



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors: R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Chenery, K. Cottrell, P. Einchcomb, S. Engström, L. Holt, A. Hope, S Sharma Krishnmurthy, R. Richmond, R. Robinson, S Tilley, P. Wildsmith, B. Willcocks, G. Woods.

Also Present

Janet Stanton – Town Clerk
Mary Harris – Locum Committee Clerk
Councillor Mark Butcher – HDC
Councillor Adrian Collett - HCC

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr Roy Fang due to work commitments and Cllr Ellie May due to ill-health. Council was advised that Cllr Sammy Johnson had resigned. Cllr A Oliver was absent.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made by Cllrs Woods, Tilley and Einchcomb in respect of the Grant Application by the Lions, Agenda Item 11. Cllr Tilley is a Lion and Cllr Einchcomb had in the past benefitted from the Lion's Chapter 8 training and Cllr Woods has connections with the Lions.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 4 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Schofield hoped everyone had enjoyed a good summer break. He reported his attendance during the period as follows

7th July – Harlington Lease meeting, offered a conditional 99-year lease

11th July – Jubilee Wash-Up meeting with suggestion of a future Annual Event

12th July – Hart District Association of Parish and Town Councils (HDAPTC) meeting, poorly attended due to clash with Odiham PC's meeting re possible distribution centre development at Lodge Farm.

13th July – Harlington Working Group to discuss offer of 6 or 99-year lease

16th July – With Cllr Khrishnmurthy attended Friends of Oakley Park Summer Fair

19th July – Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) Planning Training session, would be worthwhile for any new members of the Development Control Committee

25th July – Civic Quarter Development Working Group to receive review of public consultation.

245 responses, 56% aged 40-60 and 30% over 60. Highest ranked vision statement 'A dynamic active town square all year round'.

Highest ranked uses:

'Knowledge Hub (library)'
'Multi-functional Community and Performance Centre'
'Dynamic Town Square'

Top success factors:

1. Improvement and enhancement of facilities
2. Attractions that will support the high street
- =3. A sustainable net carbon zero development
- =3. A viable development that can be delivered within a reasonable time-frame

Top fears:

Impact of additional housing
Spiralling cost of development
Lack of bold ambition

It was agreed that a separate finance meeting was needed with Hart District Council (HDC), Hampshire County Council and Fleet Town Council (FTC).

26th July – Business Improvement District (BIF) AGM, limited attendance. Adoption of new Articles making the BID more transparent.

6th August – 50th Anniversary of Fleet Hospital, now 52 years as anniversary delayed by Covid.

10th August – on site meeting at cemetery re path repairs

18th August- with Cllr Woods attended HCC Community Transport Funders Meeting to receive results of recent community transport consultation. Key outcome is that users would prefer to pay more rather than lose the service. Fleet Link usage has reached pre-Covid levels and the number of registered users has increased. It is hoped a similar service will continue but this won't be confirmed until November.

23rd August 2nd & 5th September - FTC lease discussions

25th August - Anti-Social Behaviour meeting organised by Cllrs Butcher and Forster

5th September – Meeting with Fleet Football Club regarding their lease.

In regard to the Community Transport Consultation the chairman confirmed that the costs to FTC were likely to remain unchanged, however other Councils may have increased costs. There was likely to be a reduced use of bus passes.

The Chairman requested that councillors read their emails on a regular basis and respond when requested for dates for meetings. He and the Clerk were currently trying to set up a Vision Planning Day but so far only 50% of councillors had responded. Responses are needed as soon as possible to enable planning for the day to go ahead. Likewise, members of the Climate Change Working Group are encouraged to respond in order that the next meeting can be programmed into the Council's schedule.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 5 HCC/HDC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Butcher thanked the Chairman for agreeing to bring this item forward on the agenda. He updated members on the following:

Anti- Social Behaviour

Regrettably the summer had seen high levels of ASB in all parishes culminating with a large (60-100) group of youths in the town centre. Despite a large number of calls to the police only one patrol car and two PCSOs were deployed. Retailers had expressed concern. Many people are engaged in identifying those involved including local headteachers. Focus is on picking out

the ring leaders and taking action against them. The trouble was believed to have been initiated as a result of rival drug dealers straying into the others patch with the 'action' stirred up by social media. Local councillors have initiated various actions

