



**FLEET TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

held on

**Wednesday 14 January 2015**  
**at The Harlington at 7pm**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors** Richard Robinson (Vice-Chairman in the Chair ), Steve Cattle, Paul Einchcomb, Steve Forster, Denis Gotel, Alex Gray, Leslie Holt , Alan Hope, Kathy Jasper, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Jeff Smith, Neil Walton, Richard Woods, Jonathan Wright

**Also Present**

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk  
Deborah Kirby-Deputy Town Clerk

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park  
Jerry Hill-Member of the public  
Sally Hamerton - Fleet Library and Learning Centre

**ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs Chenery and Schofield

**ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Cattle item 6 Leases  
Cllr Forster Item 7 Paddington Bear  
Cllr Oliver Item 12 CCTV

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

Mr Jerry Hill expressed concern about the prospect of further housing development in Fleet. He commented on the number of dwellings were in the pipeline with over 4,000 still to be built and sought clarification on whether FTC had concerns about this level of development.

It was explained that FTC was only a consultee to planning applications and the Local Plan. Members expressed the view that FTC was vigorously against more housing without the appropriate level of infrastructure and had consistently objected to green field development proposals over the last 2 years. HDC was bound by national planning rules and local people were urged to write formal letters of protest

Mike Bye commented that the agenda for the Council meeting was not on the web site.  
(Alternative arrangements have now been made to ensure this does not recur)

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

With the correction to item 5, from 56p a week to 56 p pa, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 3 December 2014 were approved and signed

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

Establishment Committee	3 and 17 December 2014
Development Control Committee	3 and 17 November 2014

#### **ITEM 5 DRAFT BUDGET 2015/2016 AND SETTING OF COUNCIL PRECEPT (taken after item 7)**

The members received and considered a report on the proposed budget for 2015/2016. It was noted that the tax base had increased from 9,797.68 to 9873.75 which at a 0% precept increase (ie £55.63) for a Band D equivalent property generated an additional £4,232. HDC had also advised that the Council Tax Support Grant had been reduced by 33% giving an amount of £8334.64 payable to FTC

#### **RESOLVED that**

- a) **The 2015/2016 budget be adopted**
- b) **A precept of £549,277 which equates to 0% change for Council taxpayers, is set**

#### **ITEM 6 LEASES**

- a) **Cricket Club Calthorpe Park**
- b) **Scouts Calthorpe Park**
- c) **Scouts Basingbourne**

The members considered a report on the term of the new leases, the rents to be entered and the actual rents to be charged.

The members considered a range of issues and amendments were made to the particulars of the leases including inclusions/exclusions, insurance issues, requirements on the tenants, membership of councillors on club committees and rent levels etc

Following careful consideration it was

#### **RESOLVED**

- a) All leases should be for a period of 30 years
- b) That the rents to be included on the particulars to be as follows:
  - Cricket Club - £3750
  - Calthorp Scouts - £500
  - Basingbourne Scouts -£500

- c) That a peppercorn rent be charged in the first year and then renewed annually
- d) The Council's Solicitors, Headleys, check the amendments made to the leases prior to signature by FTC and the tenant

#### **ITEM 7      PADDINGTON TRAIL AUCTION ( taken after item 4)**

It was reported that a 5' high Paddinton Bear made of fibre glass was to be made available for auction for the NSPCC Charity. A local actor, Henry Dothwaite had persuaded 500 people and businesses to donate a total of £6,000 to acquire the bear.

FTC had been asked to make suggestions for the permanent home of Paddington Bear once he arrived in Fleet. It was suggested that Paddington could be temporarily located in the Harlington and a Welcome Evening could be held when Paddington could be unveiled on stage and marmalade sandwiches would be served.

A representative from Fleet Library and Learning Centre also attended the meeting and said that as Paddington was a literary character, the Library would be pleased to give him a permanent home.

#### **RESOLVED**

That FTC suggests to the owners of Paddington Bear the following :

- a) FTC would be pleased to temporarily house Paddington Bear and arrange an unveiling ceremony
- b) That FTC supports the permanent housing of Paddington Bear in The Fleetr Library and Learning Centre

#### **ITEM 8      PAY ON EXIT PARKING FUNDING**

The members considered pay on exit parking funding since it had been ascertained that there will be no future NHTS funding. It was reported that HDC was currently considering the findings of the car parking review which would be presented to Cabinet in February /March 2015 but it was not certain that the pay-on-exit parking would proceed. However FTC members indicated that in the absence of future NHTS funding, financial provision should be made

#### **RESOLVED**

To transfer £45,000 from General reserves to earmarked reserves for future parking provision.

#### **ITEM 9      ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING**

The members considered the themes to be addressed at the Annual Residents' Meeting on 31 March 2015. Views were expressed which included parking in Fleet, the future of the Harlington, the possible development of a Neighbourhood Plan and a presentation from HDC on the Local Plan

#### **RESOLVED**

- a) To establish a working group to agree and prepare the format of the Annual Residents' Meeting to be held on 31 March 2015 comprising Cllrs Forster, Oliver, Pierce and Schofield
- b) That the main themes for the Annual Residents' meeting are the future of the Harlington and the development of a Neighbourhood Plan

#### **ITEM 10 COMMUNITY BURIAL PLOT**

Members were informed of the allocation of a community burial plot to HDC for a welfare burial for a Fleet resident.

#### **RESOLVED**

To agree to a 50% reduction in the cemetery fee allowing a 3 depth burial plot at a total cost of £600 for 3 burials.

#### **ITEM 11 ACTION DAY**

The members considered a date for the 2015 FTC Action Day and

#### **RESOLVED**

That the FTC Action Day be held on Saturday 18 April 2015

#### **ITEM 12 CCTV**

The members considered a report on future CCTV provision in Fleet regarding upgrade, removal and new installation costs and noted that a further report will be presented when all the relevant information is available

#### **ITEM 13 FLEET FUTURE**

There was no update report from Fleet Future. Noted that Cllr Schofield would ascertain the group's future intentions and if appropriate a new FTC representative would be sought

#### **ITEM 14 HCC/HDC**

The following matters were discussed

- Bus services (Cllr Forster to assist with the drafting of a letter to Stagecoach)
- HDC Local Plan
- 5 year land supply
- Leisure Centre planning application due in February 2015
- Leadership of HDC

**Action Cllr Forster to assist with the drafting of a letter to Stagecoach**

#### **ITEM 15 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The members received and noted the update report of the Town Clerk

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

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

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm

**Chairman.....Date.....**