



## FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

held on  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022  
in the Harlington

#### PRESENT

**Councillors:** B. Schofield (Chairman), R. Fang, L. Holt, A. Hope, K. Kuntikanamata, K. Jasper, A. Oliver, R. Richmond, S. Tilley, P. Wildsmith, B. Willcocks, G. Woods.

**Also Present:** Janet Stanton – Town Clerk  
Susanna Walker – Committee Clerk  
Councillor Stephen Parker – HCC  
Councillor Adrian Collett – HCC  
Councillor Mark Butcher – HDC  
1 member of the public

#### FC Feb 2022 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received and accepted apologies for absence from Councillor Chenery due to ongoing health reasons, Councillor Einchcomb due to ill health, Councillor Robinson due to a prior commitment, Councillor Wright due to ill health.

#### FC Feb 2022 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Richmond declared an interest in Item 7 – Fleet Market.

#### FC Feb 2022 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

Councillor Schofield took the opportunity to update members on the following:

- **Civic Quarter Working Group Meeting**
  - Public engagement presentation was reviewed, but due to Officer resource issues, the exhibition is now delayed until after the May elections.
  - The delay impacts any decisions regarding the new Harlington.
  - Our MP is promoting a competitive development option, which further promotes confusion and more delays.
  - All parties including MPs, District and Borough Councils and Town Councils should be working together collectively for the benefit of the town and its residents, such as Farnham and Rushmoor which have both been able to put development proposals together.
- **Fleet Market Meeting**
  - Congratulations given to Councillors Richmond and Willcocks, and Councillor Butcher, for all their hard work and achievements to date.
- **Fleet BID Board Meeting re Re-Bid**
  - Pre-referendum consultation runs from 24<sup>th</sup> February – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022, with the outcome known on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
  - If successful, the 2<sup>nd</sup> BID term will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.
- **Pondtail Ward Coffee Morning**
  - Held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and was well attended.

#### **FC Feb 2022 ITEM 4**

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Members received and approved as a correct record the minutes and Confidential minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting, subject to the following amendments:

- P2, Item 7, 4<sup>th</sup> bullet point – to insert the words ‘previous provider’, therefore reading: *...as a replacement to the previous provider SMT.*
- P2, Item 7, 8<sup>th</sup> bullet point – to insert the word ‘would’, therefore reading: *...and any money acquired, FTC would spend on behalf of CIC for assets.*

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

Establishment	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Establishment Confidential	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Development Control	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2022

#### **FC Feb 2022 ITEM 5**

#### **ANNUAL RESIDENT’S MEETING (ARM) – TUESDAY 22ND MARCH 2022**

Members received a copy of the proposed format and content of the Annual Resident’s Meeting, as discussed at the ARM Working Group meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

Members noted the following:

- A local GP has been secured to talk at the meeting.
- The local video company who filmed the War Memorial and ARM video in 2021 have offered their services at no cost.

Members **RESOLVED**

to approve the content/format of the Annual Residents Meeting.

#### **FC Feb 2022 ITEM 6**

#### **REMOTE AND HYBRID MEETING**

Members noted that at present, local councils in England are not allowed to hold remote or hybrid meetings. This measure was temporarily relaxed by the government during the COVID lockdown in 2020/2021 but ended in April 2021 when temporary statutory regulations expired.

Members were asked if they supported NALC in a return to remote and hybrid meetings, and if so, FTC to sign an online petition and send a letter as proposed by NALC to the local MP.

The following issues regarding remote Council meetings were raised:

- Remote meetings proved positive during lockdown.
- Many savings to be had by remote meetings, including environmental and cost savings.
- Better work / life balance.
- More opportunities for people to get involved in Council matters.
- More transparency for the public.
- Better representation of the public.
- FTC does not currently have the technology to hold remote or hybrid meetings.
- Cost implication involved.
- Under current legislation, any member attending a Council meeting remotely is not allowed to vote.
- Option to have the technology but use it sparingly.

