



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 7 December 2016

at The Harlington at 8pm

**PRESENT**

Councillors Bob Schofield (Chairman), Steve Cante, Paul Einchcomb, Denis Gotel, Alex Gray, Leslie Holt, Richard Hunt, Kathy Jasper, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Richard Robinson, Jeff Smith, Neil Walton, Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton- Town Clerk  
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Cllr Bennison-HCC  
Cllr Forster-HDC (from 9.25pm during item 12)  
Cllr Wheale-HCC/HDC (from 9.35pm during item 17)

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Cante made a brief statement regarding the national story that had emerged regarding Fleet Football Club.

“The Fleet Town Football Club has received no notification from either the FA or the Police in respect of allegations made about anyone involved at the football club

Should the club receive such notification the club would co-operate fully in any subsequent investigation by the FA or police

Mr Bob Higgins is no longer involved at the Fleet Town Football Club. The club can confirm that Bob Higgins has previously been involved at the club at different times, on an informal unpaid basis as a coach for our adult 1<sup>st</sup> team side

His involvement was assisting the coaching team with the adult first-team squad of players. Our first team currently is the club's only side"

Cllr Schofield reported on the following matters:

- The very successful Remembrance Day and Christmas Festivities events
- Thanks to the voluntary groups for all their support
- Congratulations to the Clerk on this year's Christmas lights
- The Lions Guy Fawkes event
- HDC support of the BID which will now be the subject of a referendum in March 2017
- HVA AGM
- Fleet Future's First Steps initiative and Community Bus Group update
- HCC Health and Care (information to be circulated)
- NALC and cap on precepts

**FC/Dec 2016/ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There was an apology for absence from Cllrs Chenery and Hope

**FC/Dec 2016/ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest

**FC/Dec 2016/ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from the public

**FC/Dec 2016/ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The confidential and non-confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 2 November 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

Establishment Committee (confidential and non-confidential) 26 October 2016

With the amendment to show that Cllr Jasper was not present at the meeting of the Development Control Committee on 21 November 2016, the following were received:

Development Control Committee                      7 and 21 November 2016

**FC/Dec 2016/ITEM 5 2017-2018 BUDGET AND PRECEPT**

The Chairman presented the detailed draft budget for 2017/2018 with introductory comments. Month 9 of 2016/2017 indicated that FTC looked set to deliver on budget with a small surplus

The Christmas 2016 Panto had none of the commercial concerns of previous years and the 2016 Harlington programme had been generally well-attended with a record breaking £6,000 bar takings at one event.

The budget being presented was the seventh budget of FTC which unfortunately remained in 'maintenance mode'. It was still not possible invest in any major new projects or replace facilities that had suffered from under-investment and a lack of maintenance, with the exception of a sinking fund having been established for the tennis courts which had been a condition of the LTA grant

Unfortunately none of the projects identified in Friends Development Plans had yet been delivered.

It was recognised however that funding had been lost through government formula changes, the necessary rewiring expenditure and the general atmosphere of austerity

A balanced budget had now been drafted assisted by reducing the Grant budget by £5,000 as Fleet Festivities was now in stable position and not in need of grant

The Harlington replacement was proceeding well and was on course for a report to be available in January 2017.

HDC had recently provided a revised tax base for 2017/18 which yielded an extra £21,600 above the figures utilised by the Budget Working Group.

Members were anxious to make a start on capital projects that would benefit the town and favoured placing any surplus into General Reserves for capital projects in the community

After careful consideration it was

## **RESOLVED**

- a) To approve the 2017/2018 budget adjusted for the latest tax-base numbers.
- b) That a zero-percentage increase to the precept be approved on the basis of £99.81 for Band D properties and submitted to HDC

## **FC/Dec 2016/ITEM 6 FUTURE CAPITAL WORKS**

The members received the draft future capital works programme for discussion prior to detailed consideration and approval at the Council meeting in January 2017

Cllr Einchcomb reminded the members that a play park at CalthorpePark had been an aspiration of the Council for several years and noted that a sum of £232,000 was available in the S106 Fund. As other Councils were cutting back there may be an opportunity to achieve the scheme at a competitive rate.

It was acknowledged that this should therefore be presented to the RLA committee in March 2017 with a view to proceeding with the scheme

Meanwhile members were invited to submit comments on the list of possible projects (by 16 December 2016) so that the capital works programme in its entirety could be considered at Council on 4 January 2017

## **RESOLVED**

To consider the capital works programme in its entirety at full Council on 4 January 2017

### **FC/Dec 2016/ITEM 7 FINANCIAL MONITORING**

The Council received:

- a) Cash book up to October 2016
- b) List of payments for October 2016
- c) List of receipts for October 2016

## **RESOLVED**

To receive into the minutes

- a) Cash book up to October 2016
- b) List of receipts up to October 2016
- c) List of Payments for October 2016

### **FC/Dec 2016/ITEM 8 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN UPDATE**

The members considered a report from Cllr Smith on the preparation of the Community Emergency Plan

The scope of the plan was intended not only to cover flooding, but other emergency situations.

