



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

4 July 2012 at 7.30pm
The Harlington
Fleet

Present

Cllrs Bob Schofield (Chairman) Richard Appleton, Chris Axam, Chris Butler, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Sue Fisher, Alastair Hill, Leslie Holt, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Sue Tilley, George Woods

Also Present

James Corrigan-Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner- Committee Clerk

Ms Carol Leversha – Clerk Crookham Village Parish Council-for item 7

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Forster, Perthen, Robinson and Vincent

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Fisher Item 5-All Saints and Tavistock School-personal interest
Cllr Schofield Item 8 Grant application-personal interest

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Town Council received and approved as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6 June 2012.

To receive the minutes of the following committee meetings and to return to committees any issues for reconsideration.

Highways & Transportation Committee	30 May 2012
Planning Meeting	11 and 25 June 2012
Development Control Meeting	11 and 25 June 2012
Policy and Finance	18 June 2012
Recreation, Leisure and Amenities	20 June 2012

The minutes of the Police Liaison Meeting 12 June 2012 were noted

ITEM 5 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND TAVISTOCK AND ALL SAINTS SCHOOLS

The Council considered the recommendation of the Planning Committee dated 25 June 2012 and with some amendments to the recommendation, agreed to the following comments:

Fleet Town Council is of the view that

- 1 The preferred solution is a new school to meet the current and future needs of an expanded Fleet and Church Crookham and surrounding area.
If there is not a new school, the disconnect between the timescales of the LDF and the School Places Plan will lead to an extension of every primary school in Fleet and Church Crookham and will still result in a shortage of school places.
 - 2 The proposed solution of providing additional classrooms is not sufficient. The quality and ethos of the schools will be affected without a corresponding extension to the schools' core facilities.
 - 3 There is a lack of additional parking spaces within the school grounds at All Saints School. It is not possible to see if the same is true of Tavistock School from the plan.
 - 4 There should be protection of amenity of the area for surrounding residents during the construction phase
 - 5 These plans will create additional traffic problems and parking issues. FTC does not consider that School Travel Plans are effective because:
 - a. Currently pupils are allocated to the schools from a wide catchment area
 - b. All Saints is a Church School and therefore has a wider catchment area
 - c. There are 3 schools in this area, and Hampshire County Council (HCC) separately is preparing plans to expand the other one (Calthorpe Park secondary school) by 45%. The plans for all 3 need to be taken together when assessing the impact on the surrounding area. For instance, it is possible to provide a drop off point for all 3 schools as part of the plans for Calthorpe Park school expansion. By consulting separately on the plans for the 2 primary schools it looks as if HCC is not considering any such options that might reduce the negative impacts on the surrounding residents. FTC considers that it should.
 - d. Experience over the last 6 years has shown that School Travel Plans have little impact.
 - e. Many parents drop pupils off on their way to work or have multiple school drops which renders other means of transport to school as less attractive.
 6. In future there should be improved joint planning between HCC Education Authority and HDC (Planning / Housing / Service provision)
2. FTC should request a meeting with School Governors to discuss the issues and implications of the proposals.

RESOLVED

That the comments set out above be adopted by FTC for onward transmission to Hampshire County Council

Prop Cllr Appleton
Sec Cllr Oliver

ITEM 6 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Town Clerk presented a report on the proposed long term investment strategy. The report explained the background and provided information on the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, Bank Ratings, Interest rates etc.

Following careful consideration it was

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk report back to the F&P Committee in December 2012 on the outcome of obtaining advice from HDC's Treasury Managers and the implications for the following elements of the resolution

That the investments are with the Co-operative Bank in the first instance.

That the choice of Banks to use in the future is delegated to the Finance Committee.

That the Town Clerk reports back to the Finance Committee at least twice a year on investment performance and strategy.

That this policy be incorporated within the Council's Financial Regulations

ITEM 7 REQUEST BY CROOKHAM VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL TO JOINTLY DEVELOP AN UNDER 12'S PLAY AREA ON GROUND AT SWAN WAY

The Council considered a request from Crookham Village Parish Council to consider the joint development of an under 12's play area at Swan Way. There was general agreement that the existing play provision needed an upgrade and extension which would also be timely as Sentinel Housing was about to revamp the nearby Lees estate. It was suggested that Sentinel Housing be approached for a financial contribution to a new play scheme. Following discussion the following was agreed:

RESOLVED

FTC is prepared to hold exploratory discussions with Crookham Village Parish Council with a view to providing a possible joint funded scheme to provide a new playground at Swan Way

Prop Cllr Woods
Sec Cllr Hill

ITEM 8 REQUEST FOR A VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION GRANT TO HAVE A STALL IN THE HARLINGTON FREE OF CHARGE

The Committee considered a request for a grant to cover the cost of hiring an area in the Harlington

RESOLVED

To approve, subject to any legal constraints, a grant of £12 + VAT to cover the cost of the hire of the foyer at the Harlington.

ITEM 9 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Council considered the Town Clerk's report which dealt with the committee meeting cycle , delegation of budgets to officers, a Strategy Development Schedule and current office arrangements.

The Council discussed the need to streamline the number and frequency of meetings . This would free up officer time to improve efficiency and improve service delivery outcomes. Following a lengthy debate the following matters were decided:

RESOLVED

Meeting cycle

(i) That the attendance of an officer at a Working Party is only required when there is a compelling case to justify the attendance.

(ii) That the Finance and Policy Committee meeting takes place quarterly on the third Monday in June/September /December/March

(iii) That immediately following the monthly full Town Council Meeting (excluding August) the F&P Committee consider the income and expenditure and Bank reconciliation except for the months of June, September, December and March when a full analysis of financial performance will take place at the scheduled committee meeting.

(iv) That Recreation Leisure and Amenities Committee reduce its frequency to quarterly sitting in the months of April, July, October and January.

(v) That the Highways and Transport Committee is suspended and replaced by a Working Party which meets as and when required. Relevant items that need Council determination can be added to the Full Council Agendas as and when required.

(vi) That the changes take immediate effect and that a revised committee timetable be prepared as soon as possible.

Delegation of budgets

(vii) That the following budgets be delegated:

to the Town Clerk and for him to arrange for delegation to officers as appropriate

101	Central Administration
105	Civic and Democratic
110	Grants
201	Harlington Centre
205	Ancells Community Centre
208	Ancells Farm Sports pavilion
301	Open Spaces
310	Calthorpe Park
315	Oakley Park
320	Basingbourne Park
320	Cemetery

To the Finance and Policy Committee

110	Grants
900	Earmarked Reserves

(vi) that the Strategy Development Schedule be noted

(vii) that the current staffing arrangement continue until the Council has considered a proposed staffing review.

ITEM 10 NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council considered the changes to the Code of Conduct

RESOLVED

To adopt the new personal and prejudicial clause in addition to the existing scheme

ITEM 11 FTC RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON HCC TRANSPORT STATEMENT

The Council considered the draft proposed response, prepared by the Core Strategy Working Party, to the HCC Transport Plan.

Following discussion the following was approved as FTC's response:

- 1 Although the introduction to the Statement confirms that the document has been developed in consultation with Hart District Council, the timing of the publication pre-dates the Hart District Council's Core Strategy Transport Assessment and therefore there is concern that the full impact of proposed development in and around the Fleet Area has not been incorporated in the Statement.

