



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

3 October 2012 at 7.30pm
The Harlington
Fleet

Present

Cllrs Bob Schofield (Chairman) Richard Appleton, Chris Axam.
Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Sue Fisher, Dennis Gotel, Alastair Hill, Leslie Holt,
Alan Hope, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Helen Perthen(arrived at 8.30pm during item 6)
Richard Robinson, Sue Tilley, Wallace Vincent, George Woods

Also Present

James Corrigan-Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner- Committee Clerk
Alan Edmunds –Age Concern Hampshire
Katie Roberts-Environment and Faith Festival

Cllr Bennison-HDC
Cllr Parker-HDC

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Butler and Forster

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

Subject to the following amendments

- First paragraph of item 5 amend to read 'Cllr Schofield informed Council that there would be a regular item at future meetings of full Council **from** FTC members who **also** serve on HDC
- page 3 para 4 The possibility of building a new Leisure Centre at Hook was suggested, as alternatives like this had not been considered by HDC
- Add an additional line to item 5 - It was agreed that the Town Clerk should write to HDC outlining FTC's views and that a copy should be attached to the record minutes
- Page 4 para 2 that Councillor Vincent (not Vernon) is a member of the Town Plan Working Group

The Town Council received and approved as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5 September 2012.

It was further

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk should write to the Chief Executive seeking confirmation that the development of the new sports centre and the additional housing were inseparable-no sports centre-no housing

Council received the minutes of the following committee meetings

Development Control	29 August, (amend to read Wednesday) 10 September 2012
Planning	10 September(item 5-copy of letter to HDC to be circulated to members)
Policy and Finance	17 September 2012 (item 6- summary of budget groups to be circulated to members)

ITEM 5 PRESENTATION ON VILLAGE AGENTS

Cllr Schofield introduced the presentation to the meeting, that from the Town Council's involvement in the Older Persons' Forum it had been seeking some opportunity to provide a service to the older and more vulnerable members of the community. At the last Forum meeting it had been clarified that the Village Agent scheme had been extended to market towns and was no longer only a rural service. It was considered that this may be an appropriate initiative for the Town Council to provide some additional support to the older community.

Councillor Schofield introduced Alan Edmunds of Age Concern Hampshire to explain the scope of 'Village Agents' which had recently been extended to include market towns.

The Hampshire Village Agent Pilot Project was set up between February 2011 and July 2012. The project developed a partnership between Hampshire County Council Older People's Well-Being Team, Age Concern Hampshire, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and several District and Borough Councils. The Village Agent project aimed to increase and improve the ways older people find and benefit from information in rural areas.

Research and discussions with older people in rural Hampshire had shown that many older people would prefer to get information about services face-to-face from a local, trusted contact, rather than attempting to find this information via the internet or making multiple phone calls. As a result of this feedback from older people, and in an attempt to provide better support and access to vital information for older people in rural areas, the Village Agent Programme was launched.

Village Agents bridged the gap between the communities in which they were based and the voluntary and statutory organisations offering services for older people. Village Agents were well trained volunteers providing high quality information and helped to put older people in

direct contact with agencies and organisations that were able to offer help and advice. By providing access to the right information at the right time Village Agents helped many older people to live independently in their homes and communities. There are currently 12 Village Agent volunteers across rural areas of Hampshire.

Hampshire County Council has agreed to the pilot project being extended in the light of a successful pilot project. Over the next three years until July 2015 another 45 Village Agents will be set up in rural, market town and hamlet areas of Hampshire.

More information about the role of Village Agent and the necessary personal criteria are included in the hand outs.

The members thanked Alan Edmunds for his presentation and agreed to consider the identification of suitable volunteers. Fleet Town Council would include an invitation for volunteers in a future issue of 'Town Talk'

ITEM 6 PRESENTATION –ENVIRONMENT AND FAITH FESTIVAL

Cllr Schofield introduced Katie Roberts who had coordinated the recent Environment and Faith Festival and wanted to thank FTC for its support. A report was presented which outlined the events that had taken place and the number of participants involved.

The Council was invited to present any feedback or ideas for the future and to visit the youtube video

After some fruitful discussion, Members thanked Katie Roberts for her presentation and wished her every success if she elected to organise another forum in 2013.

ITEM 7 ADOPTION OD NEW CODE OF CONDUCT

The Town Clerk presented a report on the requirement to adopt a new Code of Conduct. It was reported that new laws governing the conduct of elected members came into effect on 1 July 2012 with local councils required to adopt their own codes of conduct.

Since the preparation of the Clerk's report, HDC had produced its own Draft Code (attached as Appendix B) and members now had the option of adopting the NALC Draft Code or HDC's draft.

The Monitoring Officer at Hart would prefer all local councils to adopt the same code and the Council discussed both the draft Hart District Code of Conduct and the NALC Model Code.

It was pointed out that the HDAPTC meeting on 9 October would be discussing the Code of Conduct and FTC representatives would support the NALC Model Code

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

That Hart District Council be requested to adopt the NALC Model Code of Conduct across all the Town and Parish Councils in Hart.

ITEM 8 CLERK’S UPDATE REPORT

The Town Clerk presented a report on the activities undertaken during September 2012 and the target issues to be addressed during October 2012.

The contents of the report were noted together with the assurance that the drafts of the plans to be displayed on the noticeboards in parks would be circulated to members for comment.

ITEM 9 REPORT FROM HART DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Appleton reported on the following matters

- The FTC objections to the Squirrels Leap planning application had not been supported by HDC Planning Committee
- The Local Plan final draft for consultation will be presented to HDC on 25 October 2012.
- The Town Centre Policy regarding the Fleet/Kings Road site would be of particular relevance to FTC
- The HDC budget making process is now underway and FTC should promote any issues that it believes should be incorporated into the budget.
- HDC to clarify the pre-planning process regarding the McCarthy and Stone application and consider how FTC could be more closely involved in any similar pre-planning discussions.
- Possible issues regarding the Fleet Pond Management Plan and in particular the adjacent open heathland owned by the MOD used extensively for dog walking.

Cllr Schofield emphasised the importance of being prepared for the consideration of the draft Local Plan. It was thereof agreed that a meeting of the Core Strategy Working Group would be held on Wednesday 14 November 2012 at 7pm to consider the document.

ITEM 10 NOTIFICATION OF COMPLETION OF AUDIT

The Council noted the Town Clerk’s report that the Council had received the External Auditors Completion Certificate for the audit year ending 31 March 2012.

The Council wished to place on record their appreciation to the Deputy Clerk, Janet Stanton, for all her work in ensuring that an unqualified audit was secured.

ITEM 11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 7 November 2012 at 7.30pm at The Harlington, Fleet Road, Fleet

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed.....

Date:.....