

**FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

held on

Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Chenery, K. Cottrell, R. Fang, L. Holt, E. May, A. Oliver, R. Richmond, R. Robinson, D. Taylor, S. Tilley, B. Willcocks, G. Woods.

In Attendance: Rochelle Halliday - Executive Officer
Councillor Steve Forster - HCC
Councillor Stephen Parker – HCC

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 1

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Einchcomb (away), Engström (unwell), Hope (unwell) and Krishnamurthy (away).

An apology of absence was received from Cllr Collett (HCC).

Cllr Wildsmith was absent.

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made for any item on the agenda.

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 3

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 4

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Schofield reported his attendance during the period as follows:

- 16th October- attended the on-line Greening Campaign pillars meeting to hear speakers present more detail on the focus of each pillar and how expert support will be available to assist volunteers. There was a good turn out from members of the public interested in being involved in the campaign.
- 17th October- attended the Hart District Association of Parish and Town Councils (HDAPTC) meeting along with Cllr Einchcomb and the Executive Officer. There was a disappointing turn out from Council Members and no representative from Hart District Council. There was an interesting presentation on Woodland Management which promoted collaboration between local Councils and adjoining landowners to develop woodland management schemes.
- 19th October- Met with the representative of the Royal British Legion to confirm details of Remembrance Day Commemoration. The service will be held at All Saints Church this year.
- 20th October- attended along with Cllr Woods to the Fleet Phoenix Youth Achievement Awards which was a well run evening recognising the efforts of some very resourceful young people and hopefully dispels the negative comments aimed at our youth in general. If this event is repeated hopefully the Town Council will sponsor at least one award.

Fleet Phoenix have appealed for bottles to go on the charity's stall at the Christmas Festivities. Any donations can be dropped into the Fleet Phoenix office on Tuesdays or Fridays between 13:30 and 16:30 or Wednesdays at 16:00-18:30.

- 24th October- Attended a meeting with the Executive Officer the Leader of Hart District Council and the Chief Executive for an information sharing session, the first of scheduled quarterly meetings. The Hart District Council's position of putting the Civic Quarter development on hold has been re-stated. Hart District Council confirmed their receipt of our comments on the draft Harlington Lease only just before the meeting and will respond in due course.
- 31st October- met with the Hart District Council Environmental Officer to review the position on the Public Sector De-Carbonisation Scheme (PSDS) grant submission which has been deferred until 7th November following system problems with the initial submission date.

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 5 HCC/HDC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following reports were received from Hampshire County Council and Hart District Council.

Cllr Stephen Parker (HCC)

- Cllr Parker was inspired by the Fleet Phoenix Youth Awards.
- The consultation by Hampshire County Council regarding specialist care and in house health services will close on the 12th November.
- The Parish profile page on the Hart District Council website is a useful source of information.
- Hampshire County Council is providing extra finance for Ukraine family support to be provided.
- Hampshire County Council has a driver scheme for Hampshire residents aged 60 and over.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner has confirmed that the Yateley Police Station is to reopen and they are currently looking at other sites. Suggestions for potential locations are welcome.
- Working on recycling disposable vapes and as they could be combustible in general refuse vehicles. Also, currently lobbying Government to ban them.
- There are road improvements on Reading Road South. The pedestrian crossing beacons by Tesco Express are being replaced with the halo type to make the crossing more visible.

Cllr Alan Oliver (HDC)

- In discussions regarding the Police Station, there are no obvious locations that are visible at present.
- The shoplifting issues are being raised with Police and setting up local schemes to improve the reporting and prosecutions of shoplifting.
- The disc security system being implemented in the shops has been funded from Fleet BID.

Cllr Forster (HCC)

- The libraries have opened their warm hubs and welcome scheme across the County.
- The storm forecast is expecting some serious damage in the County over the next few days.
- Various HCC highway repairs have been completed in the area to improve the road surfaces.
- Fleet Town Council was thanked for the article in Town Talk requesting volunteers for Fleet Speed Watch.

- Safety measures on Upper Street, Albert Street and Connaught Road are being implemented.
- Police are considering facial recognition technology to identify shoplifters.

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 6

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

An amendment to the Council minutes on page 2 Item 5 Cllr Collett statement ‘there are no civilian support staff’ should read ‘there are reduced civilian support staff’.

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th October 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman subject to the amendment detailed above.

The confidential minutes of the Council meeting 4th October 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

- Development Control 9th October 2023
- Policy and Finance 18th October 2023

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 7

VISION FOR FLEET STATEMENT

Members received the Council’s Vision Statement for Fleet and members discussed the following:

- To re-word the third bullet point ‘Providing opportunities’ to ‘Providing ambitious opportunities.’
- Bullet point 6, safer environment. Members discussed if this is something that can be directly controlled. Members discussed that this was more to do with liaison and influencing rather than have a budgetary implication and need to consider the positive action that could be taken to fulfil this objective.

The statements need developing once Council have gathered comments from residents at the market stall.

RESOLVED

To approve the proposed Vision for Fleet Statement subject to the change in bullet point 3.

Cllrs Parker and Forster left the meeting at 7:40pm.

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 8

CORE VALUES STATEMENT

Members received the Council’s Core Values Statement.

RESOLVED

To approve the proposed Core Values Statement for the Council.

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 9

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Members received event information for Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas Festival.

Remembrance Sunday – 12th November 2023

Members discussed the request to insure the road closure activities on Remembrance Sunday. The Lions, who organise the closure, are no longer insured for the activity. It was noted that the Executive Officer has reviewed the event plans and risk assessment.

Members were concerned about the financial liability of covering the road closures and requested that Hart District Council are approached to see if they will cover the activity. If the District Council will not cover the event, Members discussed the Town Council insuring it on a one-off basis.

Christmas Festival – 22nd November 2023

Members discussed insuring the Fleet Town Council elements of the Christmas Festival event and the associated road closures. Since the Council has oversight of the event, Members were satisfied with the proposal. The event plans and risk assessment have been reviewed by the Executive Officer.

RESOLVED

- 1) To ask Hart District Council if they will insure the road closure activity for Remembrance Sunday.
- 2) If Hart District Council decline to insure the road closures on Remembrance Sunday, that Fleet Town Council approve insuring the activity on a one-off basis.
- 3) To approve the activities to take place at the Christmas Festival on 22nd November 2023 and to provide the insurance for the event as required.
- 4) To note the risk assessments and arrangements for all aspects of the Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Festival events have been checked by the Executive Officer.

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 10

COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

Members received an update on the preparation of the Council's budget for the next financial year. Members discussed that all Councillors are to comment on the draft budget. The Executive Officer will send the draft budget to all Councillors.

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 11

COMPLAINTS

No new complaints have been received since the last meeting.

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 12

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Fleet Town Council will be holding a stall at Fleet Market and hoping to have a monthly engagement session with residents. Councillors encouraged to attend a session in the future.

Stagecoach bus changes were made possible thanks to the joint community lobbying for a change to the timetable.

Members noted the Executive Officers report.

FC NOVEMBER 2023 ITEM 13

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted the time and date of the next Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 6th December 2023 at 7pm in The Harlington.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm.

**Signed.....
Chairman**

Date:.....