- 2 There is a general concern that a large number of minor schemes which are not regarded as high priority by local residents are draining resources, to the detriment of opportunities to tackle more major schemes which local people regard as higher priority.
- 3 It is not accepted that the Transport Statement builds on LTP3 (paragraph 1.3). It appears to create some conflict by creating priorities that are not specifically addressed in LTP3. LTP3 addresses the issue of mitigating the impact of development which the Transport Statement particularly fails to address. Which document takes precedent?
- 4 The Transport Statement identifies £25m of works but there is no prioritisation related to development. The Statement is premature as the development plans for Hart District have not been finalised. It is hoped the Statement will accommodate HDC's traffic assessment once it has been completed.
- 5 The Fleet Town Access Plan
 - a. This continues to be an Alternative Transport Strategy and fails to address the major impact of housing development. No additional road or junction improvements have been recognised outside the limited proposals to Reading Road South between Aldershot Road and Fleet Road (Oatsheaf Junction).
 - b. A significant number of minor projects have been added to the FTAP list without any consultation with Fleet Town Council or the adjoining parishes
 - c. Fleet Town Council would prefer to see the funds from minor pedestrian projects consolidated into more significant projects that would have a positive impact on easing traffic congestion.
- 6 Strategic Transport Improvement -
 - a. The Statement recognises that a significant number of Fleet residents are commuters and a major employment area is Rushmoor and yet no recognition is made of the fact that increased development in the West of Fleet will mean greater traffic movement in the Fleet Station area accessed by Elvetham Road or Fleet Road and crossing the railway bridge into Cove Road.
- 7 Local Access Improvements
 - a. L2 has been completed and needs to be removed from the project list
 - b. L3 needs to be linked with L6 for a more strategic investigation into impact of development in west fleet feeding into the station junction and accessing the M3 via Cove Road. The priority needs to be raised to S/M
 - c. L4 has been completed and needs to be removed from the project list
 - d. L5 Fleet Town Centre one way systems needs bringing forward in the programme to S/M and ranked as a more strategic project. This was not an original FTAP approved project and Fleet Town Council request inclusion in any consultation to develop the project in detail.
 - e. L10 is described as Elvethan Heath / Crookham Road Junction, where is the proposed project as the two roads do not meet?
 - f. Requirement for traffic calming systems to reduce rat runs though side streets and other routes.

- g. Consideration should be given to right turn lanes on Reading Road South to relieve congestion from right turning traffic blocking the main traffic flow
- h. Long Term consideration should be given to the use of Fleet Services as Junction 4b to the M3 to act as a relief to Fleet Town Centre for traffic currently accessing J4A. An example of a Service Centre being combined with a motorway intersection exists at J15A on M3

8 Bus Proposals

- a. L24 Fleet Link bus service, formally known as Call and Go, is co-funded by Fleet Town Council, Church Crookham Parish Council and HCC.

9 Rail Proposals

- a. L30 should include additional onsite parking. Inadequate funding is identified to provide significant additional parking.

10 Pedestrian and Cycle Proposals

- a. Losing employment sites in Fleet but adding housing will mean cycling and walking will have a limited impact
- b. L46i and j have been combined into a single crossing point and is being implemented under the Kings Road Cycle Route.
- c. L46m and n two centre refuges have been installed on Crookham Road
- d. L46o and L50, the former crossing is redundant with the completion of L50
- e. L47 should be reviewed in combination with L3 and L6. The whole road intersection in the vicinity of the station entrance should be investigated holistically.
- f. L51 completed as part of the Kings Road Cycle Route.

11 General Comments

- a. No measures are identified for speed control. Consideration should be given to the use of average speed cameras within the urban area.

ITEM 12 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 'HAVE YOUR SAY INITIATIVE'

The Council received a report from the Town Clerk regarding the delivery of the 'Have your Say' Initiative.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

That FTC participates in, and supports HVA in administering the scheme in Fleet, and agrees to offer a suitable room in The Harlington, free of charge for the event.

ITEM 13 UPDATE ON THE NEW HARLINGTON

Cllr Schofield gave a presentation to Council on the latest developments regarding the proposals for a new Harlington.

This latest information was as a result of a meeting of the Working Group and had not been presented to HDC.

Cllr Schofield reported back on visits to other venues in Farnham, Alton and Andover from which it had become clear that a 350 capacity multi-functional hall with moveable tiered seating was appropriate as the core to the new development. All three of the other venues visited were not viable without considerable subsidies and grants.

The latest block plan showed a proposed civic building moved to the front of the existing Gurkha Square with a broad avenue leading to the Views. This achieved the major benefits identified in the response to the first Town Vision consultation and it allowed an uninterrupted transition from the old to new facility.

There were a range of issues regarding ownership, management arrangements, car parking etc based on the concept of the building being shared between FTC/HCC Library Services (Discovery Centre)/Fleet and Church Crookham Historic Society/Police.

Cllr Schofield reported that major issues will need to be considered in the coming 4-6 weeks and members of the Working Group would find it very helpful to receive any views or ideas from FTC members.

All members were therefore asked to forward their comments to Cllr Schofield as soon as possible

It was noted that there would be a Cabinet Report to the District Council in September 2012.

ITEM 14- DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date and time of the next meeting:

Wednesday 5 September 2012 at 7.30pm at The Harlington, Fleet Road, Fleet

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.40pm

Signed.....

Date.....