



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 1 March 2017

at The Harlington at 7.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillors Bob Schofield (Chairman), Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Alex Gray, Leslie Holt, Alan Hope, Richard Hunt, Kathy Jasper, Alan Oliver, Richard Robinson, Neil Walton, Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton- Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Cllr Bennison-HCC
Cllr Collett-HDC/HCC
Cllr Steven Parker
Cllr Forster-HDC
Cllr Makepeace-Brown-HDC
Cllr Morris-HDC
Cllr Wheale-HCC/HDC

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park
Colin Grey-Fleet and Church Crookham Society
Mark Medler Crookham Scouts –

Approx 12 representatives of Fleet Phoenix

FC/March 2017/ ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology for absence from Cllrs Gotel, Pierce and Smith

FC/March 2017/ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

FC/March 2017/ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Cllr Schofield explained the process for dealing with questions from the public and the time available. He also reminded those present that there would be an opportunity to raise questions at the public meetings to be held on 6 and 7 March 2017 when the options for The Harlington would be discussed

Cllr Forster, Denise Roch, Talvin Rihal, Joshua Meade, Reuben Rost and Maddie Brown all raised questions regarding the three options for the Harlington which were the subject of a public consultation exercise that had been launched on 25 February 2017

The questions dealt with matters such as:

- Alleged inaccurate information provided in the consultation pamphlet
- Implications for Council Tax
- Implications for the local hardware store (Bakers)
- The implications for Fleet Phoenix and lack of direct consultation
- The request for a commitment to town centre provision for youth
- Misunderstanding of the purpose of the The Point and its name
- Reluctance to answer questions from young people at the exhibition on 25 February 2017

The questions will be stored with the record minutes and will receive a response. Copies of the response will be circulated to Charlotte Tickner of Fleet Phoenix for onward transmission to the young people and all members of FTC

FC/March 2017/ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

With the amendment at item 8 (c) to read £500 (current estimate) from £250 (current estimate), the minutes and the confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday 1 February 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Council received the minutes of the following committee meeting:

Development Control Committee 13 February 2017

The Council received the notes of the following working groups:

Risk Management Working Group 25 January 2017

Highways and Transportation Working Group 13 February 2017

FC/March 2017 ITEM 5 HARLINGTON DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Cllr Schofield reported that the launch of the public consultation on the Harlington, on Saturday 25 February 2017, had been very well attended.

Many responses had already been received and these were being loaded onto the database and will be randomly verified by the company employed to analyse the public reaction.

It was emphasised that box 5 could be used to submit comments in hard copy where these could not be submitted on line

Illustrations, models and sample seating had all been available at the exhibition although Cllr Schofield pointed out that the proposals had only reached RIBA stage 1/2 and the decision on the choice of seating for example, was a long way down the line

It was confirmed that questions raised in emails were being dealt with and that a Q and A sheet was being developed for repeated questions

There was a discussion about the absence of an option 4 (do nothing) and the implications, in the consultation documents

In response to the absence of a 'business case' at the present time, it was emphasised that the existing or any renovated Harlington was not intended to be a commercial theatre. The intention was for a community facility whose costs could be subsidised by a theatre whose revenue could help to offset the cost of the community element.

It was emphasised that since withdrawal of its funding by HCC, ongoing support had been provided by FTC to Fleet Phoenix through the provision of the Point with only a modest charge for the office space within the accommodation.

FTC members agreed that it was not the function of a Town Council to run a commercial theatre for its own sake but that the commercial element of the Harlington, (arranging

concerts and shows etc) could help to reduce the level of subsidy. The business models demonstrated that the facility would continue to require a subsidy.

It was suggested that this explanation went some way to address the concern of some residents who considered they were being coerced into voting for an option without the benefit of a business case.

The historic level of subsidy by HDC reducing from £420,000 in 2008/2009 to the current FTC subsidy of £160,000 , was explained

It was hoped that a scheme that was broadly supported would emerge so that FTC would be bound to consider the outcome very carefully and serious analysis of the proposal, including the 'business case' could be undertaken.