- A public meeting on 25th August
- A complaint to the Chief Constable and Police Commissioner about the poor police response.
- Sourcing alternative activities for 'bored' young people
- Involving local schools including those in Farnborough
- Use of CCTV to identify those involved
- Consideration of putting in place a Public Space Protection Order

It was hoped that there would be a better police presence in the town centre in future, in particular for events like the Christmas Festival. Cllr Butcher agreed to raise this issue.

Cllrs Butcher and Forster were thanked for their work on this issue.

Cllr Collett then updated members:

Ancells Farm

There has been a problem with cycling on footpaths in the Ancells Farm area, it is believed this is because the approaching paths on Elvetham Heath are dual use however the ones on Ancells Farm are not. Cycling logos have been painted on the footpaths to try to deter cycling.

Guidion House, Rye Close warehouse

Residents are aware that the new warehouse is nearing completion and are anxious to ensure that the conditions imposed at planning are met. Cllr Collett will monitor the situation.

- **Proposed Cove Road Care Home**

Members are aware of the proposals for a large Care Home on Cove Road. Cllr Collett will push to try and ensure there is appropriate pedestrian access, as this is not an area with adequate pedestrian access at present. Local residents had also expressed robust concerns about the proposals.

South East Water

A further closure of Cove Road is imminent – from 10th October to 31st January. The diversion is via Minley Road to Junction 4A. It is uncertain how much additional traffic this will put onto Ancells Road. It has been reported that the road surface in Cove Road remains 'bumpy' after the previous SE Water works. It is hoped that HCC will require this to be made good at the same time as the new works are completed.

Cllr Collett was thanked for his update.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A number of corrections were made to the Full Council minutes to correct spelling errors on page 3 Hong Kong and page 4 Basingstoke. Cllr Fang's previously circulated request to amend the minutes was not accepted. With these corrections the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th July 2022 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

Matter arising

In response to a query, it was noted that Rushmoor Borough Council had halved their funding to the Basingstoke Canal citing the fact that other councils are not paying their fair share. There had been no feedback yet on the meeting.

The Council received and noted the minutes of the following Committees:

Policy and Finance
Development Control

20th July 2022
11th & 25th July 2022, 8th and 22nd August 2022

The Chairman advised Council that he wished to place one item, in relation to 'a contractual matter' in the confidential portion of the agenda. There was no objection.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 7 INVESTMENT

Members queried why this matter had come to full Council. It was suggested that this was because the next meeting of Policy and Finance was some time away and investment rates were on their way up. In the light of the rapidly changing financial situation the Chairman recommended that this could be deferred for consideration by the Policy and Finance Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Investment Report be deferred to the next meeting of Policy and Finance.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 8 FINANCIAL MONITORING

Members noted receipt of

- a. The bank reconciliation for July 2022
- b. The list of receipts for July 2022
- c. The list of payments for July 2022

The June reconciliation, receipts and payments having been distributed at the July Policy and Finance committee.

Cllr Robinson confirmed inspection of the June and July 2022 bank reconciliations which were in order, he signed the bank statements and payment schedules.

RESOLVED to accept into the Minutes

- The bank reconciliation for July 2022
- The list of receipts for July 2022
- The list of payments for July 2022
- To confirm that the bank reconciliations for June and July 2022 equal zero and that the bank statements match the reconciliations.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 9 RISK MANAGEMENT

Members received the minutes of the Risk Management Working Group and the updated Risk Register.

RESOLVED

- To approve the minutes of the Risk Management Working Group 20th July 2022.
- To approve the Risk Register.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 10 EXTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

Following a brief discussion of the options report for External Audit procurement it was noted that

- The costs for independent Audit would be greater than use of the managed scheme
- Independent procurement would require a formal tender process
- The Clerk recommended continued membership of the managed scheme

RESOLVED

To remain with the External Auditor central procurement regime for the accounting period 2022/23 – 2026/27.

