



## **FLEET TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

held on

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
at The Harlington at 7pm

#### **PRESENT**

**Councillors:** R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Chenery, P. Einchcomb, R. Harrison, L. Holt, K. Jasper, J, A. Oliver, D. Pierce, S. Tilley, S. Wheale, G. Woods.

#### **Also Present**

Janet Stanton – Town Clerk  
Susanna Walker – Committee Clerk  
Councillor Adrian Collett – HCC  
Councillor John Bennison – HCC  
Councillor Steve Forster – HDC  
Representative from Friends of Oakley Park

#### **FC Jan 2020 ITEM 1                      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies from Councillor Ashworth, Councillor Hope, Councillor Robinson and Councillor Wright.

#### **FC Jan 2020 ITEM 2                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Oliver declared an interest in Item 7 (Climate Change Policy and Action Plan).

#### **FC Jan 2020 ITEM 3                      QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from the public.

#### **FC Jan 2020 ITEM 4                      MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

With the amendment of “FTC owns the War Memorial and the land on which it stands” for Item 11, 1<sup>st</sup> bullet point and the addition “land on which the War Memorial stands” for Item 11, Resolved, the minutes of the Council held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Following this, members discussed FC Dec 2019 Item 13 Environmental Noise Pollution – Hartland Village. It was noted that although the noise level has improved, it has changed the nuisance. It was agreed that FTC would contact St Edward Property to follow this up.

The Council also received the minutes of the following Committees and Working Groups:

RLA	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
Development Control	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2019

## **FC Jan 2020 ITEM 5            HCC / HDC UPDATE**

### **HCC**

Councillor Bennison reported on the following:

- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 is the start of a 10 week consultation of the library services across Hampshire.
- As of Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, all Hampshire residents can use any Hampshire Household Waste Recycling Centre for free as long as their vehicles are registered. Each household can register up to 3 vehicles (not commercial) per address. If the car is not registered, there will be a £5 charge to use the Waste Centre. The website link to register vehicles for this will be added to the FTC Newsletter.
- There are a number of Waste Recycling Centres near county borders, in particular Dorset. Hampshire has agreed a contract with Dorset, whereby residents near the Centre can continue to use it, actively encouraging waste recycling and reducing fly tipping.
- The first HCC Cabinet meeting was held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, where a Climate Change Cabinet paper was discussed. HCC have a commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- HCC account for 1% of Hampshire's overall carbon emissions, the majority of which comes from transport and domestic energy. HCC are dedicated to helping parishes and town councils reduce their own emissions, as well as local businesses and residents.
- HCC have revoked their policy prohibiting construction of wind turbines on County Council land.

Councillor Collett reiterated to the Members about the Waste Recycling Centres and HCC Climate Change plan. He reported on the following:

- Special thanks was given to Councillors Woods, Wildsmith and Schofield for their support in helping with the removal of trees causing a public nuisance at Ancells Farm.
- There is uncertainty over Brexit, particularly for non-UK EU citizens. HCC is seeking to provide assurance and signpost Hampshire residents to advice about the EU Settlement Scheme, which will be outlined in their newsletter.

## HDC

Councillor Forster discussed the following:

- There are a number of serious roadworks happening in Fleet, including Fleet Road and Crookham Road.
- If residents need to report any damage to roads or pavements, they need to go direct to Hampshire's website to arrange visits and emergency repairs. Any other websites used will delay affecting any repairs.
- Calthorpe Park School's planning application is going through, with more details being provided next month. The planned works do not cover road access or traffic safety. HCC and HDC are working together to allocate funding for this.
- South Western Trains.

### **FC Jan 2020 ITEM 6                      PRECEPT/BUDGET APPROVAL 2020/2021**

Members noted that the tax base for calculation of the FTC Council Tax 2020/2021 had been received from HDC which was lower than projected. In line with the resolution passed by Council at the November 2019 Council Meeting a balanced budget has been achieved with a 3% increase in the 2020/2021 FTC Council tax rate should be applied, it was confirmed that the precept for 2020/2021 will be £1,084,358.04 which equates to ££102.80 per Band D Property.

Members also received precept statement and the amended budget for 2020/2021 which takes the above into account

#### **RESOLVED**

- a) To approve the revised budget for 2020/2021.
- b) To approve for signature the 2020/2021 precept statement of £1,084,358.04.

### **FC Jan 2020 ITEM 7                      CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND ACTION PLAN**

Members received a copy of HDC's Climate Change Policy. It was noted that through the increased use of green energy by the main utility suppliers, the carbon emissions in the District had dropped. Members discussed that transport and domestic energy are both still major contributors in carbon emission and that FTC although it will take all measures to reduce its carbon footprint, should become a signposting agency to support residents with information about green energy and encouraging a broader commitment to achieving zero carbon.