Members **RESOLVED**

1. To support NALC with their online petition.
2. That FTC send a letter, as proposed by NALC, to the local MP in support of returning to remote and hybrid meetings.

## **FC Feb 2022 ITEM 7**

## **FLEET MARKET**

Members received an update report on Fleet Town Market, where the following matters were discussed:

- The Community Interest Company (CIC) has been established and VAT registered.
- Aim to have the market up and running by first week in April 2022.
- Positive feedback from the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022.
- Market aims to be self-sustaining within a year.
- Gazebos and stalls to be available for local businesses and charities.
- Stage to be set up for local performing arts groups.
- Funding from FTC.
- CIC to have 5 representatives as directors, including 2 from FTC, 1 from HDC, 1 independent and 1 market trader.
- Concern was raised over having representatives from a nominated body.
- CIC directors can be reassessed after the May elections.

### **Members RESOLVED**

to nominate Councillor Richmond and Councillor Willcocks to represent FTC as directors on the Community Interest Company (CIC).

## **FC Feb 2022 ITEM 8**

## **DONATION FOR A COMMEMORATIVE BENCH AND PLAQUE FROM FLEET & CHURCH CROOKHAM SOCIETY**

Members noted that the Fleet & Church Crookham Society would like to install a bench and plaque to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a lasting commemoration to her reign.

Members discussing the following:

- There is a proposed budget of £1000.00.
- To be complete by Summer 2022.
- A few local groups have also been approached to provide commemorative benches.
- Members to determine locations of benches, with the possibility of parks and land owned by HCC.
- Concern over anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

### **Members RESOLVED**

1. To approve the installation of a bench to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, as provided by The Fleet & Church Crookham Society.
2. To consider suitable locations for the benches and bring back to March Council.

## **FC Feb 2022 ITEM 9**

## **QUEENS JUBILEE "GREEN CANOPY" TREE PLANTING**

Members received and considered an event application form from the Fleet Lions for an event in Fleet's parks on 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Members were made aware of and discussed the following:

- The event is for families of school children to plant whips / saplings provided by Fleet Lions within the parks of Fleet.
- It is part of the Lions initiative "Save the Planet Campaign" combined with the "Queen's Green Canopy".
- The Whips are to be planted in the areas designated by and following guidance from FTC by the students and their families under the supervision of a Ranger organised by the Lions.
- The Facilities & Open Spaces Manager has already identified Calthorpe and Ancells Farm Parks as locations suitable for planting.
- This green initiative in FTC's parks and open spaces adds to the 210 whips/saplings already planted this season by FTC.
- Whip planting is in conjunction with existing tree planting in the local parks.
- Concern over not all the whips taking.

## **RESOLVED**

Members approved the “Green Canopy” event taking place in Calthorpe Park and Ancells Farm Park on 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

## **FC Feb 2022 ITEM 10            INSURANCE CONTRACT**

Members noted the request to approve the extension of the council’s current insurance contract for a further year, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. This extension is being sought due to the current shortage of staff resources. Members noted that the increase to the current contract is 1% and still within budget.

## **RESOLVED**

Members approved the extension of Council’s insurance contract for a further year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

## **FC Feb 2022 ITEM 11            SPEED INDICATOR DISPLAYS (SIDs)**

Members received and noted the Speed Indicator Displays (SIDs) report. The following matters were raised:

- The first 4 SIDs boards were erected between 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021 – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2022.
- Timing of boards has not been ideal due to issues including existing roadworks and school holidays.
- The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is the noted speed below which 85% of vehicles monitored were travelling.
- Albany Road – 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 26mph in a 20mph area.
- Ancells Road – 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 42mph in a 40mph area.
- Hitches Lane – 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was 37mph in a 30mph area.
- Road safety.
- 20 is plenty campaign.
- SIDs information is passed to Speedwatch and Police.
- Proposal that Hitches Lane be repeated during term time.
- Proposal that Ancells Road be repeated, without roadworks.
- Proposed location Elvetham Road (near Church Road).

