

**FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday 21 September 2011 7.30pm
The Harlington.**

Councillors

Paul Einchcomb (Chair), Sue Tilley, Bob Schofield, Sue Fisher, George Woods, Grahame Chenery.

Also Present

Cllr Appleton – Hart District Council (for part of the meeting)

Three members of the public from the Friends of Ancells (for part of the meeting)

Alex Robins – Operations Manager (for part of the meeting)

Shar Roselman – Clerk

Ian Bruce – Catering Manager, Harlington (attended briefly and was introduced to Council Members and welcomed to the team)

SEPT /2011/RLA ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Cllrs Perthen and Forster.

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were declarations of personal interest from Cllr Chenery in relation to item 12 on the agenda, and from Cllr Woods in connection with his association with Lions.

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 3: PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from the public.

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 4: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved to receive and approve, as a correct record, the minutes of the RLA meeting held on the 20th July 2011.

Prop: S. Fisher Sec: BS

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 5: FRIENDS OF ANCELLS REQUEST

A letter was received from the Friends of Ancells Park, expressing a desire to re-open the derelict pavilion and bring it back to a valuable asset for the community. Hart Football Club was working closely with the Friends of Ancells Park, and was also interested in use of the pavilion for storage and changing facilities.

The Friends of Ancells Park saw the project developing in several stages:

1. Opening the pavilion for storage.

Resolved to approve this for the storage of football related items.

Prop: PE

2. Cleanout of rubbish. The Friends of Group has put aside several dates for this, the first being 8-9 followed by 15-16th October. The clerk mentioned that it would be necessary to have the electricity reinstated before a clean out took place.

Action: The clerk to liaise with the Friends of Group regarding a start date, a risk assessment, public liability insurance, and provision of a skip. Additional fencing stored at Ancells to be placed in the skip as it was now being vandalised.

3. Refurbishment.
4. Expansion.

Interest in building a bridge from the pub to the playground was also expressed by the Friends of Group. The clerk advised that providing a fixed format was used for construction, there were not likely to be any requirements for planning permissions.

Hart Football Club mentioned that at this stage the club felt there was inadequate provision for football in Fleet, and that currently 80% of their games are played outside of Fleet.

The chairman thanked the Friends of Ancells Farm, saying that he took pleasure in the level of community interest being taken by the group. He stated that it was Fleet Town Council's policy to restore facilities gradually but recognised that there was renewed interest from the community in all the pavilions in Fleet. Another project that may be considered for the future was to develop a kick about area for young children near the football field at Ancells Farm. A MUGA could also be considered at the far end of the pitch. He mentioned that he would like to set up a meeting to explore options with the Friends of Group. One element that could be discussed was the potential to provide a pot of money for refurbishment, allowing the Friends of Group to go forward with renovation as a constituted organisation, without falling under the auspices of Fleet Town Council's public liability and risk assessment. Another was to gradually restore facilities, using volunteer hours from the Friends of Group as part of the project. However, the first step would be to concentrate on getting the pavilion cleared out first, before decisions were taken on how much refurbishment to undertake. In the meantime prices were being obtained window grids and fascia boards.

Action: The clerk to set up a meeting with the Friends of Ancells Farm and to arrange suitable dates for the pavilion clearout that co-ordinate with the electricity being turned on.

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 6: REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONS MANAGER

A report on recent events was provided by the Operations Manager, showing that the latest Live and Unplugged evening has produced a small profit, after a period during the summer holidays when no functions had taken place, and that the first comedy night had resulted in £1870 profit.

Action: It was noted by the committee that at the next RLA meeting a report on Hall Hires would be required by the Operations Manager.

Action: The clerk and Operations Manager will produce projections for the forthcoming budget process.

A report was received from the Operations Manager on the breakdown of the chiller unit in the cooler room.

Resolved to replace the chiller unit at a cost of £2200 using Earmarked reserves for the Coffee Shop at the Harlington.

Prop: BS Sec: GC

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 7: RECREATION AND LEISURE STRATEGY

A letter from Hart District Council had been received outlining the need for evidenced based S106/CIL applications for future developer contributions, and asking Fleet Town Council to provide a list of specific projects for the future.

The Chairman mentioned that he had arranged a breakfast meeting with Hart District Council to investigate exactly what provision the District was planning for leisure facilities.

It was felt important to establish the latest information from Hart District Council on such issues as football field provision, allotments, and the proposed adventure playground.

Cllr Appleton mentioned that he felt there should be recognition of the fact that funding for some future housing plans would go well beyond that provided under S106 requirements, and that the Town Council should discuss this with Hart District Council to establish what provisions could be made from these sources for leisure facilities.

A preliminary strategy document for S106 applications was submitted by Councillor Tilley. Cllr Schofield commented that he felt that the application of a cost per house need not be complicated by the numbers of children provided for under the education developer contribution strategy, but could simply be an extrapolation of the total costs for providing an adequate multi-use playground divided by the number of houses in the area.

