



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Monday 13 August 2018

at The Harlington at 7pm

**Councillors**

Bob Schofield (Chairman), Ruth Ashworth, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Leslie Holt, Alan Hope, Kathy Jasper, Alan Oliver, Mike Peddell, Dai Pierce, Richard Robinson, Sue Tilley, Sharyn Wheale, Peter Wildsmith, George Woods, Jonathan Wright

**Also Present**

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk  
Sheila Rayner- Committee Clerk

Cllr Bennison –HCC  
Cllr Collett-HCC  
Cllr Forster-HCC  
Cllr Parker-HDC  
Cllr Radley-HDC

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park  
Colin Gray- Fleet Pond Society  
Mike Cullen-Fleet BID

Mr T Burt-Local resident  
Mr R Cork-Local resident  
Mr K Dobson-Local resident  
Ms S Horton-Local resident  
Mr Jebson-Local resident  
Mr C Mitchell-Local resident  
Mr T Smart- Local resident  
Mr T Squirrel-Local resident  
Mr S Taylor-Local resident

**EFC Aug 2018 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There was apology for absence from Cllr Williams

## **E FC Aug 2018 ITEM 2      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Item 7 Christmas Festivities-Cllrs Oliver and Schofield

Item 10 Ancells Farm School buses- Cllrs Woods, Wildsmith and Wright

## **EFC Aug 18 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Chairman explained that questions or comments relating to item 10 (Ancells Farm School bus) would be taken during consideration of item 10)

Mr T Smart asked why the Council, following the advisory consultation in 2017, raised the parish precept in 2016/17 by 75% but did not ask the electorate if they agreed to spend the sum raised on the Harlington

It was explained that only £39.37 (per Band D equivalent) of the increased precept, had been assigned for the Harlington

It was explained that every household in Fleet was circulated with a document with an explanation of the proposals and with an opportunity to indicate which option they supported. Of those who chose to reply ( 1200 responses), 54% favoured a new Harlington in Gurkha Square, 27% favoured a refurbished Harlington and 20% favoured a programme of repairs to the existing Harlington

Cllr Forster asked why a 'do nothing' option had not been included

It was explained that attention was drawn to the provision for a 'do nothing' response in the online survey comments box

It was explained that funds raised for the Harlington had been ring-fenced and would only be spent on the Harlington

Mr T Burt asked why the new Harlington proposals were not considered as Part of Policy 1A of the Neighbourhood Plan which provided for comprehensive regeneration of the area.

A written response to be sent to Mr Burt as this question has already been answered in writing.

## **EFC Aug 2018 ITEM 4      MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council Meeting held on 4 July 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman. The confidential minutes of the Council held on 4 July 2018 will be presented to Council on 5 September 2018 for signature and adoption

## **EFC Aug 2018 ITEM 5      NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Members received and considered the recommendation of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on the proposed final policy wording of the Neighbourhood Plan

Members were reminded of the methods of consultation and were advised of the consultation feedback

The summary document showed an overwhelming support for the Neighbourhood Plan with the most comments focussing on Policy 1.

It was confirmed that every comment had been considered and responded to and this would demonstrate to the Inspector that local views had been considered.

The key areas of comment regarding Policy 1 and Policy 13 (green spaces) had been satisfied by the removal of the reference to the upper area of The Views .  
The Plan's external consultant had identified the risk of removing the conditions associated with Policy 13. It was explained and discussed.

HDC had carried out a thorough examination of the draft Neighbourhood Plan and offered constructive comments/amendments which had been endorsed by the External Consultant. The final version of the Neighbourhood Plan will be forwarded to HDC so that the legality can be checked prior to a six week consultation period and final adjudication by a planning inspector

It was noted that although a revised NPPF had been issued, the Fleet Plan was well enough advanced to be governed by the former NPPF

## **RESOLVED**

That Fleet Town Council supports the recommendations of the Fleet Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as outlined in Appendix 2 subject to the inclusion of the original conditions regarding Policy 13.  
Authority was delegated to the FTC Chairman to make additional minor amendments should they be necessary.

## **EFC Aug 2018 ITEM 6 PARISH MEETING**

Members noted that a parish meeting had been called by local residents and considered the role, if any, that FTC may wish to play. Legislation provided that if either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of Council was present, then they would be required to chair the meeting. If they were not present then the meeting could elect its own Chairman

Members referred to the fact that this matter had been fully debated at the Council meeting on 4 July 2018 (Item 5)

It was confirmed that any other member could attend as a local resident.  
Clarification was given that item 5 on the proposed agenda provided for open debate which was not time restricted

## **RESOLVED**

- a) To note that the meeting had been called
- b) To proceed with the consultation arrangements adopted at the Council meeting on 4 July 2018
- c) That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council be not present at the proposed parish meeting on 21 August 2018

## **EFC Aug 2018 ITEM 7 CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES**

It was noted that The Festival Committee had been disbanded earlier in 2018 . The Fleet Board who had adopted the event had resolved not to support a community event and would not support a street market.

