



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 5 December 2018

at The Harlington at 7:15pm

Councillors

Bob Schofield (Chairman) Ruth Ashworth, Paul Einchcomb, Leslie Holt, Alan Hope, Kathy Jasper, James Kirkpatrick, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Richard Robinson, Peter Wildsmith, Ruth Williams, George Woods, Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner –Committee Clerk

Cllr Bennison –HCC
Cllr Forster-HCC/HDC

Ms P Hughes-HDC

1 representative of Friends of Oakley Park
9 local residents

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology for absence from Cllrs Chenery, Tilley, Wheale

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Following the success of the Christmas Festivities to thank staff, volunteers and Sue Tilley for their contribution to the events of the evening
- Attendance at the Fleet Speedwatch AGM which was the 5th anniversary of the local group. A total of 10,654 vehicles had been observed in the last 12 months with 1343 (representing 12.5 %) reported as speeding. During the year until end of October 2018, 15 serial offenders had been identified and 90 notices/visits had been actioned by the police.

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A local resident asked :

Question

It is good that the Harlington Working Group has acknowledged that the Gurkha Square plan should be abandoned. It's a shame though that Fleet residents had to work so hard to have their voices heard. Now that there are so many people interested in the plans that FTC will formulate, is it not now appropriate that interested and qualified residents should be invited to help FTC put together a business case for an integrated regeneration plan for the Civic Quarter (as called for in the Neighbourhood Plan), in place of the piecemeal approach proposed by the Harlington Working Group?

Answer

The vast majority of the land defined as the Civic Quarter is owned by Hart District Council and the major beneficiary of any development would be Hart District Council, it would therefore appear not unreasonable that they should lead on any integrated regeneration plan. Councillor Neighbour responded to your supplementary question, which similarly raised the issue of a panel of residents being involved in developing a strategy for the Civic Quarter, that "the (District) Council had supported a community panel for many years.....but it would be considered again."

Your question should, therefore, more appropriately be directed at Hart District Council.

A local resident asked:

Question

The Neighbourhood Plan was discussed at the FTC meeting on 4 July 2018. FTC endorsed the steering group recommendation to remove The Views from policy 1 (Fleet Civic quarter) as The Views was covered by policy 13 (local green open space)

The Harlington Working Party has proposed an option to build on The Views where the skate park is currently located which goes against the endorsed position from FTC

Can I have an assurance that FTC will enforce the neighbourhood plan and not build on the Views?

Answer

The final version of the Green Space policy as a consequence of the Regulation 14 consultation is stated below.

Policy 13 – Local Green Space

The locations identified on the proposals map below (sites 1 to 13 and C) are defined as areas of Local Green Space where proposals for housing or other inappropriate developments will not be supported, unless they are ancillary to the use of the land for a public recreational or community purpose or if development is essential to meet necessary utility infrastructure needs and no alternative feasible site is available.

The National Planning Policy Framework 2018 (NPPF2018) Clause 97 states:

Existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land including playing fields, should not be built upon unless:

The Chairman explained the current situation in relation to the major elements of the current position statement namely, Gurkha Square, Victoria Road Car Park, Skateboard Park site and repair/refurbishment of the existing Harlington

Members discussed the various aspects outlined in the report including:

- The current status of the outline planning application for a development on Gurkha Square and the cessation of the engagement of a professional team on that scheme
- Future possible development of the civic quarter
- The cursory review of the scheme plan on the skateboard park
- Absence of any other suitable site
- FTCs land ownership of the Views, the skate park and adjoining road and 5 car park spaces
- Likely closure of the Harlington during any repair/refurbishment period possibly for up to 2 years
- Preference to seek local residents' views on the principle of developing the skateboard site prior to embarking on a feasibility study
- The need to hold discussions with HDC members and officers to discuss issues surrounding development on Victoria Road car park.
- Opportunity to relocate the skatepark and revamp the play equipment in The Views with a benefit to the community
- Any other commercial site for the Harlington would make the scheme unaffordable
- The issue of the need for long-term tenure without a break clause of the existing Harlington
- The need for a detailed audit of the existing Harlington building
- Use of the roof space over part of the existing building
- Impact on cost of any phased works/closure

Following detailed discussion and careful consideration it was

RESOLVED

- a) To inform HDC forthwith that the outline planning application for the Harlington on Gurkha Square be immediately withdrawn by FTC
- b) That tenders be sought for a detailed audit of the existing building to be carried out, by an appropriately qualified firm of architects or a building survey company , to ensure that there are no inherent liabilities that would incur significant currently unforeseen costs or significantly impair the life of the building
- c) To proceed as soon as possible with discussions with HDC regarding potential development on Victoria Road car park.

