

**FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday 16 November 2011 7.30pm
The Harlington**

Councillors

Paul Einchcomb (Chair), Grahame Chenery, Bob Schofield, George Woods, Steve Forster, Sue Fisher

Also Present

Two members of the public from Squirrels pre school (for part of the meeting.)
One member of the public from the Friends of Oakley Park (for part of the meeting.)
Three members of the Football in the Community Partnership (for part of the meeting.)
Two members from Fleet Colts (for part of the meeting.)
Julian Rhodes – Sports and Recreation Officer (for part of the meeting.)
Shar Roselman – Clerk

NOV /2011/RLA ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Cllrs Perthen and Tilley

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Chenery declared that he had joined the Friends of Calthorpe Park as a member, not as the Town Council representative. Cllr Hurley remains the Town Council representative.

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 3: PUBLIC SESSION

A statement was made by the Chairman of the Friends of Calthorpe Park that the Friends Group had been universal in their positive responses about the event. Significant reduction in the PA noise had been noted and appreciated. It was noted that several Dragon's teeth had been removed on the Sunday after the event. Fleet Town Council has undertaken to repair these.

The Friends of Calthorpe Park are interested in getting a survey done by HBIC, to inform a decision on whether the site has sufficient biodiversity to hold SINC status. Permission was requested from Fleet Town Council to give HBIC access to the park. There would be no costs involved. However, Eddie Worley, the park ranger engaged through the ground maintenance contract would be expected to assist in developing the management plan for the park. This matter will be addressed at the next meeting of the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee. The Friends of Calthorpe Park asked under what conditions the Group could obtain Public Liability Insurance through the Town Council. They also wished to know whether they could join the Jubilee Committee, and whether Fleet Town Council would provide start up grants to Friends of Groups. Finally it was stated that the Group understands that there is a list of potential S106 funded projects, and wanted to ensure that a playground in Calthorpe Park would be included on this list, and if so, what the priority of this project would be.

Action: The clerk will respond to the Friends of Group with information on the current insurance arrangements for volunteers, will place the query on access to the park by HBIC on the next agenda, and will send the Group on the Town Council's grant policy.

A second query was raised by Squirrels pre-school in connection with their application to be accommodated in the Oakley Park pavilion. The chairman advised that this matter would be dealt with under the agenda item on this subject.

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 4: PRESENTATION ON FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

A presentation was given to the committee by members of the Football in the Community Partnership, lead by Richard Denham, the Community Safety and Safer Hart representative of Hart District Council.

The Partnership came into existence when a Charitable Trust was started by Aldershot Football Club, as a separate entity to the club. Initially they received a large grant to work with children, families and the disabled but have branched out from this area, and now provide football in a number of different forms to communities. The Trust involves partnering with Hart District Council and various parishes in the area. Other partners such as the police, the army and schools assist in identifying potential children who would benefit from such activities in the community. The Trust bases all of its activities on the four Key Principles of Education, Health, Participation and Safety. Some 4 years ago, when Fleet was identified as an area of sport exclusion, believed to be because of the lack of lit football pitches, the Trust began working in Fleet, being conscious that their role was not to step into the shoes of existing clubs, but instead to offer a taste of football to those children who had never had the opportunity to join a formal club. From their early start activities grew to form the Soccer at Six group which runs during the Summer for 17 weeks. Interest was expressed in extending activities to cater for the whole year, and venues were sought for Soccer on Saturdays to become a reality. They have just started up a group dealing with children aged 2 – 5 which concentrates on agility, balance and co-ordination, rather than ball skills. Much of their work is with young people who do not have sufficient initial ability to join a club. Children referred from partnering agencies such as the police and schools, get free places on their courses. The Trust passes none of the proceeds of the activities back to Aldershot Football Club, but instead uses these to develop further programmes for the integration of young people into sport. The Trust also includes activities that are not related to football, and would like to engage with all their partners in bringing new programmes into the area. Some funding is provided by The Football Trust, and some is provided from Hart District Council.