It was agreed that Councillor Oliver will send a copy of HDC's Action Plan to the Town Clerk, to distribute to all councillors.

#### **RESOLVED**

Councillors Chenery, Holt, Jasper, Schofield, Tilley and Woods will form a small Working Group to review HDC's Climate Change Policy and Action Plan, develop FTC Policy and propose ways FTC can help to reduce the overall carbon footprint in Fleet.

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 8****LASER ENERGY CONTRACT**

Members received copies of the LASER Energy Contract to be renewed, plus a green energy paper considering the cost of the green energy option and purchase of green energy certificates.

It was noted by the Chairman that the LASER energy contract paperwork had been prepared before Christmas 2019, in particular the paperwork regarding the purchase of green energy certificates as part of the LASER contract. Members learnt that since then, further information has been acquired regarding the purchase of the certificates. It was discussed that the certificates were tradable but any monies raised by the certificates went back to the energy supplier with no commitment that the funds were to be used in securing more green supply infrastructure.

Members also discussed the following:

- HCC's contract with LASER Energy is to be renewed at the end of 2020. HCC have approached LASER to find out how much green energy LASER uses. Councillor Bennison will report back on the progress with LASER Energy.
- Members asked that FTC defers signing the new LASER energy contract until the given deadline of end of March 2020, giving Councillor Bennison the opportunity to report on the negotiations with LASER Energy.

**RESOLVED**

- Members agreed in principle to approve the continued use of LASER contract to supply gas and electricity provided through Hampshire County, but to defer signing the contract until after the Council Meeting in March 2020, and further clarification on the level of green energy supplied to be supplied through the contract.
- The recommendation to purchase the green energy certificates was withdrawn. It was agreed that the equivalent amount of money be put aside to be used for FTC to take positive action with making the buildings greener, therefore making a positive contribution to carbon reduction.

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 9****ACTION DAY**

The members considered the suggested date for Action Day 2020 and

**RESOLVED**

That Action Day be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 10****SHAPING A GREEN GRID FOR HART**

Members received a copy of an invitation by HDC to a workshop "Shaping a Green Grid for Hart".

**RESOLVED**

Councillors Harrison and Schofield will both attend the workshop on behalf of FTC.

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 11            FINANCIAL MONITORING**

Members received the financial monitoring information at November 2019.

The question was raised whether the documents had been reconciled, but due to absence, the bank account had not been independently reconciled. It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

That the financial reports for November 2019 be put onto the Agenda for the Council Meeting in February 2020.

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 12            NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Members noted that the Neighbourhood Plan has now been completed and will be printed out and available on the website in the next few days. Special thanks was given to Councillor Tilley for all her efforts and hard work in helping to put this together.

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 13            ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REVIEW**

Members received and noted the Annual Health and Safety Review.

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 14            HARLINGTON DEVELOPMENT**

Members received a verbal update on the Harlington Development Report. It was reported that following a meeting with the contractor in December 2019, the Chairman and Town Clerk clarified a number of issues, including a deviation from the original plan of defects and categorisations. The draft report is expected by the end of January 2020.

A working group will be convened to look at the report extensively and review it, before the report is released into the public domain.

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 15            ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

Members received and noted the report that the land to the north-west side of Fleet Road (incorporating Gurkha Square and the War Memorial) has been listed as an Asset of Community Value, lasting for a period of 5 years. It was also noted that this only comes into effect if FTC intend to sell the land on which the War Memorial stands on.

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 16            TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Members received and noted the verbal update of the Town Clerk's Report. Special mention was given about the Christmas Day Lunch, which was well received and at capacity, with approximately 80 people attending. It was discussed that if the main hall was available, numbers would be greater, but due to the non-retractable seating in the hall for pantomime, this is not possible.

The Chairman noted that the Christmas Day Lunch is a first class community event and is a great credit to Fleet. Special thanks was given to all the volunteers and supporters of the event, especially Charlotte Benham from FTC.

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 17            DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at the Harlington at 7.00pm.

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

**Signed**.....

**Date:**.....

**Chairman**

**Part 3 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**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 Town Council, the Public and Press will be excluded from the Meeting**

**The following types of business will be treated as confidential:**

- a. Engagement, terms of service, conduct and dismissal of employees**
- b. Terms of tenders, and proposals and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts**
- c. Preparation of cases in legal proceedings**
- d. The early stages of any dispute**

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 18            FLEET MARKET**

Separate confidential minute

**FC Jan 2020 ITEM 19            CALTHORPE PARK PLAY AREA**

Separate confidential minute