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 7 FINANCIAL MONITORING

Members received the financial monitoring information at October 2018

RESOLVED

To receive into the minutes :

- Payments received –October 2018
- List of payments –October 2018
- Reconciliation- October 2018

Cllr Robinson confirmed the bank reconciliation for October 2018

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 8 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The members received the Internal Audit report dated 4 November 2018 and the proposed Action Plan

RESOLVED

To receive the Internal Auditors report

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 9 MEETINGS SCHEDULE 2019/2020

The members received the draft meetings schedule for 2019/2020

RESOLVED

With the proviso that the date for the Annual Council meeting in May 2020 be checked against election dates, the draft meetings schedule for 2019/2020 in readiness for presentation to the Annual Council meeting in May 2019 was approved

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 10 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT-TENDER EVALUATION

Members considered a request from HCC Community Transport for nominations to serve on the Community Transport Evaluation Panel

RESOLVED

Cllrs prepared to serve on the HCC Community Transport Tender Evaluation Panel to inform the Town Clerk by midday on Friday 9 November 2018

FC Dec 18 ITEM 11 PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL INVESTMENT FUND

The members received information from HCC regarding a new Parish and Town Council Investment Fund and considered if there were any services or capital projects that could be considered to meet HCCs criteria of joint schemes that support areas of service delivery at risk.

During discussion regarding coordination of the work of charities, Cllr Bennison agreed to supply the link to a relevant existing HCC web site to the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

Members be invited to submit ideas for potential opportunities to the Town Clerk

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 12 COMPLAINTS

Members noted a list of public complaints received since 1 April 2018

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 13 THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION THANK YOU LETTER

The members noted a letter of thanks from the Chairman and Poppy Appeal Organiser of the local branch of the Royal British Legion for the support given by members and staff to the Remembrance Service and Parade on 11 November 2018

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 14 BASINGSTOKE CANAL JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Wildsmith reported on his attendance at a recent Basingstoke Canal JMC meeting. The possible transfer of the ownership of the canal was not to proceed in the immediate future but work will continue to improve the financial viability of the canal. A new cycling policy gave priority to pedestrians.

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 15 ANCELLS FARM BUS UPDATE

Cllr Woods presented an update on the Ancells Farm school bus (written version stored with record minutes)

An inspection of the route by 3 HCC members, accompanied by parents and Cllr Collett , had taken place on 21 November 2018

The appeal was heard in Winchester but a majority of 2 to 1 deemed that the route was safe

Members discussed:

- Safety issues especially near the railway station
- Lines of sight and road crossings
- Involvement of the local MP
- Unanswered FOI requests
- Possible provision of 'paid seats' from September 2019
- Impact on parents
- High cost of any Judicial Review

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 16 FLOOD FORUM

Cllr Schofield reported on his recent attendance at the Flood Forum and possible work to prevent flooding to a property in Aldershot Road.

The Environment Agency does not identify Fleet as a major flood area but there could possibly be modelling of an area of Sandy Lane ditch in the future.

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 17 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT'

The Town Clerk's report was noted and special attention drawn to:

- Christmas lunch
- Work at the Garden of Remembrance
- Tickets for the pantomime

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 18 CASUAL VACANCY

It was reported that Cllr Peddell had resigned for personal reasons . Notice will be formally posted on 10 December 2018

FC Dec 2018 ITEM 19 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman wished all Councillors and staff a Merry Christmas and confirmed that the next meeting of Full Council will be on Wednesday, 9 January 2019 at the Harlington, at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9 pm

Signed.....

Date:.....

Chairman

DRAFT