## **RESOLVED**

1. To note the SIDs report.
2. To nominate Hitches Lane, Ancells Road and Elvetham Road to be added to the schedule where a SID should be installed.

## **FC Feb 2022 ITEM 12            SOUTHAMPTON TO LONDON PIPELINE (SLP)**

Members noted that the SLP Project Team have offered to give a presentation to FTC on the London to Southampton Pipeline project and the impact on local areas. Members noted that:

- The project passes through Church Crookham.
- There is little impact on Fleet Town residents.
- FTC to be given the option to attend any SLP Project Team meeting held in Church Crookham.
- SLP website details: <https://www.slpproject.co.uk/>

## **RESOLVED**

That FTC do not require a personal presentation.

**FC Feb 2022 ITEM 13****CHAIRMAN'S (WARD) COFFEE MORNING UPDATE**

Members received and noted a report on the Chairman's (Ward) Coffee Mornings. Members noted the following:

- The Pondtail Ward Coffee morning held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022 was attended by 11 members of public.
- Main issues raised include roads, pavements, town centre, the Harlington, parks, housing and building, parking and medical.

**FC Feb 2022 ITEM 14****COMPLAINTS**

Members noted that no complaints had been recorded since the last meeting.

**FC Feb 2022 ITEM 15****COVID UPDATE AND TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Members received and noted the following updates from the Town Clerk:

- Updated FTC meeting dates, as Planning & Development dates were incorrect.
- Grants.
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, with wide support from Guides, Scouts, Fleet and Hart Lions, Christians Together and Basingstoke Canal.
- Vaccination centre is booked until end of March 2022, with the option to extend until end of June 2022.

**FC Feb 2022 ITEM 16****HCC/HDC**

Councillor Collett discussed the following points:

- **Calthorpe Park School extension.**
  - Safe routes for children.
- **Ancells Farm.**
  - Residents have complained about overgrown vegetation on footpaths.
  - Resident's volunteer group to help clear up.
  - To be included in the Ancells Farm Action Day.

Councillor Parker noted the following:

- **HCC budget.**
  - Maximum increase of 2.99%.
  - 1% for adult social care.
  - 1.99% for all other services.
- **HWRC booking system** to become permanent.
- **Community Transport.**
- **Grants.**
- **Green Canopy Scheme.**
  - To be launched on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February in Winchester, attended by HRH Prince of Wales.
- **Highways.**
- **New Waste Infrastructure.**

Councillor Butcher noted the following:

- **Hitches Lane.**
- **Tavistock Road Care Home Development.**
  - Building has ceased, due to contractor going into administration.
- **Anti-social behaviour.**

Councillor Wildsmith reported on the following:

- **Traffic Orders.**
  - Include Pondtail area and Kent Road.

**FC Feb 2022 ITEM 17                      DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and time of the next meeting of the Council is on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 19.00 in the Harlington.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:06.

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 were excluded from the Meeting.**

**FC Feb 2022 ITEM 18                      STAFFING 2022/2023**

Members noted that due to the difficulty in recruiting essential staff to ensure the Council and Harlington operations continue to function, the Establishment Committee resolved the following recommendation to be taken to the February meeting of the Full Council:

**EST January 2022 – Item 12**

**RESOLVED:**

*Immediate action to be taken by the Town Clerk General Manager to recruit the necessary staff to keep operations functioning which will impact on reserves. It is anticipated that this will require further funds to be taken from general reserves in both 2021/22 and 2022/23.*

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Town Clerk and Harlington General Manager take immediate action to recruit the staff necessary to keep operations functioning.
2. To approve the release of the necessary funds from Reserves.

**FC Feb 2022 ITEM 19                      CEMETERY EXTENSION CONTRACT**

Members noted that two tenders for the Cemetery Extension Contract have been received and the evaluation process took place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Members received and took note of the report regarding the awarding of the contract.

**RESOLVED**

To approve the award of the contract to the recommended tenderer.