



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 3 October 2018

at The Harlington at 7pm

Councillors

Bob Schofield (Chairman), Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Alan Hope, James Kirkpatrick, Alan Oliver, Mike Peddell, Richard Robinson, Sue Tilley, Sharyn Wheale, Peter Wildsmith, Ruth Williams, George Woods, Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Wendy Allen – Finance and Administration Officer

Cllr Bennison –HCC
Cllr Forster-HCC/HDC

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park

Tim Burt-Local resident
Harriet Langbridge-Local resident
Terry Langbridge-Local resident
Joan Poulter-Local resident
Phil Sims-Local resident
Claire Sims-Local resident
Robert Kennedy-Local resident
Tim Smart –local resident
Kevin Druce-Local resident
Sebastion Gidley-Local resident
Brian Stephens-Local resident
Mr Russell-Local resident
Karen Field-Local resident

Cllr Schofield reported on the following:

- Meeting at HCC regarding Fleet Link
- HCC archive and minutes of Fleet UDC and HDC
- Attendance at a meeting with Cllr Woods regarding Hartland Village

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was apology for absence from Cllrs Jasper and Pierce

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

FC Oct 18 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- a) Mr Smart asked if FTC members were prepared to overlook the experience of the Parish Poll requisitioners and risk taking the decision that will lead to constituents paying increased Council tax in coming years?

FTC will reply in writing in due course

- b) Cllr Forster had submitted 13 Questions but only one question was put to Council. The remaining 12 questions will be answered in writing by the Town Clerk
Would the Council delay the project to consider any other possible location indicated by HDC?
Has HDC been asked about the availability of other sites during the last 18 months?

HDC has offered no site other than part of Gurkha Square

Cllr Forster made the statement that he had refuted any suggestion by the public of any impropriety by FTC staff or members although he did seek information on the process of assessment of the consultation.

The method of recording the results was given together with the agreement to allow two members of the public to be present during the assessment.

- c) Mr Gidley asked why only 18 years and over had been able to vote on the consultation? Can the youth consultation, taking place, be considered?

Only those registered on the electoral register and those entitled to vote could be included

- d) Mr Russell asked about the protection of bats and squirrels and amount set aside to renovate the existing building? Would the money already set aside be better spent on meeting the cost of immediate repairs?

Bats and squirrels would be relocated if present. The indicative costs of repairing the existing building were published at the end of 2016. The cost of refurbishing the existing building was similar to a new build cost

- e) Mrs Field asked about the loss of Gurkha Square for commemorative events ? Bats are a protected species –will a survey be undertaken?

Only half of Gurkha Square would be taken with the war memorial and the space for annual Remembrance Day and other community events to remain. Bats would be relocated if present.

The usual public question time of 15 minutes was extended to 30 minutes before the Council proceeded with the business on the agenda

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 September 2018, were approved and signed by the Chairman

The Council received the minutes of the following Committees

Development Control 28 August 2018 (Chaired by Cllr Wildsmith)
10 and 24 September 2018

Planning Committee 10 September 2018

RLA Committee 19 September 2018

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 5 HCC/HDC UPDATE

HCC

Cllr Bennison reported on:

- Flood meeting on 13 November 2018
- Recent meeting with the Flood Agency
- A fund of £0.5m to help parishes with small projects
- The recent bus consultation will be considered by the Environment Select Committee
- School walking route survey

Cllr Forster reported on:

- Flood meeting-encourage local residents to attend
- Blackwater Transport meeting
- SW Rail response re cycle parking spaces
- Pressure to save the school transport for Ancells Farm
- Possible new market/road closures
- Resident concerns regarding Fleet Library

HDC

Cllr Oliver reported on:

- On street parking
- Future of joint services
- Parking permits and parking meters under consideration by HCC.

