



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

**Wednesday 4 December 2013
at The Harlington at 7.30pm**

PRESENT

Councillors Bob Schofield (Chairman), Chris Axam, Chris Butler, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Sue Fisher, Steve Forster, Denis Gotel, Leslie Holt, Alan Hope, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Helen Perthen, Richard Robinson, Sue Tilley, Wallace Vincent

Also Present

James Corrigan, Town Clerk
Janet Stanton, Deputy Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner, Committee Clerk

Cllr Bennison HDC/HCC
Cllr Crookes HDC
Cllr Wheale HCC/HDC

Mark Mabin and Bill Parker, Churches Together (for item 6)

Richard Buller

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs Appleton, Lewis and Woods

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Chenery, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Gotel, Cllr Butler, Churches Together- item 6-Coffee Shop

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th November 2013 were signed as a correct record

The Council received the minutes of the following committee meetings:

Development Control 11th November 2013.

25 November 2013 (Decision to be added to the comments regarding Newlyne Interiors and Fleet Station)

Policy and Finance 6th November 2013

Special RLA 18th November 2013

Delete 'allowed' page 2 para 4

Amend 'does' to 'do' para 5

The Council RESOLVED that the consultation should be include the whole of Fleet and not just the residents of Ancells'

10 for

6 against

Cllr Schofield thanked all the staff and Councillors for their support on the evening of the Christmas Festival and the switching on of the lights. Cllr Schofield offered particular thanks to Cllr Wheale and Cllr Tilley for their efforts in ensuring the Christmas Festival took place and for being such a successful event. Special thanks were also given to the Deputy Town Clerk, Janet Stanton, for the excellent Christmas Lights which had made a great impact on the town.

Cllr Schofield also announced a Quiz Night being arranged by The Fleet Pond Society and the Fleet and Church Crookham Society on Saturday 25 January 2014

Cllrs Forster and Perthen arrived at 7.40pm and Cllr Einchcomb arrived at 7.50pm during discussion of the above item

ITEM 5 DRAFT BUDGET 2014/2015

The Town Clerk presented a report on the draft 2014/2015 Revenue Budget

It was explained that the draft budget had been developed with the Policy and Finance Working Party to achieve a 0% Council Tax rate increase with no real growth items included.

It was noted that the recent decision of Hart District Council to gradually reduce the Council tax rebate awarded to Parish and Town Councils over a three year period would have a negative impact on how much Council Tax FTC receives. The impact and details of this are not yet entirely clear.

The draft budget as presented enabled all the general running costs of the Council to continue as is now but sets a more challenging target for entertainment and room hire income at the Harlington. It was noted that Ancells Community Centre is now generating a profit and is planned to improve performance further in the coming year.

The Working Group had suggested that it would be prudent to set aside an amount of money within the budget to support the capital projects list which in turn could help grants to be secured. This would enable significantly more funds to be secured with no direct costs to Fleet residents.

There was detailed discussion, particularly regarding budget provision and the overall level of subsidy for The Harlington and The Coffee Shop. Following careful consideration it was

RESOLVED

- 1) That the final budget be presented which allowed for a 0% increase in the precept in 2014/2015
- 2) That a sum of £50,000 be allocated from General Reserves for capital projects in 2014/2015 (project details to be determined later)
- 3) That a sum of £10,000 be included in the Revenue Budget for compliance in 2014/2015

ITEM 6 COFFEE SHOP REPORT

Following the resolution of the October Town Council meeting the Town Clerk submitted an in depth report on a proposal by Churches Together to deliver the Coffee Shop service in partnership with Fleet Town Council

The Town Clerk's report explained that the vision is to create a third place between work and home that people and community groups choose to come to in order to meet together and relax.

Answers were given to address issues raised earlier including a reassurance that the coffee shop would not become a religious venue, that the background of the volunteers would be unknown to customers, that alcohol being served in the building whilst the coffee shop is open would not be an issue, that the relationships of staff and volunteers would be carefully managed as it has been in the past, and that TUPE would not apply at this stage.

Following detailed discussion and careful consideration it was

RESOLVED

That the Council does not proceed with a Partnership arrangement with Churches Together and that the Council should produce a Business Plan to develop the Coffee Shop itself.

Churches Together representative were thanked for all their efforts in putting forward the proposal, whereupon they left the meeting.

ITEM 7 ALLOCATION OF S106 HIGHWAY FUNDS

The Town Clerk presented a report regarding the allocation of S106 highway funds

Early in the year the Council was made aware of approx. £116,000 of S.106 funding available to FTC to spend on a highway projects.

It was explained that the funding is not limited solely to projects on the adopted highway so can be spent, for example, on projects to improve pedestrian access through park land owned by FTC.

In recent discussion with HDC over pay on foot parking provision within Fleet a third option had become possible, to make £45,000 of the s106 money available to secure the capital investment in a pay on exit parking scheme in Victoria Road Car Park.

FTC had consulted with HCC Highways to identify any projects, primarily within FTAP, that could be expediently implemented with support of the developer funds. No such projects had been identified.

Following careful consideration of the options available and the general responses received from HCC on various schemes put forward it was

RESOLVED

- 1) That a sum of £45,000 be identified as a contribution towards the capital cost of the installation of a pay on exit car park scheme in Victoria Road Car Park
- 2) That the remaining sum of up to £70,000 be identified to fund an all-weather footpath within Basingbourne Park

ITEM 8 POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF £1500 FOR INTERPRETATION PANEL AT BAKERS WAY ADJACENT TO CALTHORPE SCHOOL

The members considered a report regarding a request from HCC for FTC to match fund the cost of the installation of an interpretive signboard on Baker's Way. The Council discussed various possible alternative ways to fund such a board and alternative locations deemed more appropriate.

RESOLVED that

FTC does not provide match funding to HCC to fund the cost of the installation of an Interpretive Sign at Baker's Way

ITEM 9 CLERK'S REPORT

The members discussed and noted the Town Clerks report which covered a range of current issues in particular the additional involvement that had been required to prepare The Harlington for the upcoming Pantomime as well as the time spent researching and preparing the report on the Coffee shop proposal.

ITEM 10 HDC/HCC UPDATE

Cllr Oliver reported that HDC was continuing discussions regarding the financing of the car parking pay on exit options.

ITEM 11 FLEET FUTURE

Cllr Tilley reported that the Town Plan had now been launched and was available on line

. Action Teams were being formed to assist with the implementation of the 17 recommendations.

Congratulations were expressed for the publication of the Town Plan within such a tight timescale.

ITEM 12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 8 January 2014 at 7.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.02 pm with Cllr Schofield wishing all members a Merry Christmas.

Signed:..... **Date**.....

Chairman