



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 1 April 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, Kathy Jasper, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Richard Robinson, Jeff Smith, Richard Woods, Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

George Woods-Local resident
Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park
Gerry Hill-Local resident
Elsa Macintyre-Local resident and tennis player
Clive Stokes-Local resident

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs Hope and Walton

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Oliver and Wright – Friends Group membership
Cllr Chenery –Calthorpe Park

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

With the addition of the words ' at no extra cost' at item 10 Floral displays contract, the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 March 2015, were approved and signed

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

Cllr Schofield, Chairman of the Council, commented on the success of the Annual Residents' meeting held on 31 March 2015. The result of the completion of slips was reported:

Renovation of the existing Harlington	5
Modification of the Harlington	10
Replacement of the Harlington	77

This result indicated an endorsement of the option to proceed with the replacement of the existing Harlington building.

Associated issues identified concerned car parking and the suggestion that neighbouring Parishes should contribute to the cost as their residents would benefit from any new facility

ITEM 5 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was reported that as a matter of good practice, arrangements were in place to review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in time for consideration at the Annual Meeting on 13 May 2015.

RESOLVED

That members be invited to submit any proposed changes to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations to the Town Clerk by 21 April 2015

ITEM 6 QUOTATION/TENDER AUTHORISATION

- a) Ancells Farm Community Centre Front Door
- b) Tree works in Oakley Park

The appropriate authorisation forms had been signed by 2 councillors and the Town Clerk

RESOLVED

- a) To ratify the approval of Contractor A to supply and install a new door at Ancells Farm Community centre in the sum of £2,600
- b) To ratify the approval of Contractor B to carry out tree works at Oakley Park in the sum of £720

ITEM 7 CALTHORPE PARK TENNIS CENTRE

Members were informed that Cllrs Einchcomb, Oliver and Schofield had met with the proposers of a scheme to provide a tennis centre at Calthorpe Park. FTC had sought a multi-sport facility for sports not currently provided for such as netball and access for the general public when the commercial use of the facility was underutilised.

An earlier approach, a few years ago, had suggested a modest facility, but this had never progressed.

The scheme now before the members was a very much larger and more detailed proposal and the members concerned wanted to give the Council the opportunity to consider the matter 'in principle' before the proposers or The Council, dedicated more time to the project.

The members discussed the impact of any scheme for a tennis centre in Calthorpe Park . Whilst it was recognised that the existing tennis courts were under used and in need of resurfacing at a cost in the region of £30,000, FTC continued to be committed to providing an opportunity to play tennis for the local community.

The scheme now before the members had introduced a small gym, a club house, pilates and dance space and it was suggested by the proposers that the financial commitment would require the granting of a 125 year lease.

There was a wide ranging discussion covering such matters as:

- Vehicular access to the park and car parking
- A covenant which prevented commercial use of the park
- The provision of an affordable facility for casual tennis players
- Loss of public facilities
- Conflict of interest with facilities at the proposed new leisure centre and The Harlington
- Commercialisation of the facility
- Proximity of tennis facilities near Redfields Garden Centre and at Elvetham Heath
- The growth of the scheme from a tennis centre to a multi-use sports centre
- Impact of the building in a park setting
- Views of The Friends of Calthorpe Park
- Expansion of the scheme from a modest community tennis coaching centre
- A general sense that the location was wrong for a scheme of this size
- Concern that the current tennis users would be 'priced out'
- The commercial nature of the proposal
- The opportunity for commercial rent for FTC

Following careful consideration of the principle, it was

RESOLVED

That the proposers be advised of the concerns expressed by the Council which would need to be addressed, but that they be invited to make a detailed presentation to the RLA Committee with a scheme which addressed the issues identified by the Council

Cllr Forster arrived at 7.25pm during discussion of the above item

ITEM 8 AUTO ENROLMENT PENSIONS

The members were asked to consider the request of the Establishment Committee held on 18 March 2015, that authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, Cllrs Schofield and Robinson, to set up a Group Pension Scheme complying with pension legislation

RESOLVED

- a) To delegate authority to Cllrs Schofield, Robinson and the Town Clerk to agree a group pension scheme and put this in place as soon as possible
- b) To agree to a matched contribution up to a maximum of 4% of salary

ITEM 9 PAY ON EXIT PARKING SYSTEM

Cllr Oliver updated the meeting on the current situation regarding a possible Pay on Exit scheme to which FTC had agreed to make a contribution up to £90,000.

There was now a potential scheme based on 'smart' technology which would not require the installation of barriers. This possibility provided a much cheaper solution and would only cause a short delay whilst the option was investigated.

ITEM 10 FLORAL DISPLAYS CONTRACT

Further to consideration of this matter at Council on 4 March 2015 (item 10 refers) , members noted that Financial Regulation 11.1.c allowed the waiving of Financial Regulations to enable a price to be negotiated without competition, the reason in this case being based on quality and service rather than price.

ITEM 11 BASINGSTOKE CANAL JMC

Cllr Schofield reported that he and the Town Clerk had met with the Chairman of the Basingstoke Canal JMC to discuss FTC's request for representation on the JMC with voting rights

The Chairman of the JMC, Cllr Chapman, had sympathy with FTC's position and had agreed to take the matter forward and place an item on the next JMC agenda. A difficulty was the Memorandum of Understanding which required the approval of all JMC members to any changes.

ITEM 12 FLEET FUTURE

Mr George Woods, representing Fleet Future, reported that the proposed benchmarking exercise would take place on Mondays and Thursdays in the weeks commencing 11 and 18 May 2015

Open Day would be held on 1 August at The Harlington between 10am-4pm. This could also provide an opportunity to dovetail with the Neighbourhood Plan consultation

ITEM 13 HCC/HDC MATTERS

HDC

Cllr Oliver confirmed that a paper on car parking charges would be considered by HDC Cabinet on 2 April 2015

HCC

Cllr Schofield reported on a parish event held at HCC in Winchester warning of potential cuts that could impact on parish/town councils.

Cllr Schofield agreed to circulate copies of the presentation.

ITEM 14 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's report was received and noted. In particular members noted

- the offer from HDC for FTC to take over the scouts land at Pondtail.

- Fleet Link service issues
- Action Day on 18 April 2015-volunteers required
- Rating of cemetery shelter

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the public in accordance with Section 1(2) and by reason of the confidential nature of the business of the Establishment Sub Committee, the Public and Press were excluded from the Meeting

ITEM 15 CONFIDENTIAL STAFF ITEM

ITEM 16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be the Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday 13 May 2015 at the Harlington at 7pm. Please note date. The meeting is a week later than usual due to the Election on 7 May 2015

The meeting concluded at 9.10 pm

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