Richard Denham stated that of all the venues used for football in the community, Basingbourne Park had been their most successful venue in the District, and Oakley Park had been their third most successful venue. He added that the Partnership was most grateful for the contribution of pitches from Fleet Town Council and other parishes.

A question was raised by Fleet Town Colts about whether the Town Council charged the Partnership for sports pitches. It was clarified that there had been some contribution from the Town Council for pitches for particular programmes.

Cllr Woods asked how many of the children involved in the programmes conducted in Fleet actually came from Fleet. It was established that approximately 85% of the children were Fleet Residents.

The chairman thanked the Partnership team for their presentation and noted that Fleet Town Council is very serious about sport provision, and would be pleased to talk about alternative programmes in Fleet.

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 5: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved to receive and approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the RLA meeting held on the 19th October 2011 with an alteration to paragraph three item 16 to read *Resolved to investigate the hire of a big screen TV in the Harlington instead of Resolved to approve the provision of a big screen TV in the Harlington...*

Prop: BS Sec: PE

The chair proposed a change to the order of the agenda to accommodate the members of the public at the meeting.

Resolved to approve changing the order of the items on the agenda.

Prop: PE

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 14: PAVILION HIRING POLICY

It was agreed that, as the Pavilion Multi-User Hiring Policy amendments were filed loose on the portal and did not appear in the correct meeting folder, the meeting would not address this item until the next meeting.

A discussion based on what alterations might be needed to make the pavilion at Oakley Park into a multi-user facility ensued. Cllr Einchcomb stated that he and the clerk had visited the site, and had found that the site might be suitable for multi-purpose use, but that storage facilities for users could not be found inside the pavilion. Should potential users be satisfied to provide storage outside the pavilion, then further renovations inside the pavilion could potentially be accommodated, dependant on cost.

Resolved to formulate costs for pavilion multi-use for possible submission for s106 funding.

Resolved that the clerk speak to Squirrels play group to establish whether conditions for hire and rental could be met.

Prop: BS Sec: PE

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 6: SPORTS AND LEISURE REPORT

The Sports and Leisure report was received by the committee. A question was raised with respect to the public using courts at times when they had not booked or paid for them, made possible by individuals who had not returned the key to reclaim their deposits.

Resolved to approve putting a coded lock onto two of the courts and making these generally available to casual users, and to place new locks on the other courts, keys for which would be given to the tennis coach and to the regular bookers. The coded lock to be regularly changed.

Prop: BS Sec: PE

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 7: REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS MANAGER

A report on recent events was provided by the Operations Manager. It was noted that the report now included a section on Ancells Farm. The cost of tickets for the comedy evening was discussed. Given that costs would be increasing on the comedians after the earlier introductory charges, it was considered possible to increase the cost of the tickets to £12.50 each.

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 8: USE AND CHARGES – FOOTBALL PITCHES

Cllr Einchcomb presented a paper on new conditions of hire and hire charges for various type of football hire. The date from which this would become effective was the 1st April 2012, at the start of the new financial year, when contracts for the clubs using the pitches are rewritten.

Resolved to make the following amendments to the conditions of hire:

- **Clubs will be expected to pay for any damage caused to assets.**
- **Clubs will be refunded for games cancelled at Fleet Town Council's behest, or may extend the season to run additional matches.**
- **Unauthorised use of any pitch will attract a charge of £100 per pitch for a first offence. Further misuse may result in cancellation of the contract with the club and withdrawal of the pitches for the balance of the season.**

Resolved to approve the conditions of hire and hire charges with these amendments.

Prop: S. Forster Sec: S. Fisher

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 12: CONDITIONS OF GRANT ACCEPTANCE

The committee discussed the conditional grant approval awarded by Hampshire County Council for half the cost of the repair to the path in Oakley Park. The conditions placed onerous burdens on the Council in terms of additional surfacing on the path to make it DDA

compliant, and in the long term to dedicate the entire footpath as a public footpath. This dedication would mean that there could be no deviation from the existing paths, and the entire length of the footpath would have to be maintained to the approved standards.