The Members therefore received and considered a report from the Town Clerk on the proposals for the Christmas 2018 festivities maintaining the three key elements of the Hart

Shopping Centre, Gurkha Square and a street market. The 3 elements to be managed through a volunteer co-ordinator with assistance/support offered by Cllr Wildsmith. A resident had volunteered to operate the event web site.

## **RESOLVED**

- a) To note the report (copy attached to record minutes) and to approve the Christmas Festivities arrangements as proposed by the Clerk.
- b) To underwrite the proposed event expenses by up to £5,000

## **EFC Aug 2018 ITEM 8 THE HARLINGTON DEVELOPMENT**

Members considered a report from the Harlington Working Group on the steps to develop the proposals adopted by Council on 4 July 2018

Arrangements for the consultation document on the development of Gurkha Square were explained including the provision for different members of the same household to vote separately. It was confirmed that respondents must be a Fleet elector.

There would be a one month consultation period with the outcome of the consultation exercise known by the end of October 2018

It was confirmed that the planning application was hoped to be considered by the HDC Planning Committee in September 2018

## **RESOLVED**

- a) To proceed with the consultation programme and to delegate authority for completion of the consultation documents to the Harlington Working Group
- b) To approve the availability of a sum of up to £10,000 to meet associated costs and any minor planning expenses.

## **EFC Aug 18 ITEM 9 DRAFT HEADS OF TERMS**

The members received and considered the draft Heads of Terms associated with the proposed development of the Harlington in Gurkha Square

With the amendment to item 3 to read....settlement towards 2 above (not 1) and the addition to item 4.....including existing tenants

## **RESOLVED**

To approve the draft Heads of Terms for the Harlington

## **EFC Aug 2018 ITEM 10 ANCELLS FARM SCHOOL BUSES (taken after item 4)**

Members considered a letter signed by the MP, Cllrs Forster and Parker, asking FTC to consider the funding in part or in whole, or the under writing, of the school bus service at Ancells Farm

Mr K Dobson a local resident commented on the decision taken in isolation by HCC, to cut the service . There had been a lack of due diligence and consideration especially of safety issues, impact on the education of the children and parents and carers, the historical arrangement, pollution issues, child care issues and traffic considerations.

The serious budget issues facing HCC were expounded and it was hoped that others would be able to work with them to help find a solution to the Ancells school bus issue.

Cllr Collett, whilst agreeing that the principle of local control was commendable, believed that it was premature to expect FTC to consider taking over the funding of legal duties which were the responsibility of HCC

It was therefore important to challenge the safe route to school assessment

Mr C Mitchell commented that he believed the safe route assessment was not valid and had not included the traffic associated with the nearby business park

Cllr Radley referred to the traffic problems associated with Velmead school and suggested that it was disingenuous of HCC to consider abandoning the long term commitment to provide a school bus rather than build a school at the time of the development of Ancells Farm. The severe traffic problems will be exacerbated even further when Hartland Village is developed.

Cllr Forster suggested that FTC should recognise that local residents want FTC to support local issues

Mr S Taylor suggested that it was outrageous that HCC should even ask FTC to assist with HCC budget issues

Ms S Horton reiterated the responsibility of HCC to provide a safe route to school

There was a general discussion by members including:

- Lack of due diligence by HCC
- Young children being unreasonably expected to walk so far
- The existing 30 year agreement
- The possibility of FTC assisting with any cost associated with the commissioning of an independent safe route assessment
- The invalidity of the existing safe route assessment as it had been carried out at an inappropriate time and day (7.30am on a Friday)
- The politicisation of the issue
- The apparent abrogation of responsibility by HCC
- Absence of a sunset clause on the original agreement to provide a school bus service
- Lack of any information in relation to running a chargeable service
- Premature for FTC to consider the matter when more pressure should be placed on HCC first

Following the general discussion, it was

## **RESOLVED**

To reply to the letter under consideration, that FTC wished to support the local community in whatever way it can to help them persuade HCC to reconsider the matter and that the possibility of assisting with the funding of an independent traffic assessment, would be considered by full Council on 5 September 2018 when an update on the latest situation would be presented

**EFC Aug 2018 ITEM 11 FLEET LINK FUNDING**

The members considered a request to approve a new contract for Fleet Link to continue until March 2019.

As Crookham Village Parish Council had withdrawn financial support it was likely that an additional sum of £700 would need to be added to the figures set out in the report giving £12,725.47 for 2019/20 and £13,014.08 for 2020/2021

**RESOLVED**

To approve the request for a new contract for Fleet Link to continue until 31 March 2021

**EFC June 2018 ITEM 12 DATES AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Full Council will be on Wednesday, 5 September 2018 at the Harlington, at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed.....

Date:.....

Chairman

