



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 9 January 2019

at The Harlington at 7:15pm

**Councillors**

Bob Schofield (Chairman), Ruth Ashworth, Leslie Holt, Kathy Jasper, James Kirkpatrick, Dai Pierce, Richard Robinson, Peter Wildsmith, Ruth Williams, George Woods, Jonathan Wright, Sharyn Wheale, Sue Tilley

**Also Present**

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk

Cllr Collett –HCC

Cllr Forster-HCC/HDC

2 local residents

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Cllr. Schofield wished everyone a Happy New Year.
- An expression of appreciation was given to everyone who helped to make the Christmas Day Lunch a success with 70 people enjoying the festivities on Christmas day in the Harlington.
- A bouquet of flowers was sent to Jeff and Cathy Smith from all at Fleet Town Council to let them know that they are in all our thoughts especially over the festive period.
- To advise Members, that Colin Gray was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours list for his work in the local community and at Fleet Pond.
- The Chairman reminded all Members about their responsibilities under the Code of Conduct and to have respect for their fellow members and the general public.
- Through the chair, Cllr Wheale advised that Terry Austen's wife had passed away at Christmas. Terry Austen is active within the Fleet Pond Society

**FC Jan 2019 ITEM 1**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Chenery, Einchcomb, Hope and Oliver,

**FC Jan 2019 ITEM 2**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

**FC Jan 2019 ITEM 3**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**A local resident asked :**

**Question**

The draft Minutes being considered under the next item contain an answer to a question I put to the Council in December.

The draft answer falls well short of what Fleet residents might have expected.

From the answer I received from Hart District Council to a similar question it is clear that they are willing to work collaboratively to bring forward integrated regeneration proposals for the Civic Quarter. This Council has significant financial reserves for the potential redevelopment of the Harlington. If Hart was willing to at least in part match those sums, there is the real possibility of attracting external investment to achieve something akin to what is being achieved in Camberley, Farnborough and Farnham. This represents a great opportunity to deliver on key aspects of the Fleet Neighbourhood Plan, and to make Fleet a more vibrant place to live, work and play. But it would require this Council to broaden its horizons, and also to change the TORs of the Harlington Working Group.

So, my question is this: Are you willing to embrace the possibilities that are presented, and also to invite interested and qualified residents to join the Harlington Working Group? This has been done in the past, and it is now probable that the opportunity in front of you requires additional expertise to that which is available among Members.

**Answer**

The Harlington Development Working Group will be meeting shortly when this question can be considered. This will be included in the recommendations to be brought to the next Council Meeting.

**FC Jan 2019 ITEM 4**

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 December 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman

The Council received the minutes of the following Committees

Development Control	3 and 18 December 2018
Planning	3 December
Recreation Leisure & Amenities (Draft)	19 December

The minutes of this meeting to be referred back to the RLA chairman for clarification on whether all the cemetery fees were approved at Item 8

**FC Jan 2019 ITEM 5****HCC/HDC UPDATE****HCC**

Adrian Collett reported on the following matters:

- The Crossing on Ancells Road has now been completed
- The bus shelter at the junction of Farm Drive /Tamworth Drive has been vandalised. The Safer Hart team are aware.
- HCC is currently having major changes to its website. Users with the older version of Windows on their computers will not be able to interact with the web site. However, if contact is made with HCC advice will be given on how to overcome this problem.
- Ancells School Bus – The Safe Routes to School Appeal has failed. Parents from Ancells Farm do have concerns that a guarantee has not been given that they will be able to buy seats on the school bus after the first year. Cllr Benison is working with Cllr Mans at HCC to clarify the situation.

Cllr Forster reported on the following matters

- The new Heathrow Aerospace Consultation opened on 8 January and Members and residents are urged to respond.
- Church Road Car Park – There had been flooding issues in Church Road Car Park which are being addressed although not yet completed.
- Fleet Community Hospital Engagement Event

**FC Jan 2019 ITEM 6****HARLINGTON DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Due to the Christmas break, there was nothing new to report. However, a Harlington Working Group Meeting has been organised for early in the New Year and any recommendations will be brought forward to February Council Meeting.

**FC Jan 2019 ITEM 7****PRECEPT / BUDGET 2019/2020**

It was noted that the tax base for calculation of the FTC Council Tax 2019/2020 had been received from HDC. In line with the resolution passed by Council on 7 November 2018 Council Meeting where it was resolved that a 0% increase in the 2019/2020 FTC Council tax rate should be applied, it was confirmed that the precept for 2019-2020 will be £1,043,835.94 which equates to £99.81 per Band D Property.

Members also received the amended budget for 2019/2020 which takes the above into account and, with adjustments, a balanced budget has been achieved.

**RESOLVED**

- a) To approve the 2019-2020 Budget
- b) To approve for signature the 2019/2020 precept statement of £1,043,835.94

**FC Jan 2019 ITEM 8****FINANCIAL MONITORING**

Members received the financial monitoring information at October 2018. The question was raised if it is necessary to provide hard copies of all financial information to all members.

The Clerk to investigate and report back to the next Council Meeting.

## RESOLVED

To receive into the minutes :

- Payments received –November 2018
- List of payments –November 2018
- Reconciliation - November 2018

### **FC Jan 2019 ITEM 9                      NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Members noted that the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted to HDC.

### **FC Dec 2018 ITEM 10                      FLEET COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ENGAGEMENT EVENT**

The Members noted the invitation to the above event and were reminded to book their own places if they wished to attend.

### **FC Jan 2019 ITEM 11                      COMPLAINTS**

- a) Members noted the public complaints received since 1 December 2018. Detailed information is available from the Town Clerk.
- b) It was clarified that a record is now maintained of all Freedom of Information requests and the time allocated by Officers.
- c) Members noted that a panel is being convened to review the recommendations of the HDC Monitoring Officer relating to a Code of Conduct complaint. The recommendations will be brought back to Council for consideration.

### **FC Jan 2019 ITEM 12                      TOWN CLERK'S REPORT'**

The Town Clerk's report was noted and special attention drawn to:

- The success of the Christmas lunch and thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers
- Councillor Vacancy – if any members of the public wishes to be considered for co-option, an application needs to be completed and returned to the Town Clerk by 28 January. Copies of the Co-option Policy and Application form are available on the FTC web site or from the Town Clerk.
- Members were advised of a Knowledge and Core Skills Training Course for Councillors is to be held on 19 February - 7 – 9pm and 6<sup>th</sup> March at The Key Centre, Elvetham Heath. Members to let the Town Clerk know if they wish to attend, but to note that the second training session coincides with the March Full Council Meeting.

### **FC Jan 2019 ITEM 13                      DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Full Council will be on Wednesday, 7 February 2019 at the Harlington, at 7.00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.16pm

**Signed**.....  
**Chairman**

**Date:**.....