



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 4 November 2015

at The Harlington at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors Bob Schofield (Chairman), Steve Cattle, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Steve Forster, Denis Gotel, Alex Gray, Leslie Holt, Alan Hope, Kathy Jasper, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Richard Robinson, Jeff Smith. Neil Walton, Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Cllr Makepeace-Brown-HDC
Cllr Wheale-HDC/HCC (from 7.30pm)

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology for absence from Cllr Woods

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Cllr Makepeace-Brown :

- a) Informed members that she was a member of a Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group which was to be set up to look at The Market. She invited FTC members with a possible interest in being involved to let her know
- b) Congratulated FTC on the achievement of voting status on the Basingstoke Canal JMC

Chairman's announcements

Cllr Schofield announced:

- a) A very successful Open Day on Saturday 31 October 2015 which had been attended by over 600 residents. The on-going exhibition in the Hart Centre is also being well received
- b) That members should take care when sending emails as they could be capable of being found to be libellous and could be distributed beyond the original recipients

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

With the addition that Cllr Smith announced that he would not be voting on item 8- Crisis Relief (item 2) , and the correction to Blackwater and Hawley **Town** Council (not parish) at item 9 , and the inclusion of an apostrophe to 'Council' at item 11, the minutes of the Council meeting held 7 October 2015, were approved and signed by the Chairman

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Establishment Committee | 30 September 2015 |
| Development Control Committee | 12 and 26 September 2015 |
| Policy and Finance Committee | 19 October 2015 |

With the corrections that the rephrasing of traffic lights at Kings Road/Fleet Road had **not** been resolved(item 4 (5)) and that there was **no** reference to Fleet (item 4 (13)) and ... which **was** previously used when the air show is taking place (item 5 para 3 line 2) , the notes of the Highways and Transportation Working Group held on 13 October 2015 with actions, were approved

ITEM 5 FINANCIAL MONITORING

The meeting received the income and expenditure statements up to 28 October 2015 and the list of payments up to 28 October 2015

RESOLVED

To receive into the minutes

- a) The Income Receipts statement up to 28 October 2015
- b) The Expenditure statement up to 28 October 2015
- c) Confirmation that the bank reconciliations for September 2015 equals zero

ITEM 6 BASINGSTOKE CANAL JMC

Cllr Schofield reported that he, together with Cllrs Forster, Gotel and Smith had attended the recent Basingstoke Canal JMC.

Following a discussion regarding FTC's request to secure voting rights on the JMC and following a vote of 9 for, 4 against, the JMC voted to give full voting rights to FTC.

Retaining the balance between Surrey and Hampshire authorities was dealt with by awarding an extra seat to **Surrey, which may go to** Woking.

Cllr Schofield reported that he would personally write to thank **Crookam Village Parish Council** for their support and would enquire of HDC if the views expressed **at the JMC meeting** were personal to their representative or were the views of HDC.

RESOLVED

- a) That the officers be authorised to pay the grant provisionally approved by the Policy and Finance Committee on 19 October 2015 (min 10 (a))
- b) That Cllr Robinson represent the Council on the JMC with Cllr Smith as reserve

ITEM 7 HALC AGM

The members considered a report on the proceedings of the HALC AGM prepared by Cllr Schofield who had attended the meeting together with the Town Clerk. The content of the meeting had been disappointing with an over-emphasis on devolution. Cllr Schofield explained that voting tended to be controlled by a large number of very small Councils. He suggested that the initiative to institute a Larger Councils Group should be explored again. The Chairman, in recognition of her award as Hampshire Clerk of the Year, presented Janet Stanton with a bouquet of flowers

RESOLVED

- a) To note the report of the Chairman of the Council
- b) To congratulate the Town Clerk on her award of the Kirk Shield for Hampshire Clerk of the Year

ITEM 8 FLEET FUTURE AND FLEET TOWN COUNCIL OPEN DAY

The meeting received an oral report on the outcome of the very successful Fleet Future and Fleet Town Council Open Day held on 31 October 2015. The feedback from the day would be circulated to all members.

Unfortunately, primarily the objectors had submitted their views with many of the older residents being reluctant to see the loss of Gurkha Square to parking.

Noticeably 100% of those commenting supported the creation of a Garden of Remembrance in the cemetery.

Cllr Oliver reported that although the Neighbourhood Plan was seen as a positive step it was not an issue at the front of people's minds.

It was hoped to arrange a meeting with retailers and bar owners to engage them in the consultation process on the development of Gurkha Square in the near future

It was noted that HCC/HDC had met regarding the the library services potentially sharing part of the New Harlington development.

ITEM 9 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

The members received an oral update on the Community Speed Watch Initiative. The second AGM is due to be held on Friday 6 November 2015 when Bob Wyatt will be stepping down as the

Co-ordinator. The new Co-ordinator is to be Andrew McGill who will be looking at redefining the role of Community Speed Watch.

Cllr Forster reported on some of the statistics regarding the successes of the scheme and referred to the efforts of PC Griffiths in supporting the Speed Watch initiative.

The scheme was very successful when it was visible and members requested that FTC consider the possibility of hosting a web page about the scheme, although caution would be required regarding the status of any data published.

RESOLVED

That a letter of thanks be sent to Bob Wyatt and his wife for all their sterling efforts over the last two years.

ITEM 10 FLEET FUTURE

Cllr Schofield reported that Fleet Future had put a lot of effort into the Open Day on 31 October 2015. It was reported that a representatives of Fleet Future were now serving on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group but Cllr Oliver stressed that although three town councillors served on the Steering Group, volunteers from amongst councillors will still be needed.to serve on the working groups.

ITEM 11 HCC/HDC

The members received an oral update report on the following matters that concerned FTC:

HCC matters

- Cllr Wheale reported that the second consultation on possible budget savings had opened on Mon 2 November 2015 closing in December. Members are invited to make their own comments to the consultation with a copy to FTC so that these can be summarised
- A consultation on the future of the Fire and Rescue Service(mentioned by Cllr Bennison at the last meeting) closes on 4 December 2015. There is also an invitation to meet the local fire-fighters on 10/11 November 2015 at 7pm at Fleet Fire Station (email circulated to all members 3 November 2015)

HDC matters

- Cllr Gray reported that he and Cllr Forster would be meeting with the owner of Moo- Moo night club to discuss issues regarding unruly behaviour in the early hours of the morning. Any complaints referred to Councillors should be passed on to Cllr Gray. The excellent work of the Fleet Angels was mentioned by Cllr Forster
- Cllr Oliver reported the imminent consultation on housing options
- Cllr Forster reported that he would ensure that Highways had restocked the grit bins before winter set in, including the addition of Dukes Mead
- Cllr Forster reported on complaints from residents about larger buses now being used on the route through Dukes Mead
- Cllr Oliver mentioned his Chairman's Charity Event on Monday 30 November 2015. Tickets on sale at £20 each from Sally Wheeler at HDC.

- Cllr Wheale still needed volunteers to help with the road closure on 25 November for the Christmas Festivities event which would be between The Oatsheaf and Kings Road (not Church Road)

ITEM 12 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

The members received and noted the Town Clerk’s report. Particular attention was drawn to:

- Remembrance Day arrangements
- The success of the Friends Groups’ get together
- The work of the budget working group-a draft budget will be presented to Council on 2 December 2015
- A request for a circus on the Views 19-26 June 2016

ITEM 13 PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The members noted that Cllr Alex Gray had stepped down from the Development Control/Planning Committee to avoid any possible conflict of interest with his new job

ITEM 14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.23 pm

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