Attendance at the Annual Community Resilience Event was also included in the report.

## **RESOLVED**

- a) That the initial FTC Working Group be expanded and tasked with preparing a Community Emergency Plan based upon the HCC template including guidance on how to mitigate the effect of flooding in and around Fleet.
- b) that the Annual Residents' meeting to be held on 28 March 2017 provided an excellent opportunity to display information and recruit interest from local residents, particularly those subject to flooding.

### **FC/ Dec 2016/ITEM 9 HARLINGTON DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The meeting received a report on the Harlington Development update which set out details of further meetings that had taken place between the Harlington Development Working Group, BFF and Charcoal Blue with a further meeting due to be held on 14 December 2016

Meetings with HCC will explore the option of using the first floor library space as office accommodation.

It was noted that plans for three options would be finalised in time for presentation to Council in February 2017 with a period of public consultation resulting in the outcome of the consultation being announced at the Annual Residents' meeting on 28 March 2017.

## **RESOLVED**

To agree the timescale for the project as follows:

- to consider/approve the three options at the February 2017 Council meeting
- To start the consultation with residents in mid-February
- To announce the results of the consultation at the Annual Residents Meeting in March 2017

## **FC/ Dec 2016/ITEM 10 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

The members considered the draft programme of meetings for 2017/2018  
With the correction to P& F Committee being held on 15 January 2018 (not 16 January), it was

## **RESOLVED**

To approve the timetable of meetings for 2017/2018 for presentation to the Annual Council meeting on 10 May 2017

## **FC/Dec 2016 /ITEM 11 TOWN BUSINESS RATES**

Members considered a request from the Fleet Business Partnership to support its retailers in their quest to have their business units fairly valued by the Valuation Office.

It was reported that whilst rent levels were falling, rateable valuations were increasing. Members noted that there was a right of appeal and that the local MP should be made aware of the issue

The members expressed their continuing support of local businesses and were sympathetic to their concerns.

## **FC/Dec 2016 ITEM 12 DEFIBRILLATOR**

Members were advised that Cllr Bennison had offered to financially assist with the installation of a defibrillator

Several possible locations were suggested and it was noted that generally this equipment was not subject to damage by vandals

## **RESOLVED**

- a) To seek approval from the Cricket Club to locate a defibrillator on the external wall of the clubhouse
- b) To ask HDC to relocate their defibrillator to an external wall of the Civic Offices

Cllr Forster (HDC) entered the meeting at 9.25pm during discussion of the above item

### **FC/Dec 2016 ITEM 13 NEW STAFF STRUCTURE**

The members noted the new staff structure

### **FC/ Dec 2016 ITEM 14 POST MOUNTED REAL TIME PASSENGER INFORMATION**

The members noted that a response was awaited from HCC regarding the suggested location of three Real Time Passenger Displays in Fleet

### **FC/Dec 2017 ITEM 15 NATIONAL HIGHWAYS TRANSPORT SATISFACTION SURVEY CONSULTATION**

The members noted the invitation to respond on line to the National Highways Transport Satisfaction Survey Consultation by 15 December 2016

### **FC/Dec 2016 ITEM 16 ENHANCING STANDARDS OF ROAD SAFETY**

Cllr Gotel reported on his attendance at a conference on Enhancing Standards of Road Safety 2016. His report will be emailed to all members

### **FC/Dec 2016 ITEM 17 FLEET CRICKET CLUB**

Cllr Cantle reported on his two attendances at meetings of Fleet Cricket Club  
The club was financially secure, thriving and well run with 130 players in their youth section. The Club is run entirely by volunteers.

Cllr Wheale HCC/HDC entered the meeting at 9.35pm during discussion of the above item

### **FC/Dec 2016 ITEM 18 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Oliver reported that a Technical Author had been engaged to assist with the writing of the Neighbourhood Plan . It was noted that the High Street and Regeneration were the main themes which were well supported by Fleet Future and the BID retailers.

### **FC/Dec 2016 ITEM 19 HCC/HDC**

#### **HCC**

Cllr Bennison reported on:

- Devolution

#### **HDC**

Cllr Forster reported on:

- Co-ordinated attempt to deal with bike theft
- Rough sleepers

- Unlicensed Big Issue seller
- Aggressive behaviour towards civil enforcement staff
- Litter in the High street especially after Thursday/Friday/Saturday evenings

Cllr Oliver reported on:

- Local Plan, HDC approval expected on 26 January 2017

**FC/Dec 2016 ITEM 20 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk presented her report and commented as follows:

- Oakley Park sink hole
- Works in Gurkha Square
- Works to auditorium ceiling
- S106 meeting with HDC

**FC/Dec 2016 ITEM 21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 4 January 2017 at 7pm

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 9.55 pm

**Chairman .....****Date.....**