



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

**Wednesday 17 July 2013 at 7.30pm
The Harlington**

PRESENT

Paul Einchcomb (Chairman)
Grahame Chenery
Sue Fisher
Steve Forster (left at 9.35pm)
Georgina Lewis
Alan Oliver (arrived at 8.30pm)
Bob Schofield
Sue Tilley
George Woods

Also Present

Alex Robins	Operations Manager
James Corrigan	Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner	Committee Clerk
Mike Bye	Friends of Oakley Park
Sarah Horton	Friends of Oakley Park
Deb Baker	Fleet Future

Cllr Georgina Lewis was welcomed to her first meeting as a Councillor for Ancells Ward

ITEM 1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Einchcomb was duly elected as Chairman of the Committee for 2013/2014

ITEM 2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Oliver was duly elected vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2013/2014

ITEM 3 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence

ITEM 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 10 Allotments –Cllr Tilley
Item 12 Calthorpe Park –Cllr Chenery and Cllr Oliver

ITEM 5 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the members of the public

ITEM 6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee received and approved as a correct record, the minutes of the RLA Committee meeting held on 17 April 2013

In response to a question it was confirmed that the cap on expenditure during the pre-development stage of the Pantomime had been expected to be approx. £1,000 before major costs were incurred

ITEM 7 THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT

The Committee received the report of the Operations Manager for the quarter relating to Mar-June 2013

The following matters were discussed:

- It was confirmed that there was a credit card fee charged to customers
- Disappointment that there was not up-to-date financial information
- Confirmation that budgeted income was averaged over the year
- Request for better information on peaks and troughs and known projections
- 'Live at the Harlington' was a community venture and ran at no cost to the Harlington
- Staff due to attend VAT training on 18 July 2013
- Use of tennis courts in high demand although it was noted that two tennis block bookings had moved to Elvetham Heath where parking was available
- The Facilities Manager post would be advertised in the next couple of weeks
- Lack of storage space for the building often made it difficult for the Duty Manager to set up rooms quickly

The Committee noted the report of the Operations Manager for the quarter relating to Mar-June 2013

Cllr Oliver arrived during discussion on this item

ITEM 8 REQUEST FROM FLEET TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB TO WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE A FULL PITCH REPORT

The Committee was reminded that it was a condition of the lease to the Football Club that an annual report be submitted on the condition of the pitch. As this is costly and it is in the Club's interest to maintain the pitch to meet League standards, the club had requested that the requirement for a report be waived.

The groundsman had prepared the report in previous years. However it was noted that the groundsman was leaving the club as part of a cost-saving exercise and the pitch was being maintained by Jeffries, FTC's Grounds maintenance contractor. Following careful consideration the Committee

RESOLVED

To waive the requirement for a report on a one-off basis but reserve the right to reinstate the requirement in future years

ITEM 9 OAKLEY PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Committee thanked the Friends of Oakley Park for all the work and time they had invested in the production of the draft Development Plan.

The Committee sought clarification as to the status of the plan once it had been adopted by FTC as there were concerns that adoption could raise expectations as to the FTC commitment to implement all the proposals.

There was a lengthy discussion about a lack of understanding of the process of producing and adopting Development Plans and the members were assured by the Town Clerk that adoption did not imply that FTC is committed to fund what is essentially an aspirational document. Any adoption would be subject to the availability of finance and the submission of a business case. However, adoption was important to assist in securing grants by both FTC and the Friends Group.

Some members remained uncomfortable as to where the Development Plan would sit alongside FTC's Wish List and it was therefore noted that the Development Plan could be published with an introductory statement from FTC explaining that their support was essentially to assist in securing funding from external sources.

The Friends of Oakley Park representatives expressed concern that that they had worked hard to produce the document and now believed that it was for FTC to finalise a plan that they were prepared to adopt. The Town Clerk agreed to circulate to The Friends and all Committee members, a copy of his earlier report on the Development Plan process and the outline Development Plan template

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that Cllrs Schofield and Tilley would meet with the Friends representatives with a view to reformatting the report to give greater emphasis to its strategic direction and separating the maintenance issues as follows:

- Amend para 10.2.6 to suggest staffing by volunteers and 10.6.1. to suggest a possible new extension to the pavilion rather than a change of use of the existing facility
- Include ecology and maintenance issues in separate appendices
- Delete references to a change of use of the pavilion
- Include the following appendices:
 - the SINC Plan
 - The Deed
 - Environment report
- Separate out activities that are development/improvement proposals to highlight the strategic development direction of the plan
- Include a site plan

RESOLVED

That Cllrs Tilley and Schofield work with the Friends with a view to submitting the finalised version to Full Council for adoption on 4 September 2013

Cllr Forster left the meeting at 9.35pm during discussion on the above item

ITEM 10 REQUEST FOR ALLOTMENTS

The Committee was informed that a request had been received from the Environment Group of Fleet Future regarding the provision of allotments.

The Town Clerk reported that FTC had a duty to provide allotments and that **Hart** District Council had been informally approached and had confirmed a previous offer to donate some land off the A327 for use as allotments. There will also be allotment provision on the Edenbrooke site, which HDC has indicated it plans to lease to the Fleet Allotment Association.

There is also a parcel of land in the ownership of Fleet Town Council to the rear of Farm Road on Ancells estate that is not used for any purpose other than dog walkers. This is approximately the size of 20 standard Gardens.

The only other options of land within the Councils ownership would be within the Parks.

The Committee carefully considered each of the options and confirmed a commitment in principle, to seek to secure allotment site(s), ideally managed by the Allotment Association.

Following a lengthy debate it was

RESOLVED

The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, prepare a comprehensive report on the implications of Allotment provision including an examination of sites (to include land near the cemetery and MOD land) , the role of the Allotment Association, and outline conditions of allotment allocation and management, for submission to a future meeting of the Committee

Standing Orders were waived to allow continuation of discussion of the following item beyond 10.30pm

ITEM 11 CALTHORPE PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Members were reminded that the first draft of the Plan had been considered at the RLA Committee on 17 April 2013 and that the amendments that had been requested had now been incorporated into the revised draft now before the committee.

The representative of the Friends Group took note of a number of comments relating to

- Para 7.3. regarding protection of the park
- Para 2.4 include a copy of the byelaws in an appendix
- Para 9.3.13 amend 'proposed' to 'suggested'
- Para 2.6 Amend to read that one part of the site qualifies for SINC status but has not been registered
- Page 27 para 2 amend to read 'create pond' not 'restore pond'
- Include a covering paragraph to make it clear that the plan has been jointly adopted by The Friends and FTC as an aspirational document
- Delete the following projects:
 - CP5 Drainage to main football field
 - DP 7 Wet meadow planning
 - DP8 Wet meadow construction

During discussion Cllr Lewis expressed concern that there was no simple standard format produced by FTC for each Friends Group to follow and that the process was not understood by councillors

RESOLVED

That Fleet Town Council adopt the Calthorpe Park Development Plan as an aspirational document

Cllr Oliver did not vote on the above item

ITEM 12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 October 2013 at **7.30pm** at The Harlington

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.10 pm

Signed.....

Date.....