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 6 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR 2018/2019

The members considered the appointment of the internal auditor for 2018/19

RESOLVED

To approve the re-appointment of Eleanor Green, Do the Numbers, as internal auditor for Financial Year 2018/2019

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 7 SPEED INDICATOR DISPLAYS (SIDS)

Further to Council on 5 September 2018, members considered the quotation submitted by the Grounds Maintenance contractor to reposition 4 SIDS per month up to a maximum cost of £180 per month. For clarity it was explained that erecting and dismantling a SID board equated to two repositionings

Members discussed:

- Involvement of Speedwatch, and local residents
- Consultation with the police
- Appreciation of the work of volunteers

RESOLVED

To approve the cost of placing SID boards by the Grounds Maintenance contractor within the FTC area up to a maximum of £180 per month. The locations to be agreed with FTC.

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 8 NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF 2017-2018 EXTERNAL AUDIT

The members received the Annual Governance and Accountability Return from the external auditor for the year ended 31 March 2018 and noted that there were no qualifications. The Town Clerk and staff were congratulated on this success

RESOLVED

That the Annual Governance and Accountability Return of the external auditor for 2017/2018 be received and accepted by Council

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 9 CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS 2018

Members considered the office closure arrangements for Christmas 2018. Having been assured that an emergency number would be provided it was

RESOLVED

To approve the closure of the FTC offices from midday on Monday 24 December 2018 until 9am on Wednesday 2 January 2019

FC Oct 18 ITEM 10 MEMBERSHIP OF LEASE WORKING GROUP

Cllr Holt had expressed a willingness to serve on the Lease Working Group

RESOLVED

To approve the appointment of Cllr Holt to the Lease Working Group with immediate effect

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 11 RISK MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

The members received the minutes of the Risk Working Group held on 11 July 2018 together with the summary of risk register and Action Plan

There was discussion regarding ownership of land and buildings maintained by FTC and it was noted that this would be placed on the next Council agenda

RESOLVED

That the summary risk assessment register and action plan be adopted by Council

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 12 CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON AND FESTIVAL

The members received and considered a report on the Christmas light switch-on and festivities.

It was noted that Mrs Sue Tilley would act as the co-ordinator for the event in a totally voluntary basis

Following a request for volunteers for the road closure and switch on it was

RESOLVED

- a) To approve the signing of the Trading Agreement, with SMT Market Traders Ltd by two members of the Policy and Finance Committee subject to there being no financial consequences on FTC and it formally sets out SMT's responsibility for the management of the market.
- b) That FTC manages the payments and income for the event through its own accounts system using cost codes specifically for this purpose.
- c) That FTC prints the 300 letters to town centre residents from its own resources.

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 13 HARLINGTON DEVELOPMENT

The launch of the exhibition of the Harlington proposals was discussed. It was noted that the notes of the public meeting held on 17 September 2018 were available on the FTC website and that the consultation would close on 5 October 2018

The outcome of the consultation would be considered by Council (Extraordinary meeting of Council now arranged for 17 October 2018 at 7pm)

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 14 COMPLAINT AGAINST A COUNCILLOR

The previously reported complaint against a councillor had been subjected to the formal procedure as set out in Policy and had not been upheld.

FC Oct 2018 ITEM 15 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT'

The Town Clerk reported on:

- Good progress on Garden of Remembrance contract
- Scheduled completion date of 14 December 2018 for Basingbourne Playground
- Problems with toilets at Ancells Farm Community Centre
- Christmas Day lunch
- Painting of play equipment at Calthorpe Park

FC Oct 2018 ITEM16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Full Council will be on Wednesday, 7 November 2018 at the Harlington, at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed.....

Date:.....

Chairman

Part 3 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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 Town Council, the Public and Press will be excluded from the Meeting

The following types of business will be treated as confidential:

- a) Engagement, terms of service, conduct and dismissal of employees**
- b) Terms of tenders, and proposals and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts**
- c) Preparation of cases in legal proceedings**
- d) The early stages of any dispute**
- e)**

ITEM 17 FLEET LINK

ITEM 18 STAFF MATTER