



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 3 February 2016

at The Harlington at 7pm

PRESENT

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

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Alex Robins-General Manager The Harlington
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Cllr Bennison-HCC
Cllr Wheale-HCC/HDC
Cllr Forster-HDC
Cllr Makepeace-Brown-HDC
Mr Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park
Elly Russell-Local resident

FC/Feb16/ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology for absence from Cllrs Cantle, Gray, Hope, Oliver and Robinson

FC/Feb16/ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FC/Feb16/ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Cllr Forster, HDC, asked questions relating to the proposed FTC 80% increase in the Council Tax precept requirement without working with Elvetham Heath and Church Crookham Parish Councils and without consulting local residents.

The Chairman explained that although 80% was mathematically correct, this amounted to an increase of 85p per week although some of this increase was to cover loss of government grant from HDC rather than any proposed increase in expenditure.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that over 200 local residents who had attended the Annual Residents meeting in April 2015 had been surveyed. An indication of the financial impact of the various options had been given:

- Renovation of the existing building £1.5m(precept increase 16p per week)
- Modification of the building £3.5m (precept increase 38p per week)
- Replacement of the existing building£7.5m (precept increase of 81p per week)

Residents overwhelmingly voted for the replacement option

Public exhibitions had consistently explained the financial impact of proposals with every effort to ensure transparency

The Chairman explained that Town and Parish Councils were not bound by the 2% ceiling increase placed on first and second tier councils and advised the meeting of the precept levels of neighbouring parish councils:

- Hook £97.90
- Blackwater and Hawley £83.64
- Hartley Wintney £70.95
- Rotherwick £70.18
- FTC £55.63

Ms Elly Russell, a local resident, asked why neighbouring local residents in Elvetham Heath and Church Crookham were not being asked to contribute to the cost of any works at the Harlington. The Chairman explained that historically both parish councils had declined to participate in works associated with the Harlington. However the Chairman suggested that Fleet had been revitalised through the good community value the Harlington provided. Cllr Schofield said that FTC believed that the Harlington was of real value to the community and on-going discussions with HDC and HCC were very positive and may even lead to a contribution from those sources.

Ms Russell asked if the Harlington was profitable and in good repair. She was informed that the building was subsidised and that a condition survey carried out in 2010 revealed a need for expenditure of £1.5m.It was also confirmed that FTC residents would not receive a discount on Harlington charges

Cllr Gotel entered the meeting at 7.10pm

FC/Feb16/ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 January 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

Development Control Committee

11 and 26 January 2016

Policy and Finance Committee and its
recommendation at item 5

25 January 2016

FC/Feb16/ITEM 5 DRAFT BUDGET 2016-2017

The members received the draft budget for 2016/17as recommended by the P & F Committee held on 25 January 2016 .

Following a question and explanation regarding the format of the presentation of information in the budget summary document (paper 5 a), it was

RESOLVED

To approve the adoption of the 2016/2017 budget, as recommended by the P & F Committee on 25 January 2016

FC/Feb16/ITEM 6 ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING –TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2016

The members considered the content and format of the Annual Residents 'Meeting to be held on 5 April 2016. The agenda and poster for 2015 were suggested as an appropriate format and members were invited to inform the Chairman or Town Clerk of any further agenda items for inclusion

RESOLVED

To follow the 2015 format for the 2016 Annual Residents 'Meeting

FC/Feb16/ITEM 7 HYPE UPDATE

The meeting was reminded that HYPE had sought a grant to cover the cost of hiring a car parking space in Victoria Road car park for a storage facility. However HDC had since agreed that the space could be provided free of charge

FC/Feb16/ITEM 8 GRANT APPLICATION – HVA

The Council considered a grant application for £400 associated with the hire of accommodation at the Harlington and associated cost of the HDC Chairman's Volunteer Recognition Events to be held on 22 March 2016

RESOLVED

To approve a grant of £400 to cover the hiring and associated costs of the Harlington to be made to Hart Voluntary Action Ltd

FC/Feb16/ITEM 9

GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCY

Members were reminded that the General Power of Competency (GPC) allows eligible local councils “the power to do anything that individuals generally may do” as long as it is within the law. This is known as the power of “first resort”

It was confirmed that FTC now meets the eligibility criteria and that the Town Clerk should be congratulated on the upgrade to her CILCA qualification giving FTC a general power of competence.

