



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 2 March 2016

at The Harlington at 7pm

**PRESENT**

Councillors Bob Schofield (Chairman), Steve Cante, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Denis Gotel, Leslie Holt, Alan Hope, Kathy Jasper, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Jeff Smith, Neil Walton, Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk  
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Cllr Bennison-HCC  
Mr Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park  
Elly Russell-local resident

**FC/Mar 16/ITEM 1                    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence

**FC/Mar16/ITEM 2                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**FC/Mar 16/ITEM 3                    QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from the public

**Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reported that there were a number of matters which he wished to report on to the Council, to assist with dispelling any fears regarding FTC's involvement in and engagement with the local community. Cllr Schofield had represented FTC on the following occasions during the last month :

- 8 Feb 2016 meeting at HCC regarding proposed changes to local bus services
- 9 Feb 2016 Launch of the BID initiative
- 12 Feb 2016 Meeting HCC/HDC/ CAB/Care organisation regarding the formation of a Dementia Action Group (Dementia Awareness Day will be held in Hart Shopping Centre 19 May 2016)
- 20 Feb 2016 Fleet Pond Society AGM
- 24 Feb 2016 informally met some Retailers, attended the Fleet Business Forum and the Fleet Future Steering Committee
- 25 Feb 2016 Meeting with HDC
- 29 Feb 2016 Friends of Ancells Farm AGM
- 1 Mar 2016 HCC-Devolution initiative

**FC/Mar16/ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

With the addition of the word 'six' at item 12 para 4 –a community grant from the LTA towards the cost of the resurfacing of **six** tennis courts could be applied for....., the minutes and the confidential minute of the meeting of the Council held on 3 February 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

Development Control Committee	8 and 22 February 2016
Planning Committee	22 February 2016 (correct to read RVS as the venue, delete Acting from Committee Clerk and amend date of next Neighbourhood Plan meeting to 17 <sup>th</sup> March at Item 5.

**FC/Mar16/ITEM 5 FINANCIAL MONITORING**

**RESOLVED**

The meeting received into the minutes

- a) The Income Receipts statement up to 31 January 2016
- b) The Expenditure statement up to 31 January 2016
- c) List of payments January 2016
- d) List of payments October 2015
- e) Confirmation that the bank reconciliations for January 2016 equals zero

**FC/Mar16/ITEM 6 CO-OPTION/BY-ELECTION**

Members were reminded that a casual vacancy had arisen in the Calthorpe ward due to the resignation of Cllr Forster. No registered voters had requested a by-election.

However an application for co-option had been received from Mr Richard Hunt.

**RESOLVED**

a) To defer consideration of the application and to offer the applicant the opportunity to meet the councillors and to provide information that will help them understand what Mr Hunt would bring to the Council in terms of community interests and involvement.

b) To cordially invite Mr Hunt to come along to the next Council meeting on Wednesday 6 April 2016 at 7pm

**FC/Mar16/ITEM 7                    HOUSING OPTIONS –NEW CONSULTATIONS**

Further to consideration of the HDC Housing Options consultation on 13 January 2016, it was reported that HDC has now advised that it has become apparent that not all the settlements that were anticipated to be included within Question 4 (Approach 1) had been correctly captured within either the consultation text or the content of Question 4.

HDC had therefore decided to refresh the consultation.

**RESOLVED**

To re-submit the views sent to HDC following the Council meeting on 13 January 2016

**FC/Mar16/ITEM 8                    GRANT APPLICATION (QUEENS BIRTHDAY TEA PARTY)**

It was reported that the application had been withdrawn.

There followed a discussion about the development of the General Power of Competence in relation to promotional events such as the Red/White/Blue Day to mark the Queen's birthday proposed by the Fleet Business Forum

**RESOLVED**

- a) P&F Committee be asked to consider the development of the use of the General Power of Competence to undertake events in a commercial arrangement and the RLA Committee to consider the implications for the staff resources of The Harlington with reports back to Council
- b) A sum of up to £1,000 be agreed to fund the purchase and installation of a cross street multi-functional banner in Fleet Road for the red/white/blue day proposed by the Fleet Business Forum

**FC/Mar16/ITEM 9                    REPRESENTATION ON FLEET POND SOCIETY**

It was reported that the Fleet Pond Society had invited FTC to appoint a councillor to the Society

**RESOLVED**

- a) To appoint Cllr Pierce to represent the Council on the Fleet Pond Society with Cllr Jasper as the substitute member
- b) To add the Society to the list of Outside Bodies to which representatives are elected at each Annual Council Meeting

**FC/Mar16/ITEM 10 ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2016**

It was reported that a working group of members needed to be appointed to assist with finalising the material and arrangements for the Annual Residents' Meeting

**RESOLVED**

To appoint Cllrs Oliver and Schofield to finalise the material and arrangements and to appoint Cllr Walton as an additional presenter on the evening of 5 April 2016

**FC/Mar 16/ITEM 11 INSURANCE TENDER APPROVAL**

It was reported that that the Council's three-year insurance contract expires on 31 March 2016. Five companies had been invited to tender but only one company (the existing supplier) had responded

**RESOLVED**

Subject to clarification of issues relating to provisions for inflation, to enter into a 5-year contract with Zurich expiring on 31 March 2021 in the sum of £7700.27pa

**FC/Mar 16/ITEM 12 SMOKE-FREE PLAYGROUNDS**

It was reported that HDC had sought FTC's support in their consideration of introducing a voluntary ban on smoking in playgrounds in Hart.

**RESOLVED**

To support HDC in the consideration of establishing a voluntary ban on smoking in contained playgrounds.

**FC/Mar16/ITEM 13 ENERGY CONTRACTS 2016-2018**

The FTC energy contract for some of the Council's assets is coming up for renewal in September 2016. Currently the Council benefits from the bulk purchase of energy through HCC under the terms of a contract arranged by Laser (Part of Kent County Council)

However not all the assets are included but could be added as individual contracts come to an end

**RESOLVED**

To approve the extension of the current energy contract arrangements with HCC until October 2018 and to include other assets as they become available for renewal.

#### **FC Mar16/ITEM 14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE**

Cllr Oliver reported progress on the production of the Neighbourhood Plan

- Themes are Housing, Design, Green Infrastructure and Town Centre
- Policies will be reviewed over the next 2 months (protection of trees was given as an example)
- Urban characterisation boundaries being used rather than wards
- Progress report to be given at the Annual Residents' Meeting

#### **FC/Mar16/ ITEM15 FLEET FUTURE**

It was reported that Fleet Future are actively involved in the Fleet Business Forum and the Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **FC/Mar2016/ITEM 16 HCC/HDC**

##### **HDC**

Cllr Oliver reported :

- The HDC Budget 2016/2017 had been approved
- Electric charging points were to be introduced into Church Road Car Park
- HDC would not be relinquishing control of level of car parking charges in any proposed car park management contract
- Suggested that FTC seek release of £45,000 set aside for car parking

##### **HCC** (Cllr Bennison entered the meeting at 8.30pm)

- HCC budget now set for 2016/2017 (increase of 80p a week for a Band D property)
- Fire and Rescue Service consultation had resulted in the allocation of an intermediate vehicle and a land rover for Fleet.
- Devolution appeared to be lacking cohesion

#### **FC/Mar16/ITEM 17 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Members noted the Town Clerk's report.

Cllr Hope was appointed to assist with a site visit in response to a complaint about floodlights at the Football Club

#### **FC/Mar16/ITEM 18 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 6 April 2016 at the Harlington at 7pm.