

MINUTES OF THE FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

2 March 2011 7.30pm
The Harlington

Councillors

Robert Schofield, (Chair) George Woods, Richard Appleton, Helen Perthen, Sue Tilley, Sue Fisher, Andrew Macallan, Chris Butler, Steve Forster, Richard Robinson, Dai Pierce, Arthur Hurley, Paul Einchcomb.

Also Present

3 members of the public.
Cllr Sharyn Wheale
Shar Roselman – Clerk

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 1: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Alan Hope.

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 2: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests they may have in the items under consideration at the meeting and the nature of those interests. Cllr Fisher declared a personal interest in Item 6, the King's Road cycle track because she lives in King's Rd. All councillors declared an interest in member's allowances. Cllr Foster agreed to abstain from voting on item 9, because he was the only councillor who knew which of the contractors had presented each of the bids for the Website.

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 3: PUBLIC SESSION

The following questions were asked by members of the public:

Q1. A representative of the Cricket Club at Calthorpe Park stated that he was in favour of the proposal to place a pedestrian crossing at the current access point to Calthorpe Park. However, he added that he would like reassurance that the Cricket Club would still have access via the football club access road. He indicated that whilst he understood the completion target date to be the 6th September, he would wish to know the exact timings of the road works to co-ordinate information for away clubs for fixtures and matches.

Cllr Wheale informed the committee that Hampshire County Council would advise the occupiers of each stage of road closure.

Q2. A comment was made by a representative of the Cricket Club that he would not like contractors working on the road to make use of the parking spaces in the park, or to use the available spaces as a storage area for materials and equipment.

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 4: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved to receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of Full Council dated 2 February 2011.

Prop: GW Sec: RR

Resolved to receive the minutes of:

The Policy and Finance Committee 21/2/ 2011.

The Planning, Development and Control Committee 14/2/2011

Cllr Appleton mentioned that he would appreciate Fleet Town Council's Planning, Development and Control Committee to notify the District Ward Councillor if it would like a planning application to be heard by Hart District Council's Development and Control Committee.

The Planning, Development and Control Committee 28/2/2011

The Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee 16/2/2011

It was noted that item 3.4 should be altered to read ... enormous problems with parking caused by All Saints school

Cllr Appleton asked whether the committee had considered the outdoor amphitheatre at Hitches lane when developing the vision for the Views. The Chair commented that this had been discussed.

The Highways and Transport Committee 26/1/2011

The Establishment Sub Committee Confidential Minutes 21/2/2011

These minutes will be received at the next meeting.

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 5: PEDESTRIAN CROSSING READING ROAD NORTH

In principle, Fleet Town Council approves of the proposal, but members noted that the consultation included a request to use the access road past the Football Club during the period of construction. Concerns were raised regarding the condition of this road, the fact that the road could not be widened to the 3 ½ meters required for emergency access and that a new sculpture play park would be in place very close to the football club access road. The fact that this access road should only be opened on a temporary basis was discussed.

Resolved to approve the transfer of ownership of land needed for the pedestrian lights to HCC Highways.

Resolved to write to HCC Highways stating that while Fleet Town Council approved of the scheme to complete the pedestrian lights, and it recognised that

access to the pavilions needed to be made available, there were several concerns about the condition of the temporary access road, and about the cost implications of opening the access road. The letter should also indicate that Fleet Town Council will issue a disclaimer on any vehicles damaged by using this access, will highlight the issues of storage of materials and parking of contractors that were raised by the Cricket Club and will request a meeting with Hampshire County Council Highways to discuss this matter.

Prop: RA Sec: PE

Action: The clerk

It was further resolved to evolve a system to allow the Cricket Club and the Scouts to be key holders to the gate on the football club access road during the period of construction and to issue a disclaimer against any damage through use of this access road.

Prop: BS Sec: CA

Action: The clerk

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 6. KING'S ROAD CYCLE TRACK

Members received a proposal from Cllr Schofield that a further response be sent to HCC Highways regarding the King's Road cycle track, indicating support for local retailers, requesting that the 30 minute parkings outside their shops be retained, and highlighting the problems with the left turn from Aldershot Road into King's Road.

Cllr Wheale mentioned that there was a possibility of leaving parkings for loading/unloading purposes only at the Pinehill Parade, and that the turning circle on Aldershot Road had been auto-tracked. Detailed designs and plans would not be completed until the proposal was accepted.

