

## **MINUTES OF THE FLEET TOWN COUNCIL**

**1 December 2010 7.30pm**  
**The Harlington**

### **Councillors**

Robert Schofield (Chair), Andrew Macallan, Chris Butler, Paul Einchcomb, Helen Perthen, Alan Hope, Sue Tilley, Arthur Hurley, George Woods, Sue Fisher, Richard Robinson, Dai Pierce.

Owing to the snow, Cllr Appleton arrived at 7.50 pm and Cllr Forster arrived at 8.15 pm

### **Also Present**

Shar Roselman – Clerk

### **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Appleton and Foster apologized for late arrival.

### **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the items under consideration at the meeting and the nature of those interests. Cllr Robinson declared an interest in item 12, since his wife belongs to an organisation that hires halls at The Harlington.

### **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 3: PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no members of the public present.

### **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 4: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved to receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of Full Council dated 3 November 2010. Two minor alterations were made to dates in the minutes.**

**Prop: RR Sec: GW**

**Resolved to receive the minutes of:**

**The Policy and Finance Committee 15 November 2010**

**The Planning, Development and Control Committee 8 November 2010**

**The Planning, Development and Control Committee 22 November 2010**

**The Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee 17 November 2010**

**The Establishment Sub-Committee – Confidential minutes 3 November 2010**

**Prop: SF Sec: AM**

**It was further resolved that Confidential minutes would continue to go to Full Council, except for items relating to a disciplinary or grievance hearing where an appeal could be required.**

**Prop: CB Sec: GW**

Council noted that the Highways and Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for 24 November 2010 had been cancelled owing to the Fleet Festivities taking place on that date.

## **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 5: AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The decisions taken by the Policy and Finance Committee in relation to the Auditor's report were noted.

A discussion ensued regarding the vulnerability of Ancells Ward in the event that the one councillor representing the ward was taken ill. It was recognised that Hart District Council would be holding elections in May which would extend to all polling stations to incorporate the AV vote.

**Resolved to request Hart District Council to call for elections for the 5 vacancies at Fleet Town Council, should this be legally possible. Resolved also to advertise in the second Newsletter that it is Fleet Town Council's intention to hold an election in May for the 5 vacancies for Town Councillor.**

**Prop: CB Sec: PE**

**The vote on this resolution was 8 in favour and 5 against.**

**Action: Cllr Schofield/the clerk to discuss the feasibility and legality of holding ward elections at the same time as Hart District Council Elections with Andy Tiffen.**

## **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 6: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Resolved that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011, and that the format will be a formal presentation on the Town Council's achievements to date, the vision for the future and the budget and precept. Sandwiches to be served at 7 pm, meeting at 7.30 pm.**

**Prop: RA Sec: CB**

**Action: The clerk to advertise the event in the Newsletter and on the Website. Cllr Schofield and the clerk to start working on the agenda.**

## **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 7: LOGO**

The Council viewed The Harlington logo, as approved by the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities committee, as an excellent beginning to the Communication Strategy.

Six logos for the Town Council were discussed. It was commented on that the word pavilions as it appeared at the bottom of the headed notepaper was incorrectly spelled.

A vote was taken on the logos. There were 12 votes for the first Serrated Leaf Design, with the next highest number being 4 votes for the Trees Reflected in Water.

**A resolution was taken to approve the Logo of the first serrated leaf design for the Town Council.**

**Action: The clerk to advise the designer accordingly.**

## **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 8: BUDGET AND PRECEPT UPDATE**

The chairman updated Council on the work being done by the Policy and Finance Committee with respect to budgets and the precept recommendation. The Policy and Finance Committee was currently looking at a risk management policy, which would consider what level of reserves was prudent in the current economic climate. They would review the level of risk regarding Loss of Income in the event of the main income generator, The Harlington, being forced to close down.

The chairman advised that the Policy and Finance Committee had initially proposed a general reserve of £50000. This left a potential reserve, highly dependant on 1<sup>st</sup> year end-of-year financial results, of £25000, of which £10000 might be earmarked this year for a website and the cemetery drainage problem. A further £20000 has already been vired to development of the Gym area.

Council received an update on potential capital budgeting projects, both for the year 2010/11 and 2011/12.

A discussion ensued regarding the funding of The Harlington refurbishment programme through S106 funds. Although this avenue is still being explored, it was considered less likely that funding would be available through this source. In the event that it is not available for this project, a review of the possible alternative works would have to be undertaken.

The Policy and Finance Committee were still debating their recommendation to Full Council on the precept. The Committee had concerns over the political and demographic ramifications of any increase. The implications of increasing the precept by 0%, 2 ½ %, 5%, and 10% were being considered. It was noted that a 10% increase equals a 10 pence increase per week for a D band household, and that the precept base had not increased in the previous year and thus by the end of financial year 2011/12 would have been eroded by three years of inflation.

