



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 13 January 2016

at The Harlington at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors Richard Robinson (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Steve Cattle, Grahame Chenery, Paul Einchcomb, Alex Gray, Leslie Holt, Kathy Jasper, Alan Oliver, Dai Pierce, Jeff Smith, Neil Walton

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Alex Robins-General Manager The Harlington
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Cllr Bennison-HCC
Mr Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park
Mr George Woods

FC Jan 16 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology for absence from Cllrs Forster, Hope, Schofield and Wright

FC Jan 16 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FC Jan 16 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public

FC Jan 16 ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting of the Council held on 21 December 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman

The Council received the minutes of the following meetings:

Development Control Committee	7 and 21 December 2015
Establishment Committee	9 December 2015 (add the attendance of Cllr Einchcomb)
RLA Committee	16 December 2015

(Cllr Walton entered the meeting at 7.09pm)

FC Jan 16 ITEM 5 DRAFT 2016-2017 BUDGET AND SETTING OF COUNCIL PRECEPT(taken after item 17)

The members received a report which set out the background to the budget and precept setting of the 2016/2017 Council Tax level. It had already been agreed that the Council Tax level be set at £99.81 and HDC had been informed accordingly.

Following discussion regarding removal of the Rate Support Grant it was

RESOLVED unanimously

- a) a precept of £99.81 for a Band D property be formally approved and submitted to HDC
- b) that the 2016/2017 draft budget be considered by the Policy and Finance Committee on 25 January 2016 with a view to the formulation of a recommendation to Council on 3 February 2016

FC Jan 16 ITEM 6 HART DISTRICT COUNCIL REFINED HOUSING OPTIONS AND VISION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The members considered the draft response to the HDC consultation on the Refined Housing Options and Vision and Strategic Priorities.

It was reported that following the extra-ordinary meeting of Council on 21 December 2015, the proposed response to HDC had been drafted.

Following a discussion regarding the basis of the settlement hierarchy, it was

RESOLVED

That the proposed response be approved but that HDC be urged to reconsider the hierarchy structure on the basis of the ability of settlements to support future housing growth (rather than the size of the existing settlement)

FC Jan 16 ITEM 7 FLEET PARKING CHARGES CONSULTATION

The members considered the proposed response to the Fleet Parking Charge consultation which had been based on the earlier discussion of the working group. The proposal to charge for the parking element of electric bays(but not the electrical charging element) and the status of Gurkha Square as a short term car park, was confirmed.

RESOLVED

- a) To agree with the proposed car parking charges but with the electric charging spaces to be based on the same parking charge regime as the other car parking spaces to prevent abuse and queuing
- b) That the possible loss of the Hype space to facilitate EV charging bays, is unacceptable without agreed alternative arrangements

FC Jan 16 ITEM 8 PANTOMINE 2015-PRELIMINARY REPORT

The members received and noted a preliminary report on the outcome of The Christmas2015pantomime

FC Jan 16 ITEM 9 SECTOR LED BODY FOR EXTERNAL AUDITSCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2016/2017

It was reported that as a result of the abolition of The Audit Commission in April 2015, the arrangements for external audit will be changed from April 2017. It was explained that in future FTC would be able to choose between a "sector-led body" or to procure its own external auditor.

It was noted that the deadline for determining the matter had been extended to 31 March 2016 and that the latest information update was awaited.

It was noted that the matter would be considered at a future Council meeting prior to 31 March 2016

FC Jan 16 ITEM 10 FLEET CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The members noted a letter of thanks from the Fleet Christmas Festival Committee regarding the successful Christmas 2015 festivities

FC Jan 16 ITEM 11 ORDER UNDER S 21 OF THE TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847

The members noted that a Road Closure Order had been applied for under the Town Police Clauses Act 1947 between Hitches Lane and Pilcot Road on Monday 2 May 2016 between 08.30-13.00 hours . Members were invited to submit any objections to HDC

FC Jan 16 ITEM 12 LAND AT FARNHAM ROAD FLEET LEASED TO THE SCOUTS

Members noted that the transfer of land leased to the Scouts at Farnham Road, from HDC to FTC, would not proceed as terms could not be agreed

FC Jan 16 ITEM 13 FLEET FUTURE

It was noted that:

- work was proceeding on the formulation of a BID submission
- a meeting to consider possible projects would be held on 27 January 2016
- HDC Cabinet had approved funds for the BID
- A meeting with traders would be held in February 2016

FC Jan 16 ITEM 14 HCC/HDC

HDC

- The Housing Options consultation would close on 15 January 2016
- Grant funding to be reduced by 46% over the next four years and replaced with a contribution from Business Rates

HCC

- The full implications of the Government’s Autumn Statement resulted in a cut of £ 48m (rather than the £19m originally estimated)
- Real possibility of a 3.99% council tax increase
- Fire Service consultation had closed and was likely to lead to a rise in precept of £1.40pa
- The devolution debate continues but this may result in the requirement to accept more housing development

FC Jan 16 ITEM 15 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

The members received and noted the Town Clerk’s report. Particular attention was drawn to:

- The resignation of Cllr Woods and the need to advertise a Casual Vacancy for 14 working days
- The results of the Community Governance Review were expected in April 2016
- The meeting of HDAPTC on 19 January 2016-Cllr Walton to attend in Cllr Schofield’s absence

FC Jan 16 ITEM 16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Wednesday 3 February 2016 at the Harlington at 7pm.

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 further business of the Council , the Public and Press were excluded from the Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.47 pm

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