RESOLVED

To note the current position

FC/March 2017/ITEM 6 GRANT APPLICATION- FLEET AND CHURCH CROOKHAM SOCIETY

The members considered an application for a grant of £642 from the Fleet and Church Crookham Society to promote public awareness of HDC's forthcoming consultation on the draft Local Plan by way of the distribution of a leaflet to households within the GU51 and GU52 postcode areas

RESOLVED

To approve a grant of £642 subject to FTC giving approval to the draft leaflet prior to its printing and publication

FC/March 2017/ITEM 7 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The members considered the proposal to extend the Grounds Maintenance contract from September 2017 until 31 March 2018 to align future contracts with the financial year.

The suggestion was satisfactory to the contractor and there were no financial implication for the current contract which will be retendered later on in 2017

RESOLVED

To extend the existing Grounds Maintenance contract until 31 March 2018

FC/March 2017/ITEM 8 ASSET REGISTER

Members considered the adoption of the Asset Register as at March 2017 as recommended by the Policy and Finance Committee on 20 February 2017.

RESOLVED

Subject to the addition of the Views playground, town centre benches, the Youth Shelter at Ancells Farm to adopt the Asset Register as at March 2017

FC/ March2017 /ITEM 9 1st CROOKHAM SCOUT GROUP

Mr Mark Medlar was present to explain the Scouts proposals to renovate the scout hut leased to the 1st Crookham Scout Group. The views of HDC Planners would be sought to obtain an understanding of what issues could affect planning permission but before doing so the permission of FTC as the landlord was required in principle, under the terms of the lease. The minimum work required was the replacement of the roof and the refurbishment of the building

RESOLVED

To approve in principle the alterations to or replacement of the scout hut leased to 1st Crookham Scout Group

FC/ March 2017 /ITEM 10 FLEET FUTURE

Cllr Schofield reported that he had recently attended the AGM of Fleet Future when it was decided that that the group had now completed its work and could be concluded

It was agreed that Fleet Future's valuable documents including the Town Plan placed on FTC's web site for public reference. The success of the group will be highlighted at the Annual Residents' meeting on 28 March 2017. In accordance with the constitution of Fleet Future, which is a registered Community Interest Company, the outstanding funds will be handed over to HVA, the pre-arranged beneficiary of any such funds. The Council thanked all members of Fleet Future for the excellent work they had done for the community.

FC/March 2017 /ITEM 11 HCC/HDC

HCC

Cllr Collett reported on:

- A deputation of the Residents of Ancells Farm to HCC regarding concerns about the safety of children crossing the road to reach the school buses on Ancells Road . The outcome was awaited
- An executive decision to be made on 9 March 2017 regarding a sports facility at Calthorpe Park School

Cllr Bennison reported on:

- Possible amalgamation of the HCC and IOW Fire Rescue Service
- The award of the new Highways maintenance contract to Skanska from 1 August 2017 for seven years

HDC

Cllr Morris reported on:

- Church Road carpark resurfacing works which would include a redesigned layout with an improved entrance arrangement in August 2017
- Proposed improvement to the quality of the car cleaning contract in Church Road car-park
- Due to a lack of interest by others the continuation of the Fleet Market contract but with an initiative to improve the quality

Cllr Forster reported on :

- Thanks for the grant to the Fleet Speedwatch group for new signs
- Church Road car park electric car display by a range of car manufacturers
- SW Trains upgrade to the local line to take place in August 2017 with 45-55% of trains affected
- Delivery of new litter bins to coincide with the anti-litter campaign in March and the start of the enforcement initiative in April 2017

Cllr Oliver reported on :

- Draft Local Plan which will be ready for public consultation by end of March 2017. Policy planners are now relocated in the civic offices in Fleet

FC/March 2017 ITEM 12 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk's update report was noted particularly that as no electors from the Courtmoor Ward had requested an election, FTC was now able to invite co-option applications

FC/March 2017 ITEM 13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 5 April 2017 at the Harlington at 7pm

Part 3 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the public in accordance with Section 1(2) and by reason of the confidential nature of the business of the Council, the Public and Press were excluded from the Meeting.

FC/ March 2017 ITEM 14 HARLINGTON DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

See separate minute

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