RESOLVED

- a) That FTC meets the eligibility criteria to use the General Power of Competency as at 3 February 2016
- b) That FTC reviews its Grant Policy in light of the new power

FC/Feb16/ITEM 10

ASSET REGISTER

The members received the fixed Asset Register as at February 2016. Following questions relating to the status of the Girl Guide and Scout Hut it was

RESOLVED

To note and approve the Asset Register as at February 2016

FC/Feb16/ITEM 11

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND FLORAL DISPLAYS

Members were asked to consider the possibility of extending the installation of Christmas Lights and floral decorations eastwards towards Fleet Railway Station to help include the commuter population in a sense of local community. Following general discussion it was

RESOLVED

- a) To extend the Christmas decorations and floral displays to Kings Road with a report on the possible attraction of sponsorship to be reported to a future meeting of the RLA Committee
- b) To investigate funding to extend the floral displays to the railway station with a report to the RLA Committee

FC/Feb16/ITEM 12

LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION/FLEET TOWN COUNCIL-WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

It was reported that the Lawn Tennis Association had highlighted Fleet as having the ideal demographic to increase public participation in tennis. The LTA had completed an audit of the local area using data from a Sport England Survey.

The LTA and the officers had met to establish whether there is a way to work together in the future to improve tennis participation.

The LTA model is operated by a key fob system which will cost the public £30 per year, per family to use the courts as many times as they like (they still have to book a court). As part of the model, the LTA will help the council engage a self-employed LTA approved coach in Calthorpe Park for which a fee of around £2,000 per year will be paid to FTC.

The LTA is prepared to make up the difference if FTC does not achieve £2,000 in tennis income.

A community grant from the LTA towards the cost of the resurfacing of the tennis courts could be applied for but would need to have some level of match funding from FTC.

The LTA would like to work with FTC and are prepared to offer assistance to FTC but the trial must be put in place during 2016.

Commitment from the LTA

- Provision and installation a booking/access system plus 100 key fobs value £15000 – £20,000
- Marketing support (staff resources) value £3,000
- Advertising for a coach and assisting with the contract
- Assistance with a grant application to the LTA

Commitment from FTC

- To actively work with the LTA to increase public participation in tennis
- To resurface the tennis courts. Currently FTC has not budgeted for this item.

Following questions and discussion it was

RESOLVED

- a) That FTC agrees to work in partnership with the LTA
- b) Funding subject to negotiation to assist with the cost of resurfacing the tennis courts be made available from Reserves

FC/Feb16/ITEM 13

SECTOR LED AUDIT BODY REPORT

Members noted that no updates had been received regarding the Sector Led Audit Body

FC/Feb16/ITEM 14

NEW HARLINGTON DEVELOPMENTS UPDATE

The Chairman reported that a meeting with HCC and HDC had been very positive, with some new and enthusiastic ideas. A further meeting had been arranged for early March 2016.

Discussions with local architects on outline proposals to modify the Harlington as a stand -by position would be circulated to the Harlington Working Group in the near future.

FC/Feb16/ITEM 15 NEWSLETTER

It was reported that the next issue of "Town Talk" will be delivered in mid-March with updates on the Annual Residents' Meeting, the Neighbourhood Plan and The Harlington. Additional suggestions from members should be submitted to the Town Clerk

FC/Feb16/ITEM 16 CASUAL VACANCY

It was noted that the casual vacancy for the Calthorpe ward was currently being advertised on the FTC notice board in the Harlington

Any consequential vacancies on working groups etc will be dealt with at the Annual Council Meeting on 11 May 2016

FC/Feb16/ ITEM17 FLEET FUTURE

The Chairman reported that HDC Cllr Morris had made a presentation to a recent meeting of Fleet Future and that the Business Forum was progressing with the BID application

FC/Feb2016/ITEM 18 HCC/HDC

HCC

Cllr Bennison commented:

- The budget deficit had increased
- The potential Fire Authority budget increase of £1.22
- A 3.99% HCC budget increase which resulted in a Band D increase of approx. £41 pa
- Possibility of parish councils undertaking some minor highway schemes

Cllr Wheale commented:

- The extension of the Lengthsman scheme to 2016/2017
- The need for a meeting between HCC/FTC to discuss possible functions to be taken on by FTC
- The awarding of a local grant for seating at Ancells Farm
- The inclusion of a parking area for the Hitches Lane Allotments in the minor works list

HDC

Cllr Forster commented:

- SWTrains consultation
- Consultation on waste recycling centres
- Replacement of Fleet high street bins
- Private roads refuse collection issues
- Graffiti and clean-up day planned for April 2016
- CCTV /tree issue in Oakley Park-copy Cllr Forster into requests to HDC

FC/Feb16/ITEM 19 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members noted the Town Clerk's report

FC/Feb16/ITEM 20 RESIGNATION OF CLLR FORSTER

The resignation of Cllr Forster was noted. The vacancy will now be advertised

Cllr Schofield asked that the Council record their appreciation to all the Harlington staff who had worked hard to improve the technical quality and range of performances at the Harlington. The members were unanimous in their thanks to the staff

FC/Feb16/ITEM 21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 2 March 2016 at the Harlington at 7pm.

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 further business of the Council , the Public and Press were excluded from the Meeting.