

MINUTES OF THE FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

7 September 2011 7.30pm
The Harlington

Councillors

Robert Schofield, (Chair), Richard Appleton, George Woods, Chris Butler, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Sue Fisher, Steve Forster, Denis Gotel, Alan Hope, Arthur Hurley, Leslie Holt, Andrew Macallan, Dai Pierce, Sue Tilley.

Also Present

Shar Roselman – Clerk

Two members of the public who were present for part of the meeting.

F.C. SEPT 2011 ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Macallan, Cllr Axaam, Cllr Robinson and a block apology from Cllr Perthen.

F.C. SEPT 2011 ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Butler, who declared an interest in items 4 and 5 and from Cllr Appleton who declared an interest in item 5. These could not be deemed prejudicial interests, in the sense that no pecuniary interests were involved, but the Councillors involved held double hats in representing both the District Council and the Town Council on the Core Strategy.

F.C. SEPT 2011 ITEM 3: PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from members of the public.

F.C. SEPT 2011 ITEM 4: RESIDENTS' SURVEY ON HDC CORE STRATEGY

David Fenton of Fenton Market Research gave a presentation on the results of the survey. The views of residents of Fleet had been sought on the Hart District Council, LDF Core Strategy. 9000 questionnaires had been distributed to cater for the number of residences in the area, and facilities were made available for responses electronically. In total 732 replies were received, which represents a total of 8% of the survey questionnaires. This sample is statistically sufficiently representative to provide meaningful data.

It was noted that a 6% of the returns had come from Elvetham Heath Residents, who had used on line facilities to complete the returns.

In terms of age, there was a slightly higher proportion of returns from people aged 55 and upwards, but in surveys of this nature that tends to be the normal response.

The top three priorities for development in the area from all respondents were:

1. Increase in size of Calthorpe Park School.
2. Road Improvements.
3. Land reserved for a new primary school.

However, if the accumulative ranking of the top three priorities is taken into account, then Road Improvements becomes the foremost priority for residents.

The biggest concerns for residents were:

- Insufficient medical services
- Traffic congestion in key access points
- Traffic congestion in the Town Centre
- Lack of secondary school places.

In terms of acceptable levels of development for Fleet, at every age group more than 50% said no more development of any kind, even to development already planned. The Grove Farm Development was the most disliked development. Use of industrial sites for redevelopment into housing was the most welcome.

A range of comments had been received from respondents. Frequently occurring comments could be isolated into the following areas:

- There has already been lots of development that has taken place, with no discernable benefit for residents.
- School places were already oversubscribed. A new school rather than a school extension was preferred.
- Lack of medical facilities.
- Concern that more building in Fleet would lead to urban sprawl.
- Road Infrastructure was crucial.

Councillors raised their concerns about the distribution of the survey. It was recognised that it was hard to pinpoint areas where the survey had not been distributed, but that distribution had by no means been to every home.

The Chairman thanked David Fenton for his presentation.

F.C. SEPTEMBER 2011 ITEM 5: LDF CORE STRATEGY

The Chairman distributed a note on a discussion held the previous evening with HDC where the issue of pursuing a new settlement as an alternative had been discussed. I

Resolved to set up a working group consisting of Cllrs Schofield, Gotel, Woods, Pierce, Holt and Tilley, to formulate a response the Hart District Council, based on the results of the survey, and proposing the alternative strategy of a new settlement, to address a longer term development plan.

Prop: BS Sec: LH

F.C. SEPTEMBER 2011 ITEM 6: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2011.

Prop: B.S Sec: RA

The following minutes of committees and sub-committees were received by Council:

The Planning, Development and Control Committee 27th June 2011
The Planning, Development and Control Committee 11th July 2011
The Planning, Development and Control Committee 25th July 2011
The Planning, Development and Control Committee 22nd August 2011
The confidential minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee 18th July 2011

A comment was raised on the above minutes, in that organisers of events should be aware of the cost to families of entertainment at these events.

Action: The clerk to pass these comments onto the organisers of Festivities.

The Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee Confidential Minutes 20th July 2011
The Establishment Sub-Committee Confidential Minutes 13th July 2011
Highways and Transportation 29th June 2011
Highways and Transportation 27th July 2011
Highways and Transportation 24th August 2011
Highways and Transportation Partnership Meeting 5 July 2011

F.C. SEPTEMBER 2011 ITEM 7: BOUNDARIES COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Concerns were raised by the Council regarding the new proposals for Ward Boundaries for the District Council, and the implications of these changes to the internal Town Council Boundaries.

Resolved to suggest that the Western Boundary be moved to Reading Rd North, with a corresponding adjustment in the Merrivale and Lea Wood Road areas to even out the numbers, because the characteristic nature of the blue triangle area would not be best represented across two wards.

Resolved also to suggest that, as the residents of Velmead Road had identified strongly with Fleet in the poll taken regarding parish choices, both sides of this road and Velmead Close are included in the Fleet Central Ward, but that the Wickham Road area and the Courtmore Avenue and Little Copse areas be moved into the Church Crookham Ward.

Prop: RA Sec: SF

If the above changes were made councillors believed that it was best to align the Town Council wards with the District Boundaries. However, concerns were raised about the number of Councillors allocated to the severely reduced Courtmoor Ward, as 4 councillors appeared to be too many for this area.

There was some discussion about retaining the name of Pondtail Ward for the newly Proposed Fleet East Ward, but councillors felt that name Pondtail was not necessarily representative of Ancells.

Action: The clerk will talk to Electoral Services in Hart District Council, to request assistance with co-ordinating the numbers for the above proposals, and to discuss the issue of the number of councillors for the Courtmoor Ward.

F.C. SEPTEMBER 2011 ITEM 8. CO-OPTION OF A NEW MEMBER

The Council discussed that there had been three potential residents willing to be co-opted for the vacancy, but that following discussion with them about what the role involved, they had elected not to take up the position.

Resolved to wait until 2012 before advertising for persons interested in the vacancy.

Prop: LH Sec: AH

F.C. SEPTEMBER 2011 ITEM 9: ACTION DAY

The Chairman thanked all those Councillors who had supported the day, and the deputy clerk for organising the day so efficiently. It was recognised by all that the work done had been valuable, and had been seen by the community as a very positive move by the Town Council.

Resolved to organise another small action day in the Town Centre in October to finish of the work there, inviting those people who had previously attended. Also resolved to hold a much larger Action Day in Spring next year (preferably not during School Holidays) preceded by a major article in the Spring issue of Town Talk, on Good Neighbourliness and working together as a community, wherein residents would be invited to take part.

Prop: GW

F.C. SEPTEMBER 2011 ITEM 10: CLERK'S REPORT

The clerk presented a report briefing the council on insurance matters, and on the temporary replacement that had been found for the Sport's and Recreation Officer.

The Basingstoke Canal Authority had written to the Town Council advising that it was not possible to add another representative to the Authority. However offers were made to speak to the Town Council at another forum.

The clerk to invite a representative from the Authority to an RLA meeting.

F.C. SEPTEMBER 2011 ITEM 11: CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Council resolved that, in terms of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the public Section 1(2), by reason of the item referring to an individual/s and to confidential information, the Public and Press would be excluded from the following items on the agenda.

F.C. SEPTEMBER 2011 ITEM 12: GROUND MAINTENANCE TENDER

Council received a paper from the working group on the tender submissions from four contractors. Discussion took place on each of the submissions.

The Council resolved to appoint contractor C for a three year period, excluding the provision for Town Centre floral displays, to remove the performance bond component of the tender, to modify the quantities to those agreed by the contractor and to include the flexible nature of working arrangements and the need for working within a partnership arrangement. The confirmed Contractor C is Nigel Jeffries.

Prop: DG Sec: S. Forster

Action: Cllr Schofield and the clerk to prepare a final form of tender and contract for signature.
The clerk to advise all the contractors of the result of the selection by telephone initially, and then by confirmation in writing.

F.C. SEPTEMBER 2011 ITEM 13: YOUTH SERVICES

Cllr Schofield advised the meeting that as yet there was no real factual information available at this stage for Council to make a decision on what to support by way of youth funding for the year 2012/2013.

Cllr Woods to follow this matter up with HCC.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 10.28 pm.

The next meeting will be on the 5th October 2011, at the Harlington, at 7.30 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....