



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 7 October 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.

Also Present

Town Clerk - Janet Stanton
Deputy Town Clerk - Deborah Kirby
John Bennison-HCC
Geoff Hislop- HDC
Mike Morris- HDC
Andrew Macallan- MacAllan Penfold
Philip Terry- MacAllan Penfold

There were 21 members of public in attendance.

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Alex Gray, Alan Oliver, Richard Robinson, Neil Walton, Richard Woods.

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest. However Cllr Smith confirmed that he would not be voting on item 8-Crisis Relief

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Questions from the members of public were deferred to the corresponding items.

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Council meeting held 2 September 2015, were approved and signed by the Chairman

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

Development Control Committee 14 and 28 September 2015

Planning Committee 14 September 2015

RLA Committee 16 September 2015

ITEM 5 PARKING CONSULTATION

Following an update by Mike Morris and Geoff Hislop of HDC, Members were asked to receive and consider the HDC paper on the three car parking charges options for Fleet:

- Option 1 –to continue with the existing charges
- Option 2- to accept the modified charges agreed by the HDC Cabinet in April 2015
- Option 3 –to commend the proposed incremental charges for Fleet

After discussion, it was agreed to take a recorded vote on Option 2.

Proposal- Alan Hope
Seconded- Leslie Holt

For – 7

Steve Cantle
Paul Einchcomb
Leslie Holt
Alan Hope
Dai Pierce
Bob Schofield
Jonathan Wright

Against – 5

Grahame Chenery
Steve Forster
Denis Gotel
Kathy Jasper
Jeff Smith

RESOLVED

To recommend to HDC the adoption of the parking charges agreed by HDC Cabinet on April 15th 2015 as detailed in Appendix B of the cabinet minutes, with the addition of the 20p charge for 30 minutes per hour on Sundays and Bank Holidays

ITEM 6 THE NEW HARLINGTON

The Councillors considered the options shown for the proposed positioning and orientation of the New Harlington on the Gurkha Square carpark. After much discussion it was decided that the options on display be considered by the New Harlington Working Group prior to the public viewing of the proposals at the Open Day on 31 October 2015.

RESOLVED

The New Harlington Working Group will meet to agree options for display on the Open Day on 31 October 2015.

ITEM 7 BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONSULTATION ON THE REPRESENTATION OF HART PARISHES

The correspondence from Legal and Democratic services of Surrey County Council regarding the representation of Hart Parishes consultation was considered and members felt that they were not in a position to answer the 4 questions within the consultation as there was a presumption that FTC was in agreement with the decisions made prior to the formation of this council.

RESOLVED

FTC to reply stating that it is not appropriate to make a response to the questions in consultation and to relate the councils view that whilst there is not a voting representation from FTC, no funding will be given.

ITEM 8 CRISIS RELIEF

A member of the public (Sam Butler) highlighted the concerns of some residents regarding the Syrian Refugee crisis and Members also consider a paper prepared by Cllr Smith. (copy attached to minutes)

There were many questions and a general discussion about the initiative in which issues were raised as to what support FTC was able to give within the rules and guidelines it is bound by . This discussion highlighted that the general power or competence would give FTC the power to do anything that individuals may generally do as long as it is within the law, but at this time the Town council did not possess that power.

RESOLVED

- a) That FTC would offer moral support for the Safe Haven Initiative and look favourably at a grant application for room hire.
- b) It was agreed that the Clerk would start the process needed for the Council to gain the 'General Power of Competency'.

ITEM 9 TRANSFER OF ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE AND PARK FROM BLACKWATER AND HAWLEY TOWN COUNCIL TO FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

The Councillors considered a report on the transfer of Ancells Farm Community Centre and Park.

RESOLVED

The Council accepted the transfer of Ancells Farm Community Centre (HP 531515) and Ancells Farm Park (HP531521) to Fleet Town Council from Blackwater and Hawley Town Council.

ITEM 10 COMPLETION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR 2014/2015

The members considered the Annual Return and report on the External Audit from BDO for the year ended 31 March 2015. The actions relating to the minor matters raised by the External Auditor, concerning the Action Plan recommended by the Internal Auditor, were reported to The Council on 3 June 2015 and are being progressed

The Council congratulated the Clerk on her efforts in attaining a clean audit.

RESOLVED

The report of the external auditor for 2014/2015 is approved and accepted by Full Council

ITEM 11 NALC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

Members considered the responses to the NALC survey.

RESOLVED

The Clerk should send the Council's response to NALC.

ITEM 12 CO-OPTION

The council had received a request from a member of the public for co-option. Members discussed the Community Governance Review currently being undertaken to consider the electoral arrangements as well as the number of members required within the council.

It was thought that at this time there was no shortage of members for working groups and the residents of Fleet were well represented.

RESOLVED

Members decided not to co-opt and to decline the offer at this time.

ITEM 13 CHRISTMAS CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS-FTC OFFICE

Members considered the FTC Christmas office closure arrangements.

RESOLVED

- FTC office close at 1pm on Thursday 24 December 2015 and re-open at 9am on Monday 4 January 2016.
- FTC officers will be required to take annual leave to cover the period 29-31 December 2015 (3 days).
- The Harlington will be manned throughout the busy pantomime period and cover will be provided for the cemetery service.

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

Councillor Bennison reported that in May 2015 the Hampshire Fire and Rescue review body put forward a proposal to provide Fleet with a smaller vehicle and reduce the amount of staff on call. The decision on the proposal will take place in February 2016. The members of staff will not be reduced until the smaller more efficient vehicle is in place. After the changes take place the nearest full size vehicle will be in Rushmoor.

Councillor Forster reported on

- The need for residents to complete the flood survey so that HDC has a complete picture of the problem.
- The small bin collection issue on access roads is being dealt with.
- HDC is in communication with FTC about a CCTV proposal for the Views.

ITEM 16 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The members noted the Clerk's report.

ITEM 17 LOCAL POLICE UPDATE

Cllr Jasper reported that the Prince Arthur had been broken into on Monday, with the organised gang getting away with the takings from the machines on the premises.

It was noted with dismay that the police report showed an increase in antisocial behaviour in Fleet.

ITEM 18 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 4 November 2015 at the Harlington at 7pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm

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