



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
held on
Wednesday 3 December 2014
at The Harlington at 7pm

PRESENT

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

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllrs Chenery, Forster, Oliver and Woods

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Smith – item 9 – Community Infrastructure Levy Consultation

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public but attention was drawn to the fact that the Agenda had not appeared on the web site and the tree in Oakley Park obstructing the CCTV camera had not yet been cut down.

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The confidential and non-confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 5 November 2014 were approved and signed

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

Establishment Committee	5 November 2014
Development Control Committee	10 and 24 November 2014

ITEM 5 DRAFT BUDGET 2015/2016

Cllr Holt, Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee, presented his report on the progress of the building of the 2015/2016 Budget. Following meetings with both the Clerk to the Council and the Manager of the Harlington a balanced budget had been achieved.

It was explained that the accounting system used by FTC was a 'cash book' rather than a 'management accounts' system and absolute cost was not depicted (ie the coffee shop was not 'charged' for gas and electricity used)

It was noted that the budget had been developed on the basis of the current year's Government Grant to HDC being halved to parish councils for FY 15/16.

A slight increase in precept could be expected from the relatively small increase in the number of dwellings in Fleet but overall the FTC budget had been tightly drawn. Elements such as the inadequate telephone system and web site, had not been included in the figures.

Members noted the precepts for surrounding parish councils in Hart and that a 1% increase in precept realised £5,400 (56p a year on a Band D property)

It was acknowledged that FTC was of the view that the precept should not be raised without a specific reason and that earmarked reserves could be used to fund capital projects.

RESOLVED

That the budget be built on the basis of a 0% increase in the precept if that position continues to suit the budget requirement

ITEM 6 FINANCIAL MONITORING

The members received and considered the following :

a. Cash Book up to	31 October 2014
b. Bank Reconciliation up to	31 October 2014
c. List of payments up to	31 October 2014
d. Income received up to	24 November 2014
e. Expenditure payments up to	24 November 2014

RESOLVED

- a) It was confirmed that the bank reconciliation equals zero and Cllr Robinson confirmed that the bank statement matched the reconciliation and the payment schedule for 31 October 2014 and had been signed by him
- b) To receive into the minutes the Income Receipts and Expenditure statement up to 24 November 2014

ITEM 7 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2015/2016

The members considered the draft schedule of meetings for 2015/2016. Various changes were agreed which will be incorporated into the schedule and re-circulated to members

RESOLVED

To approve, with amendments, the schedule of meetings for 2015/2016, for presentation to the Annual Council Meeting on 13 May 2015

ITEM 8 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Schofield presented his report regarding the possibility of FTC undertaking the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Many Town and Parish Councils are developing Neighbourhood Plans to direct where development will take place within their area of authority.

A Neighbourhood Plan can locate development and place controls on the type and mix of housing, set design standards and define land use in general.

It could also be used to attract more development than defined by the local Plan.

It was noted that a number of parishes in Hart were progressing Neighbourhood Plans, such as Crookham Village and Odiham. Hartley Whitney, Winchfield and Church Crookham have indicated their intention to develop plans.

Central Government was offering a grant to help prepare Neighbourhood plans (£7,000), but the first tranche of cash has been exhausted and Government's willingness to top up the fund is awaited.

Indications are that £40,000 is a typical cost.

Government has tried to make Neighbourhood Plans an attractive prospect by declaring that Councils with Plans will receive 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) instead of the standard 15%.

It was noted that the adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan requires significant local consultation and ultimately a referendum.

There was a careful and thorough debate about the various advantages and disadvantages of embarking on the production of a Neighbourhood Plan particularly with regard to cost and the implications on resources with some members indicating a willingness to assist with the exercise.

RESOLVED

That a group of members proceed to undertake an investigation to establish the local willingness to assist with the production of a Neighbourhood Plan, the group to comprise Cllrs Pierce, Gray, Jasper, Gotel and Robinson together with Cllr Oliver if he is willing to serve

ITEM 9 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL) – CONSULTATION

Members were advised that HDC had published a draft CIL Charging Schedule which is the subject of a public consultation until 12 December 2014.

Members were invited to indicate whether a response should be made in the name of FTC or in the name of individual members.

It was agreed that members be invited to submit their comments to Cllr Schofield and the Town Clerk, to help facilitate informal consideration of the matter after the Development Control Committee on 8 December 2014

ITEM 10 REMEMBRANCE DAY – ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The members noted that the Royal British Legion had written to thank FTC for the arrangements and hospitality on Remembrance Sunday.

It was noted that the stopping of traffic passing the War Memorial at 11am on the 11th of November should be considered for next year's ceremony.

ITEM 11 FLEET FUTURE

Cllr Schofield reported upon a meeting between himself, HDC and Fleet Future and the on-going debate regarding future funding.

ITEM 12 HCC/HDC UPDATE

HDC

Cllr Schofield reported that the HDC Cabinet would consider a proposal to suspend consideration of pay on exit parking because of a development opportunity at Church Road, at its meeting on 4th December 2014.

Members were disappointed that no presentation about the proposals had been made to FTC and raised several areas of concern including the proposed level of parking. Cllr Schofield agreed to convey this to the Cabinet on 4th December 2014

HCC

Cllr Schofield reported that HCC funding for the County wide Dementia Awareness initiative would expire in March 2015 but it was hoped that local groups could continue the work of the initiative such as the Dementia Friendly High Street, of which Fleet was a founder member. Local Dementia Action Groups (DAGs) are being established. One is up and running in Basingstoke. The manager of the local BUPA care home in Church Crookham has indicated a willingness to lead a local DAG. FTC can be a member of the steering group and support local initiatives.

One such initiative could be to produce a local Dementia Directory sign posting local residents to the range of services and organisations supporting dementia sufferers and their carers.

Similar directories aimed at the general wellbeing of the older community have been produced by Hartley Wintney and Hook and have been well received by their local communities.

RESOLVED

That FTC would facilitate the production of a draft directory

ITEM 13 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The members received and noted the Town Clerk's report on progress. In particular the following points were raised :

- Meeting with Scouts in December regarding leases
- Opening of the new Harlington reception
- Recruitment of Maintenance Officer
- Basingbourne Paths-release of funding
- New tills in the bar and café at the Harlington
- Members invitation to the pantomime

There was a general discussion about flooding:

- Awaiting the HCC solution to flooding in Calthorpe Park
- HCC resilience meeting attended by Cllr Gotel (report circulated)
- Local flooding information was sought and should be submitted to Cllr Schofield so that a flood map could be produced.
- Cllr Gotel warned about future flooding risks and the Town Clerk agreed to circulate the Councillors Guide to Flooding

ITEM 14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 14 January 2015 at the Harlington at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm

Chairman.....Date.....