

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

held on
Wednesday 4th October 2023 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Chenery, P. Einchcomb, R. Fang, L. Holt, A. Hope, S Krishnamurthy, E. May, A. Oliver, R. Richmond, R. Robinson, D. Taylor, S. Tilley, G. Woods.

In Attendance: Sarah Moore- Finance and Administration Manager
Louise Rogers – Administration Support Officer
Councillor Steve Forster – HCC
Councillor Adrian Collett - HCC
Friends of Oakley Park Representative
2 Members of the public

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cottrell (illness), Engström (illness), and Willcocks (work commitments).

An apology was received from the Executive Officer due to illness.

Cllr Wildsmith was absent.

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Schofield reported his attendance during the period as follows:

- Since the last Council meeting have attended 3 meetings regarding the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). The declared closing date is now 10th October.
- Along with the Executive Officer met with representatives of the Fleet Baptist pre-school to discuss both the current and future accommodation for the pre-school. The school is now viable and has a full quota of children. In any future plans the school would like to have exclusive occupation of an area of the Harlington. The current situation and potential programme for refurbishment of the Harlington was discussed and agreed that Fleet Town Council will keep the school informed of any firm developments.
- Met with the Leader of Hart District Council for an informal meeting to review a broad range of subjects including the Harlington Lease, the PSDS grant, the Civic Quarter and future plans for the Harlington. A formal meeting will be convened in the next couple of weeks.

- Attended the October Fleet BID Board Meeting and an informal meeting with BID levy payers to explore new projects/initiatives. There had been some negativity about the BID triggered potentially by issuing of summons for nonpayment of the levy. All businesses inside the BID are legally required to pay an additional 2% on their business rate.

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 5 HCC/HDC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Cllr Forster (HCC)

- Cllr Forster thanked members for the PSDS grant application which is proceeding smoothly.
- There are a number of public consultations by Hampshire County Council, which can be viewed on the Hampshire County Council website.
- There have been 82 anti-social behaviour reports related to the Hart shopping centre last week. New reports have been logged this week regarding anti-social motorcycle activity along the high street. Police are aware.
- School term dates are being released shortly from Hampshire County Council.
- The dip in Fleet Road has been poorly repaired, it is scheduled to be resurfaced in March 2024.
- Works on Tavistock Road are expected to be finished by 12th October 2023.
- Repairs on Leawood Road will take place during the October half term week.
- Albert Street has a cross connection between the water supply and the sewer. Thames Water are urgently correcting the works. The traffic lights on the road stopped working as the batteries were stolen from the lights. The lights are now back in working order.

Cllr Forster left the meeting at 7:13pm.

Cllr Adrian Collett (HCC)

- Hampshire County Council is proposing a radical change to adult social care. Cllr Collett is encouraging people to go on to the Hampshire County Council website to look at the consultation. The consultation closes on the 12th November 2023.
- South East Water pipeline road reinstatement works on Cove Road are being monitored.
- Hart District Council no longer monitor the on-road parking at Ancells presumed for the train station. This is now with Hampshire County Council. It is necessary to raise the parking issues with Hampshire County Council directly.
- The chaos caused by the 3-way lights at the roundabout on the other side of the railway bridge was resolved quickly.
- The County Council's recent consultation on budget options entitled "Serving Hampshire - Balancing the Budget" asked people how they thought the County Council should deal with the £132 million black hole in their budget in two years' time. Just under 3,000 people responded.
- Anti-Social behaviour problems were significantly lower 10-12 years ago as more Police presence to deal with local situations. Police numbers are back to similar levels but there are reduced civilian support staff, so Police Officers are office bound completing necessary forms.
- Cllr Collett informed members it is a great pleasure for HCC to give the grant to Fleet Town Council for the Christmas Festival.

Cllr Alan Oliver (HDC)

- Councillor Oliver confirmed that he is Hart's official member of the Police and Crime Monitoring Board, focused on neighbourhood policing.
- He confirmed the reopening of the Police Station in Yateley, Autumn 2024.

- Members expressed their thanks to the Council's current IT support provider for their work and support over the years and wished him the best of luck in his retirement.

RESOLVED

- 1) To approve Virgin Media (Contractor A, option 1) for the direct access internet service for a period of five years at annual cost of £2,181.96 subject to an annual RPI increase.
- 2) To approve Cloudy IT (Contractor B) for the one-off internet remapping work at a cost of £2,200.
- 3) To approve Cloudy IT (Contractor B) for the provision of the Council's IT support contract (12 month rolling contract) at a first year cost of £8,315 to include IT support, data back-ups and Microsoft licences.
- 4) To approve Cloudy IT (Contractor B) for the provision of the one-off migration of the servers to SharePoint at a cost of £4,868.

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 9 EVENT APPLICATION – MUSIC ON THE VIEWS

Members received the provisional request to hold a music festival on the Views.

Approval in principle was being sought to enable planning of the event.

Points were made regarding the park being a public space and it was confirmed the play park will still be accessible as a separate entrance can be created.

The event will be in partnership with the Harlington and tickets will be sold through the box office at the Harlington.

Insurance for adverse weather conditions was being investigated and would be included in the budget.

RESOLVED

To provisionally approve the request to hold a music festival on the Views.

2 members of the public left at 7:55pm.

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 10 HIRE REQUEST FOR THE CHRISTMAS GROTTO

Members received the Executive Officers report for a request from a business based at the Harlington, Funtime Dance & Drama, to run the Christmas Grotto this year.

Members confirmed that the nominated charity is in fact Stepping Stones DS.

Members agreed to waive the fee of the use of the café area.

RESOLVED

To give permission for Funtime Dance and Drama to run the Christmas Grotto for fundraising purposes and to agree the conditions relevant to the hire.

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 11 CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT 2022/2023

Members noted the outcome of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return from the External Auditor for the 2022/2023 financial year and thanked the Officers involved in producing the Return.

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 12 COMPLAINTS

No new complaints have been received since the last meeting.

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 13**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Members noted the Executive Officers report.

Members discussed the update regarding the No. 10 Bus Service to Calthorpe Park School. A member questioned if the No. 7 bus service which passes through the Tavistock estate could accommodate the Pondtail students as the bus is observed as rarely full.

Parents have fed back to a Member that the No. 10 bus is still arriving late at Farnborough College, despite having removed the Courtmoor School connection. Members advised there are many roadworks in the area at present which can make the journey longer.

A Member suggested Fleet Town Council hold a stall on the Saturday Market to engage with the public. This followed the success of Hampshire County Council taking a stall at the market. Councillors could take turns each weekend. Members agreed this could be an effective way to engage with the community.

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 14**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the time and date of the next Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 7pm in The Harlington.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – CLOSED SESSION

The Chairman stated that the following items for discussion relate to proposals and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts.

RESOLVED

That subject to 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.

All external members of the public left the meeting at 8:37pm.

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 15**FLEET TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB LEASE**

Members received an update regarding the negotiations of the Fleet Town Football Club Lease.

RESOLVED

- 1) To note the update from the Lease Working Group.
- 2) To approve Option 3 in the confidential report subject to final verification of previous correspondence issued.

FC OCTOBER 2023 ITEM 16**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH FLEET LIBRARY**

Members discussed the updated Hampshire County Council Management Agreement for the utility services shared with Fleet Library.

RESOLVED

To approve the Management Agreement for the provision of utilities at Fleet Library, subject to the amendments discussed.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date:.....