



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

**Wednesday 21 January 2015
The Harlington**

PRESENT

Councillors:

Paul Einchcomb (Chairman)
Steve Cantle
Grahame Chenery
Steve Forster
Alan Oliver
Bob Schofield
Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Alex Robins-Operations Manager -The Harlington
Deborah Kirby- Deputy Town Clerk
Sian Taylor- Cemetery Clerk
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Mike Bye- Friends of Oakley Park
Dave Harrison -Friends of Basingbourne
Issy Paton- Friends of Ancells Park
James Bracey for item 7-cycling club

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Wright- item 8-Ancells Park Development Plan

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mike Bye asked a question regarding the storage of goal posts at Oakley Park and the use of concrete slabs to secure park benches
Town Clerk agreed to look into remaining funding for Park Improvements

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2014, were approved and signed by the Chairman

ITEM 5 THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT

The Committee received the report of the Operations Manager on the Harlington and Ancells Farm Community Centre.

The general overview elements of the report were noted with the detailed discussion concentrating on the outcome of the 2014 Pantomime and the prospects for any 2015 production.

It was reported that final invoices were awaited but indicative costs were available. The pantomime had run for a longer period than in 2013 so although there had been increased ticket sales there were increased production costs. A paper was circulated showing seven sets of figures including historical costs and potential 2015 costs based on a range of assumptions.

Of the 7,000 seats sold in 2014 about 3,600 came from purchasers in the GU51/ GU52 postcode area with overall sales approx. 6,000 under target. There was a range of reasons for this including, the extended run period prior to Christmas, core dates over a shorter period, and with the inability to offer enough tickets for the most popular dates but with slower sales on other less popular evenings.

There had been a lack of support from the local press with the Aldershot News sponsoring the Princes Hall (Aldershot) panto and Eagle Radio sponsoring The Guildford production.

In summary, the pantomime needed to cost less and generate more income. However, even with increased ticket prices and some production cost reduction, the sale of more tickets and an extension of the run into the first weekend of January 2016, there was still the possibility of a serious budget impact.

Looking at the wider picture there was concern that the current predicted outturn for the Harlington was - £198,000 (37%) of the precept which the members agreed should now be the subject of close scrutiny

RESOLVED

That the Chairmen of Council, P & F, RLA and Cllr Robinson be appointed to form a Scrutiny Committee to reassess Harlington budgets with the Operations Manager and report back to Council on 4 February 2015.

ITEM 6 CEMETERY

The members considered a report on the progress of memorial testing and repair costs for those memorials where the owner could not be traced.

Following discussion and careful consideration it was

RESOLVED

- a) To agree to FTC funding those memorials where the owner cannot be traced but continue to seek to recover the costs.
- b) To make safe by laying down approx. 100 headstones where the owner is unable to be traced, at a cost of £1,650 + VAT

ITEM 7 CYCLING CLUB (taken after item 4)

James Bracey, of Pedal Heaven, was present to discuss his application to create a junior cycle club at the tennis courts in Calthorpe Park. He explained his secondary school background, cycling coach qualifications and that he was CRB checked. The proposal was to begin to create a cycling community in Fleet as the nearest facilities were in Guildford and Reading. The tennis courts and fields around would be used for hour-long coaching

sessions with skills-based training using exercises, cones and apparatus etc. with emphasis on the sport aspect of cycling and starting in April 2015 between 4-6pm. Members discussed various aspects of the proposal including charges, insurance, first aid, tennis court surface conditions.

The Committee was generally very supportive of the proposal and

RESOLVED

To approve the use of tennis courts at Calthorpe Park for a trial period of 6 months from April 2015 with the terms and conditions to be negotiated with the Town Clerk

ITEM 8 FRIENDS OF ANCELLS PARK-DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The draft Ancells Farm Park Development Plan was presented to the meeting with the explanation that the document was the result of a collaborative effort and had been based on the Calthorpe Park and Oakley Park approved format. It was suggested that conservation elements should be the area of focus but the Friends AGM in February 2015 would agree the final priorities.

It was noted HDC had expressed an interest in assisting with funding for a small pond and a wild flower meadow, though it was made clear that FTC would need to approve the detail of any such proposals.

There was some surprise that Fleet Mill fields had been included in the plan as members were expecting only the Ancells Park area to be addressed. However the plan was welcomed and would be useful with regards to any effort to secure funding.

RESOLVED

That the Committee adopt the Ancells Farm Park Development Plan

ITEM 9 FLOWER BEDS IN THE TOWN CENTRE

The members considered a report which dealt with an approach from Velmead Junior School regarding the possible involvement of school children in community projects such as developing and maintaining town centre flower beds.

HDC would be agreeable to FTC taking over town centre flower beds and a Fleet and Church Crookham in Bloom volunteer had expressed an interest in working on this project.

RESOLVED

That FTC expresses an interest in principle in taking over and extending floral displays in the town centre and that a further report be prepared with detailed information on costs and resources including the possible involvement of schools and Fleet and Church Crookham in Bloom

ITEM 10 THE VIEWS AND SENSORY GARDEN

Cllr Schofield presented a draft scheme which had been prepared by Charlotte Smith, the HCC landscape architect, in association with him and the Town Clerk. The background to the siting of the scheme in The Views rather than Calthorpe Park was explained, moving the project closer to Campbell Place and hopefully reducing the possibility of vandalism as well as making it more accessible to other residential homes in the Victoria Road/Branksome Wood Road area. The key concepts were explained and the sensory theme had been enhanced through the use of texture, touch, sight, balance and the different vistas. There were proposals to attract children, adult and older people and the opportunity was presented to re-site the skate park to the rear of the HDC offices.

Members were of the view that the scheme was a good one to attract grant funding and should be promoted at the Annual Residents' meeting on 31 March 2015 through a storyboard of photos. This could attract community interest and lead to a vibrant Friends of The Views Group.

It was noted that the £37,000 funding was available only for a sensory garden but that this could provide a basis for a matched funding bid.

RESOLVED

- a) That Charlotte Smith of HCC prepare costs for the scheme as presented
- b) That the project be promoted at the Annual Residents meeting on 31 March 2015 with a view to securing community interest and involvement

ITEM 11 EVENT APPLICATION

The members considered a request for a funfair to be held at Ancells Farm Park in July 2015 for a period of 4 days. Having considered the use of the park for sports events , the potential damage and the possible views of the local residents, it was

RESOLVED

To refuse permission for the use of Ancells Park for a Funfair in July 2015

ITEM 12 FACILITIES OFFICER'S REPORT

The members received and noted an update report from the Facilities Officer on a range of matters and the Town Clerk added that a new boiler may be required for Ancells Farm community centre but currently there is no provision in the 2014/2015 budget.

ITEM 13 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

The members received and noted an update report from the Town Clerk on a range of matters.

ITEM 14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 April 2015 at **7pm** at The Harlington
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman