



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

5 September 2012 at 7.30pm
The Harlington
Fleet

Present

Cllrs Bob Schofield (Chairman) Richard Appleton, Chris Butler, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Sue Fisher, Steve Forster (arrived at 8pm during item 5), Alastair Hill, Leslie Holt, Alan Hope, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Helen Perthen, Sue Tilley, Wallace Vincent, George Woods

Also Present

James Corrigan-Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner- Committee Clerk
Geoff Bonner-Chief Executive Hart District Council
Therese Lawler-Town Plan consultant
Cllr Evans-HDC
Cllr Wheale-HDC/HCC
5 Members of the public

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Axam, Gotel, Robinson

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Town Council received and approved as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 July 2012. It was noted that the proposed meeting with school governors was to be actioned (item 5 (2)) and the meeting with Crookham Village Parish Council to be arranged (item 7)

Council received the minutes of the following committee meetings

Development Control Meeting	23 July, 13 August,(Cllr Holt to be added as present) 29 August 2012
Recreation, Leisure and Amenities	18 July 2012

ITEM 5 PRESENTATION BY GEOFF BONNER CEO HART DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Schofield informed Council that there would be a regular item at future meetings of full Council for FTC members who serve on HDC (Cllrs Appleton, Axam and Oliver) and Cllr Evans,(the Hart Cabinet member for Fleet) to report on Hart District Council issues which affect FTC.

The Chief Executive of Hart District Council, Mr Geoff Bonner, gave a presentation on the latest situation regarding development proposals west of Fleet which he had made to HDC several weeks ago. (hard copy of presentation attached to minutes as a record).

He explained the three interlocking issues of Edenbrook Phase 2, Extension of Calthorpe Park School and the Leisure Centre. The three 'drivers' were the need to expand Calthorpe Park School, the need to update the Leisure Centre and the Housing Land supply requirement. Hart District Council was considering proposals to satisfy all three requirements.

In summary Calthorpe Park School is only capable of taking growth on the current site up to 1450 places. HCC believes this will only accommodate growth generated by QEB but no further housing development.

The Leisure Centre stands in the way of providing extra capacity and if the Grove Farm site was required to provide a split school site with two clusters, then a CPO would be necessary.

The only other option would be to bus pupils to schools at Odiham, Frogmore or Aldershot which have spare capacity. HDC's preference is an expansion of Calthorpe Park School.

The Leisure Centre was last refurbished in 1990 and needs at least £2m to be spent on it just to keep it running.

HDC believes a bigger Leisure Centre could meet current unmet demand and create an additional £240,000 pa revenue.

Full refurbishment would cost approx. £7m, replacement £13m and a new enlarged facility £20m

Replacement on another site would allow the necessary school expansion.

Edenbrook Phase 1 was approved on appeal with a S106 imposed on HDC but control over Edenbrook Phase 2 has been given to HDC. If Edenbrook does not proceed it would undermine the 5 year land supply.

There were four sources to assist with the assembly of funding:

- Extra income from a new Leisure Centre
- Capital freed by not refurbishing the Leisure Centre
- Contributions from S106/CILC
- Premium from Edenbrook

(Cllr Forster entered the meeting at this point)

Members discussed Edenbrook and the 5 year land supply and suggested that Moulsham Lane could be an alternative.

It was suggested that split school sites were successful elsewhere. There were comments that the Country Park and leisure land proposed by Berkeley Homes together with promised football pitches were being chipped away.

There were concerns that the Leisure Centre Business Case could not be prepared till 2014 and it may transpire that it could not proceed by which time the Edenbrook housing would have commenced.

Members identified it as a key issue that there was an incompatibility between the time scale for committing housing in the Local Plan (LDF) and resolving the Business Plan for the Sports Centre.

In response to a question about whether the housing could go ahead without the Sports Centre, Mr Bonner responded that the two entities were inseparable - no sports centre, no housing.

The possibility of building a new Leisure Centre at Hook was suggested together with the view that alternatives like this had not been considered by HDC

Members reiterated the views coming forward from local residents that a new leisure centre was a low priority, and that school places and improved infrastructure were of much greater importance. It was recognised that questions posed were not necessarily the only questions that could be asked and the possible outcome could be distorted by the questions asked.

Cllr Vincent suggested that there was no evidence to support a way forward without a business case especially as residents had made it clear that they did not support additional housing or a new leisure centre.

He believed a viable alternative to the proposals suggested by HDC was that the existing leisure centre should not be closed, that Calthorpe Park School should be expanded on its current site and Edenbrook Phase 2 should not proceed.

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that there was no clear resolution to take forward from FTC until many of the issues had been addressed and scrutinised and any decisions were based on a sound footing.

Members thanked Geoff Bonner for his presentation which they had found informative and helpful.

ITEM 6 DEVELOPMENT OF A TOWN PLAN

Cllr Schofield reported that following discussion about the Town Centre Vision, and consideration of the Portas Report, the idea had been developed of producing a 'Parish Plan' to cover the whole of the FTC area-not just the town centre.

Funding and support from HDC would be provided through the services of Therese Lawler who was acting as a consultant to HDC.

Therese Lawler introduced herself to the Council and explained the process of bottom up community involvement with FTC acting as facilitator rather than leading the Parish Plan process. (Hard copy of presentation attached to minutes as a record)

Following lengthy discussion there was general enthusiasm for the proposal with a recognition that the communication strategy and getting the local community involved was crucial.

Cllr Schofield reported that the latest issue of 'Town Talk' which was still being distributed by the Post Office, had led to him receiving many emails and phone calls from the public which was very encouraging. (By the by, he reported that without exception residents had commented on the display of flowers in the town throughout the summer and the work to achieve this by Janet Stanton, Deputy Town Clerk was acknowledged))

It was agreed that a meeting of the Parish/Neighbourhood Plan Working Group should be arranged by Cllr Schofield as soon as possible to agree the representation of FTC on the proposed Town Plan Working Group.

The Group comprises
Cllrs Appleton, Gotel, Oliver, Perthen, Schofield, Tilley, Woods and The Town Clerk. Cllr Butler and Vernon volunteered to join the Group to balance Ward representation.

RESOLVED

That a meeting of the Parish/Neighbourhood Plan Working Party be arranged in order to initiate the process outlined by Therese Lawler.

ITEM 7 CLERK’S REPORT

Members considered the Town Clerk’s report which was noted. It was agreed that the members of the former Highways and Transportation Committee should meet as a Working Group to consider FTC representation on the Town Parking Review.

ITEM 8 FLEET PHOENIX- FTC REPRESENTATIVE

It was agreed that Cllrs Hill and Perthen should share the role of representing FTC as observers of meetings of the Fleet Phoenix Trust.

It was noted that officers are to obtain meeting dates and ensure that copies of the agenda are available.

ITEM 9 ACTION DAY

Members noted that the next Action Day would take place on either Saturday 6 or 20 October 2012 from 9.39-12.30pm
Members were asked to let Janet Stanton know if they were able to volunteer on either of these dates.

ITEM 10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3 October 2012 at 7.30pm at The Harlington, Fleet Road, Fleet

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.10pm

Signed.....

Date:.....