The chairman pointed out that there was an anticipated increase of around 100 houses of new build in Fleet this year, which would increase the precept by around £5000.

The Policy and Finance Committee was asked to consider a possible increase in the Town Centre Management Budget to accommodate the provision of seed capital for the formation of a new Town Centre group. The chairman explained that seed capital had originally been provided to the Fleet Forward group through the Hart District Council, and that provision of £12000 had been made in grant funding in the Town Council budget for Festivals. This is a topic that will come up on the agenda in the new year.

**Action: To circulate the recommendation urgently after the next Policy and Finance Meeting to give members sufficient time to consider it before the Full Council Meeting in January 2011, when the final decision will have to be made.**

## **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 9: RECENT PUBLIC EVENTS**

A report was received from the clerk regarding the recent public events of Fleet Festival/Switch-on and Remembrance Day.

Council wished to convey their thanks to officers who had worked hard to make the events a success and in particular to Janet Stanton who had been deeply involved. Thanks were also given to councillors who had helped with Remembrance Day teas and with stewarding at Fleet Festivities.

A concern was raised that retailers at the North end of Fleet road had been upset that the Festivities had started at Church Road, rather than at Stockton Avenue, where road closure had been placed in the past.

It was noted that the Fleet Festivities Partnership had invited members to a celebratory event on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at The Harlington. Time: 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm.

**Action: The Clerk will pass on this information to Fleet Festivities.**

### **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 10: LEASES**

The leases of the Lions at Basingbourne Park, the Scouts and The Harlington were discussed. It was clarified that the Lions had been advised by Hart District Council that their utilities payment would go up to £1500 per annum. The Scouts' lease has expired, and they wish to renegotiate a new lease based on a resolution previously passed by Hart District Council that they be charged a peppercorn rent.

**Resolved to set up a working group to negotiate the Scouts lease when it arrives from their solicitors. Cllr Robinson and Cllr Hurley to work with the clerk.**

The Harlington Lease has only just been received from Hart solicitors, and there are a number of concerns including a sub-lease with the Library.

**Resolved to set up a working group to negotiate this lease. The chair of the Town Council, the chair of the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee and Cllr Woods to sit on this working group.**

Prop: BS Sec: CB

### **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 11: FTAP PROGRESS REPORT.**

The presentation given by Hampshire County Council on the proposed cycle route 3 was discussed. It was acknowledged that Hampshire County Council had taken into account many of the Town Council's concerns when developing their draft plan. These included:

The route across the Views realigned to follow the contour of the ground and avoid the deep cut that would have severed the park.

The width of the path, which has been amended to 3 meters.

Agreement to cut across to the Spinney and onto the "muddy path" to Calthorpe Park School rather than utilise Tavistock Road. This will create a completely off-road route.

The employment of LED and hooded lights to minimise the impact of lighting through the park.

The reduction in the number of lighting standards.

It had been suggested to Hampshire County Council that a test standard light to be put in place in Calthorpe Park so that councillors could judge for themselves the light levels.

Council was pleased to note that there was an opportunity for Hampshire County Councillors to work with Fleet on a Landscape Plan for the Views.

Some outstanding issues included:

The decision on which side of the tennis courts the route would pass.

Site investigation works to demonstrate that any regarding works associated with the path won't break through the crust overlaying the rubbish tip within Calthorpe Park.

Sources of funding: currently only half the estimated capital works costs were available.

Cycle Route 9 Kings Road

Funding for a designated cycle way along Kings Road was available.

The works primarily involved white lines down either side of the road and modifications to the Kings Road, Aldershot Road signalised junction to introduce a pedestrian phase in the light sequence.

It was still not resolved if this would be a mandatory cycle line.

**Action: The clerk to contact Chris Murray regarding an electronic version of the cycle path plans and the landscaping of the Views.**

#### **F.C. DEC 2010 ITEM 12: HARLINGTON RATES.**

The chairman indicated that a set of rates for the forthcoming year for both the Harlington and Ancells Farm Community Centre had been negotiated with the centre manager. These included the opportunity for multiple bookings at published rates to receive a 10% block-booking discount and a special events rate of £250 for the hire of the main hall and the function room. In the event of the halls being booked out for a major event such as a wedding, with a large guaranteed bar spend, it was discussed that further negotiation could take place on rates.

The potential to refund customer parking from VAT recoveries was raised.

**Resolved to approve the set of revised rates for the Harlington from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011. Exhibition halls rates which would remain as previously set. Prop: GW Sec: CB**

Votes were 7 for and 0 against.

**Also resolved to approve the set of revised rates for Ancells Farm Community Centre, to take effect from 1 April 2011, to fall in line with the Harlington Booking system and the financial year.**

**Prop: RR Sec: SF**

**There being no further business the meeting ended at 10.09 pm.**

**The next meeting will be on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at the Harlington, at 7.30 pm.**

**Signed.....**

**Date:.....**