The Chairman was pleased to report that Fleet Town Council had just heard that they had received a clean Audit for 2021/22. The Clerk was congratulated on this excellent achievement.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 11 GRANT APPLICATION

Members discussed a Grant Application submitted by The Lions, £1,400 for a trailer and £2,700 for Chapter 8 volunteer training. Although the Council may have insufficient Grant funding available to cover both requests.

Members expressed the view that the trailer was needed however they were unsure how many new volunteers the Lions would be able to attract to undertake training. Members were aware that the Lions provide a very valuable road closure service for many local town events e.g. the Carnival, Christmas Festival and charge a small fee for this. It was felt that the Lions should be more commercial in their approach, thereby building up a reserve to cover such eventualities as equipment purchases and training for the future. As the Lions' service also benefits other Parishes not just Fleet they might also approach them for grant funding.

RESOLVED

To agree a grant up to a maximum of £1,400 for the purchase of a trailer.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 12 SCHOOL'S CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS COMPETITION

A paper by Cllr Cottrell was discussed, the proposed competition is focused on children and young people with the aim of making 'Fleet' aware that Fleet Town Council is responsive to the issues of climate change and has set itself goals. It is hoped that the competition may bring forward innovative ideas which the Council can use. It was agreed that the proposal required more work but was an opportunity to engage a large section of the local community. Prizes would be awarded to both the individual winners and their schools. Fleet Town Council had committed £200 to the prize fund and individual councillors also pledged to give funds and approach local businesses to seek their involvement and sponsorship.

RESOLVED

That the competition be referred back for design and action by the Climate Change Working Group.

Cllrs Butcher and Collett left the meeting at 8.15pm.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 13 CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSURE

Members noted the Clerk's proposal for closure of the Council Offices over the Christmas / New Year period. She confirmed that Harlington staff involved with the pantomime will not be subject to the proposed closure but will work the hours required for the performances.

RESOLVED

To approve the closure of Fleet Town Council Offices from 12 midday on Friday 23rd December to 9am on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 14 FLEET TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

The Chairman had met Fleet Football Club with other members of the Lease Working Group to discuss renewal of their lease. A 20-year lease was proposed with standard terms and conditions in line with other organisations leases from FTC. After taking professional advice the new rental is to be set at £10,000pa, however it is proposed to continue with the current agreement to waive the majority of the rent with FTC paying £2,000 pa. There would be some

flexibility around this with the potential to increase the amount if the Club breach their terms and conditions or if problems arise as a result of FTFC's use of the premises.

It has come to the attention of FTC that as of now no new lease can be made for a property that does not have at least Level E as a EPC Energy Rating. FTC has arranged for an energy assessment of the Football Club and the results are awaited.

RESOLVED

That the Chairman continue discussions with FTFC with a view to finalising the lease.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 15 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Members received a revised list of the Membership of Committees and Working Groups. Cllr Tilley pointed out that she had been omitted from the CCWG, furthermore some rearrangement would be necessary following Cllr Sammy Johnson's resignation. A further revised list would be brought to a future meeting.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 16 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Members noted the arrangements for Sunday 13th November at the Harlington.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 17 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS and LUNCH

Members noted the arrangements for the Christmas Lights switch-on on Wednesday 23rd November 2022, also that planning is underway for the Christmas Day lunch at the Harlington for those on their own at Christmas. Volunteers are required for both events, names to Charlotte Benham please.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 18 TOWN CLERK's REPORT

The Clerk reported that

- The new Executive Officer Rochelle Halliday starts work with FTC on 3 October 2022, she has been enabled to have a handover from the outgoing Clerk.
- The Chairman's Coffee Morning for Courtmoor Ward is on Saturday 17 September and for Central Ward on 15 October.
- A sewerage leak outside the Girl Guide Hut has been cleaned-up and repaired. This was an unbudgeted expense.
- There were no vaccinations in August. The Harlington will be further used as a Vaccination Centre from September onwards.

FC SEPTEMBER 2022 ITEM 19 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Council is on Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 7pm in The Function Room of The Harlington.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed..... **Date**.....

Chairman