



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL RECREATION, LESIURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 17th June 2020 at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors: G. Carpenter, G. Chenery, P. Einchcomb (Chairman), L. Holt, K. Jasper, A. Oliver, B. Schofield, S. Tilley, P. Wildsmith, G. Woods, J. Wright.

Also Present: Janet Stanton - Town Clerk
Susanna Walker - Committee Clerk
Charlotte Benham - Project and Committee Officer
Sian Taylor - Cemetery Officer
Alex Robins - Harlington General Manager
Ben Crane - Facilities and Open Spaces Manager

RLA June 2020 ITEM 1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Due to technical issues, the outgoing Vice-Chairman, Councillor Woods, started the meeting, and called for nominations for Chairman. One nomination for Councillor Paul Einchcomb, was received and seconded.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Einchcomb be re-elected to the office of Chairman of Recreation, Leisure & Amenities for the local government year 2020/2021.

RLA June 2020 ITEM 2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

The Vice-Chairman called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman. One nomination for Councillor Woods was received seconded.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Woods be re-elected to the office of Vice-Chairman of Recreation, Leisure & Amenities for the local government year 2020/2021.

RLA June 2020 ITEM 3 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

RLA June 2020 ITEM 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

RLA June 2020 ITEM 5 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

RLA June 2020 ITEM 6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18th March 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

RLA June 2020 ITEM 7 THE CEMETERY OFFICER'S REPORT

Members considered a report from the Cemetery Officer, which provided an update on a number of items. The following matters were discussed:

- Signage and gates for the Cemetery to be positioned in two places: 1 set of signs on Crookham Road and 1 set of gates on Richard Close, Cemetery Road.
- There is currently a problem with cars being parked along Richard Close. Proposed gates to be positioned along Richard Close to combat this.
- Support for the cemetery signs, as a number of local residents do not know where the cemetery is.
- The cost of signage on the gates rather than on poles is an additional £1000.00 – should FTC be spending extra money at this time?
- The cemetery signs on 3m poles are too high – could the poles be shorter?
- Do the cemetery signs on Crookham Road obstruct the view for vehicles coming out of the road?
- Shrubs could be placed under the poles to make them more aesthetically pleasing.
- Gates will not require any maintenance.
- Positioning of both cemetery signs and gates needs clarification.
- Mock up plan of positioning of signs and gates to be drawn up, and circulated to all members.
- Due to the pandemic and the Council's current financial situation, only essential works are being carried out. However, when funding does become available for the signs and gates, the installation could be undertaken in two parts, spreading the cost.

RESOLVED

- To note the report of the Cemetery Officer.
- To defer the decision of the cemetery signage until the RLA meeting in September 2020.
- To create a mock-up of the proposed signage and gates and proposed positions on the roads.

RLA June 2020 ITEM 8 THE FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACES MANAGER'S REPORT

Members received the report of the FOSM for the March – May 2020 quarter. The following matters were discussed:

- The Views skate park remains closed, as it is classified as a play area and not an open space. Government guidelines dictate that play areas cannot be opened at this time.
- FTC is following government guidelines on all parks, play areas and open spaces.
- Notices have been distributed and placed on the FTC website and social media giving out information on activities which can now take place in the parks, playgrounds and open spaces.
- Benches along the High Street have recently been refurbished and red tape was tied across them to stop people sitting on them whilst the wood treatment dried.

- Now the government guidelines have been eased, the public are able to sit on public seating for as long as they like provided they observe social distancing with people outside their own household.
- Thanks were given to the FOSM for all his hard work in the parks and outside spaces especially during the peak of the pandemic.

RESOLVED

To note the report of the FOSM.

RLA June 2020 ITEM 9 THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT

The report of the General Manager of the Harlington for the period April – May 2020 was presented. Due to the current coronavirus situation in the country, there were no performance totals or summaries in the report. Members discussed the following:

- There have been 3 blood donor sessions at The Harlington since the beginning of lockdown, as this was deemed an essential service by the government.
- The pre-school at Ancells Farm has now reopened.
- FTC is looking to work with the pre-school to make the hire more cost effective for both parties. Currently without any other hires allowed in the building, the income received from the pre-school is nearly the same as the additional expenditure incurred by FTC to open the building.
- Work is being carried out in the auditorium in The Harlington to check the condition of the roof beams, lighting bar and false ceiling.
- FTC has requested quotes for a new lighting bar, which is delayed due to staff being furloughed and the current working situation.
- An inspection of the auditorium was carried out on Monday 16th June and FTC is awaiting this report. However, the beams on the plan are not the beams currently in place, therefore there is a possibility of potential work to be done.

RESOLVED

To note the report of the General Manager.

RLA June 2020 ITEM 10 FUTURE EVENTS

Members received a copy of the following calendar of events and noted the following:

<i>19th - 22nd June 2020</i>	<i>The Views</i>	<i>Food Festival – CANCELLED</i>
<i>4th July 2020</i>	<i>Calthorpe Park/Fleet Road</i>	<i>Fleet Carnival – CANCELLED</i>
<i>18th July 2020</i>	<i>Basingbourne Park</i>	<i>Fun Run – CANCELLED</i>
<i>19th – 22nd June 2020</i>	<i>The Views</i>	<i>Food Festival – CANCELLED</i>
<i>July / August 2020</i>	<i>The Views</i>	<i>SCAMJAM – CANCELLED</i>
<i>29th August 2020</i>	<i>The Views</i>	<i>Open Air Cinema – CANCELLED</i>
<i>13th September 2020</i>	<i>RIDE 20</i>	<i>CANCELLED</i>
<i>7th November 2020</i>	<i>Calthorpe Park</i>	<i>Fireworks</i>
<i>8th November 2020</i>	<i>The Harlington</i>	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>
<i>December 2020</i>	<i>The Harlington</i>	<i>Christmas Festivities</i>

Members discussed the following:

- With the exception of the fireworks display, Remembrance Sunday and the Christmas festivities, all other events had been cancelled due to the current situation.

RLA June 2020 ITEM 11 CLERKS REPORT

Members received an update from the Clerk, and noted the following:

- Friends of Basinbourne Park have created a presentation and report, and requested a mid-term review of the park development plan.
- Members from the Parks and Open Spaces Working Group will look at what has been done so far and review, bringing findings back to the RLA meeting in September 2020.
- It was agreed that the working group will consist of 4 members: Councillor Carpenter, Councillor Jasper, Councillor Oliver and Councillor Woods.
- Particular focus would be made of the flooding and environmental agency issues.
- All members to have a copy of the FOBP presentation.
- There has been a request to FTC for a car boot sale to be held on FTC land eg. The Views, every Sunday 0700-1300 from July and August 2020. Members agreed with the Clerk’s view that holding the car boot sale on park land would restrict access for the public and increase the wear and tear on the park land itself.
- The Clerk suggested that a potential place to have a car boot sale is one of the car parks and will be talking to HDC about the matter.
- A Car Boot sale could attract people into Fleet Town Centre.
- The new Market Operator will take over the market in Gurkha Square on 18th July 2020 and hopefully launched at the beginning of August 2020.
- There are a number of small groups of up to 6 people requesting football training and exercising in the parks.

RLA June 2020 ITEM 12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next virtual meeting of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee will be held Wednesday 16th September 2020 at 7.00pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.07pm.

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

Chairman