from NHTS

#### **RESOLVED**

To defer consideration of this matter until the Council meeting on 2 September 2015 with the benefit of the presentation on bus services by HCC and Stagecoach on 8 July 2015

#### **ITEM 12 ALL SAINTS CHURCH**

Members noted that the Clerk had sent a message of support to the Church and reported that a suggestion would be made to the Royal British Legion that the Remembrance Service in November 2015 be held in the Harlington

#### **ITEM 13 PAY ON EXIT PARKING**

It was noted that HDC had deferred the Pay on Exit parking consideration until the Cabinet Meeting in August 2015 to allow the new portfolio holder more time to consider the matter.

( Cllr Chenery asked for his disappointment with the proposed machines to be noted)

#### **ITEM 14 FLEET FUTURE**

The postponement of Open Day until October 2015 was noted.  
Fleet Future's engagement with the local business community to try and establish a BID in Fleet was noted.

#### **ITEM 15 HCC/HDC MATTERS**

The following matters were mentioned

- Bus services
- Boundary Commission
- Introduction of 20mph zone in Fleet.
  - It was confirmed that the review of the current 20mph speed zone would not be conducted until Spring next year (2016)

#### **ITEM 16 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The members noted the Clerk's report.

**ITEM 17 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 2 September 2015 at the Harlington at 7pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.13 pm

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