Cllr Appleton believed that it was important to consider a much wider range of projects for future applications, including a provision for football, a play area and land provision at the King's Rd/Fleet Road site, extensive land provision if Grove Farm were to go ahead, and considerations regarding alterations to the canal path.

Action: The RLA recreation working group to continue to meet to complete its task of developing a formula for S106 applications and a list of suitable projects.

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 8: SPORT'S AND LEISURE REPORT

The committee received a report from the previous Sport's and Leisure Officer, who had since resigned. The comments on Oakley Park close circuit TV made by the South East in Bloom judges were noted.

Action: The clerk will arrange for a suitable sign to be erected in the park notifying members of the public about the CCTV.

The committee mentioned that further tennis reports should include costing on general and regular tennis use.

The safer Hart team had made a request to use Basingbourne Park again this year for Soccer on Saturdays.

Resolved to approve the free use of Basingbourne Park on a Saturday morning for this season of Soccer on Saturdays under the proviso that, if a commercial booking is received from a club for this time period, free provision of the pitch would no longer be made available to the Soccer on Saturdays team.

Prop. S. Fisher Sec: BS

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 9: REPAIRS

Resolved to approve repairs to the Crookham Rd Entrance to Calthorpe Park at a price of £4998.63, ex VAT. The amount to come from earmarked reserves for parks.

Resolved to approve the erection of fencing to replace removable dragon's teeth in Calthorpe Park at a cost of £630 ex VAT.

The committee noted that the dampers on the gates at the skate park had been repeatedly broken. Repair costs of £1075 x 2 were regarded as expensive.

Action: Cllr Einchcomb to discuss an alternative quotation for dampers and the alternative of the fitting latches and signage for the gates with another contractor.

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 10: SIGNAGE

Cllrs Einchcomb, Tilley and the clerk will visit the Sign Workshop on morning of the 6th October, 2011, to report on costs and signage options for all parks.

The clerk to advise the Sign Workshop of the date.

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 11: EVENTS WORKING GROUP

The committee received minutes from the last Jubilee committee meeting. They were advised that several changes had been made to the planned activities, in that the event would now take place over three days instead of four, and would fall under the auspices of the Carnival Committee. The Carnival Committee were seeking to change their theme to the

Jubilee instead of the Olympics and, apart from the parade, the entire event would now take place at Calthorpe Park. Saturday would be devoted to the parade, Sunday would replace with street party with a picnic in the park, and Monday would be a family fun day with old time sport's activities, vintage cars, dog shows, etc. Entertainment on the Sunday would be provided by the Harlington Operations Manager.

Resolved to set down standing orders in order to complete the items on the agenda.

Prop: PE

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 12: OPEN SPACES AND PAVILION REQUESTS

An application was received from Fleet Lions to hold the annual fireworks event on Calthorpe Park.

Resolved to approve this application.

Prop PE

Action: The clerk to notify the organisers that consideration must be given to the Fleet Town Council Civic Events policy, with particular respect to noise of loudspeakers.

An application was received to turn the pavilion at Calthorpe Park into a café between the hours of 6am – 3pm each day. The committee felt that the application did not fit in with the Town Council view that pavilions should not be committed to exclusive use, and regretfully turned down the application.

Action: The clerk to advise the applicant.

An application was received from Circus World Entertainments to run a circus in the Views from 7th to the 10th June, with a set up period of 2 days prior to the event. The committee felt that the dates might be too close to those of the Carnival.

Action: The clerk to investigate whether dates might be flexible, and to ask CWE to provide an indication of their entertainments, such as a video. The clerk will also request information from Hartley Whitney Parish to ask what they charge for allowing a circus to use their field.

Resolved to charge £200 per day for hiring of parks to commercial businesses, and to require a bond to be established.

Prop: PE Sec: S.T

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 13: SPORT'S AND LEISURE OFFICER

The committee discussed the requirement to replace the Sport's and Leisure Officer who had resigned, and the advertisement for replacement.

The following amendments were made to the proposed advertisement:

- To change the name of the position to the Sport’s and Leisure Officer.
- To reflect the Council as a single entity with verb usage.
- To remove the words Local Government.
- To introduce the need for strategy.
- To change the third paragraph to read “The person appointed” rather than “The Sports and Recreation Officer.”

Resolved to approve advertising for a Sport’s and Leisure Officer.

Prop: PE

Action: The clerk to seek out websites for best advertising the position.

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 14: CLERK’S REPORT

A report on actions taken by the clerk during the month was received by the committee.

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 15. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The committee resolved that, in terms of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the public Section 1(2), by reason of the item referring to an individual/s and to confidential information, the Public and Press would be excluded from the following items on the agenda.

Prop: PE

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 16. THE HARLINGTON MANAGEMENT GROUP

The committee were advised that feedback had been received from Hart District Council on the Town Centre Vision.

SEPT/2011/RLA ITEM 17. REQUEST FROM BOWLING CLUB

A request had been received from Fleet Bowling Club. A resolution was taken that the request could not be met at this stage.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11h28.

The date and time of the next meeting is 7.30, 19th October 2011 at the Harlington.

Signed.....

Date:.....