Resolved not to accept the grant, as the acceptance conditions of the grant in real terms meant that the benefit to the council of the grant was reduced to £485.66, and as the cost of maintaining the entire path length to the standard required over a long period of time was likely to cost considerably more than this.

Prop: PE Sec: S. Forster.

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 9: TOWN CENTRE FLOWERS

A paper was presented on the options and costs of providing Town Centre Flowers for the new year.

Resolved to approve the contractor, Amethyst Horticulture, for provision of the town centre floral arrangements, at a cost of £13999.35. Resolved also to approve a budget of £15000 for town centre flowers, and to request permission from Hampshire County Council to provide a floral arrangement on the roundabout at the station. Resolved that, should Hart District Council be responsible for the maintenance of this roundabout, to enquire as to whether Fleet Town Council could partner with the District Council to adopt this roundabout for a one year period.

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 10: DRAINAGE WORKS CALTHORPE PARK

Two quotations for different solutions to drainage problems at Calthorpe Park that occasionally caused the pavilion to flood were received. The clerk advised that the existing drainage had recently been cleared of blockages.

Resolved to wait until heavy rains during the winter to establish whether the clearance of the drain leading to a soak pit had solved the problem of flooding. Resolved also to flag up with Hampshire County Council the drainage problems related to this pavilion, and to request a solution to this problem as part of the new cycle path drainage system.

Prop: BS Sec: PE

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 11: ARBORETUM CALTHORPE PARK

The committee considered using the opportunity afforded by the extension to the 16th December 2011 of the grant funding offered by Hampshire Countryside Services, to apply for a grant to part fund an arboretum and seating at Calthorpe Park. This application would involve the assistance of the Friends of Calthorpe Park, who had agreed to provide labour to plant and water the trees as part of the match funding for this grant. Naming the area the

Jubilee Wood was discussed, as planting would take place in the Jubilee year. Cllr Chenery suggested that it was possible that the Lions may wish to contribute towards this project.

Resolved to approve applying for this grant funding and if this was received to go ahead with the project.

Prop: PE

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 13: USE OF OPEN SPACES

A request was received from the organisers of the Fleet Half Marathon to make use of Calthorpe Park.

Resolved to approve the use of Calthorpe Park for the Fleet Half Marathon on the 24/25th March, 2012.

Prop: GW

Standing orders were set down at 10.30 pm to allow the members to address the balance of the items on the agenda.

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 15: PUBLIC AMENITY MAINTENANCE AWARD

The Fleet and Church Crookham in Bloom Society had decided to offer an award to the group or individual responsible for the best kept public amenity space. They asked the Town Council for ideas on how this category could best be judged.

Action: Members agreed to individually consider the criteria for judgement of this category for response to the Fleet and Church Crookham in Bloom Society.

Resolved to approve the purchase of a cup or plaque for this award, up to a maximum value of £200, to call this cup the Fleet Town Council Chairman's Cup, and to fund the cup from the chairman's allowance.

Prop: PE

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 16: NOTICE BOARDS/SIGNAGE/BINS

A quotation had been received from the Sign Workshop, which is a County Council service provider on signage, for the replacement of a number of notice boards, signs, and decals with the Fleet Town Council Logo. A second quotation will also be obtained.

Resolved to approve putting this forwards as a request to Hart District Council for S106 funding.

Prop: PE

A paper on additional bin requirements was received from the clerk.

Resolved also to request £8089 from existing S106 funding for the purchase of additional litter bins for installation in Fleet Town Council Parks.

Prop: PE

NOV/2011/RLA ITEM 17: CLERK'S REPORT

A report on actions taken and expenditure made during the month was received by the committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11h20.

The date and time of the next meeting is 7.30, 18th January 2012 at the Harlington.

Signed.....

Date:.....