It was discussed that in future, letters of consultation from Highways should be addressed to the occupier, not the owner, as traders renting premises had believed that they were not legally in a position to comment on the consultation.

Resolved to write to HCC Highways expressing concerns about the removal of parking because of the fragile nature of the business economy, and outlining concerns about the Aldershot road/King's road turning cycle. It would further be mentioned that Fleet Town Council would like earlier consultation in future on prioritising the use of funding.

Prop: BS Sec: GW

Action: The clerk

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 7: EXTINGUISHMENT OF HIGHWAYS RIGHTS

A consultation request on a proposal to extinguish highways rights over St James Road was received.

Resolved to respond to HCC Highways stating that Fleet Town Council has no issues with the proposal other than to note that the area marked as S James Road/Crookham Road footpath was actually the emergency access to a number of properties.

Prop: RA Sec: CB

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 8 : PENSION PROVIDER

A report was received on the issue of a Pension Provider for eligible Staff. Advice had been taken from Hedley's on this issue which suggested that while there was a presumption in Law of a single pension provider - the Local Government Pension Scheme - another council had appointed a different pension provider without any apparent consequences. A lengthy discussion ensued on this point.

A motion was proposed to appoint Aviva as the Pension Provider for Fleet Town Council as recommended by the Establishment Sub-Committee.

A vote was taken on this proposal with 4 councillors for the proposal, 4 against and 5 abstentions. The chairman's casting vote was against the motion.

A further proposal was then put forward resulting in the following resolution:

Resolved to allow employees to opt into the LGPS providing they were willing to renegotiate their contracts of employment and make a salary sacrifice to contribute the difference between the figure mentioned in their contract and the LGPS rate of 19.1%. Should employees not wish to join the LGPS, they would be allowed to opt out, providing they appointed their own pension provider, in which case Fleet Town Council would directly pay, as a gratuity, the employer contribution mentioned in their employment contracts to the pension provider of their choice.

Prop: AM Sec: CB

The vote on this resolution showed 10 councillors for and 1 against.

It was recommended by council that employees seek independent financial advice.

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 9: WEBSITE PROVIDER

The Policy and Finance Committee had reviewed the bids submitted by contractors for a website provider. This decision was passed on to Full Council, with a recommendation from the Policy and Finance Committee to opt for contractor C.

The matter of poor imagery on IPAD and Apple computers was considered, as these devices did not facilitate the use Adobe Flash imagery, and the website proposal was based on Adobe Flash player. This was not deemed a significant issue.

Resolved to approve and place the order with Contractor C.

Prop: BS Sec: RR

Action: The clerk

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 10: CHAIR'S MEETING

A report was received on the Chair's Meeting. The meeting date of Full Council in April/May 2011 was discussed.

Resolved to approve the meeting schedule, with one change. The May 2011 meeting of Full Council to be deleted and substituted by the 6th April, 2011.

Resolved to approve a change to the terms of reference for the spending committees to allow them to vire funds available to them within cost codes of their own budget. The following provisos apply:

**Only Full Council will be able to allocate specific reserves
Only Full Council will be able to expend any sums under the Civic and Democratic Budget Heading**

Prop: CB Sec: GW

It was suggested that in future years capital allocations will be made to appropriate committees.

A new organisational structure was received, amalgamating the working groups on the Harlington. The Use of Space, the Business Plan, and the Conditions of Hire working groups to be combined into a single Harlington Business Working Group. The Football Club working group to report directly to the RLA committee.

Resolved to approve this structure.

Prop: CB Sec: GW

Resolved to approve the following recommendations from the Chair's Meeting and accordingly make these changes to the Standing Orders:

- **That agenda items are not to be debated if papers are circulated only at the meeting.**
- **That Chairmen ensure that only items for which briefing papers have been circulated prior to the meeting are included on the Agenda.**
- **That no financial approvals shall be given unless all relevant financial information is circulated at least three days prior to the meeting.**
- **That Chairmen are to assume that all briefing papers have been read.**

- That members are responsible for reading all background papers prior to the meeting.
- That where practical 50% of the members of each committee are rotated each year and
- That committees should be made up of at least one representative from each ward.

Prop: CB Sec: GW

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 11: CHAIRMAN'S AND MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

Resolved to approve a Chairman's allowance of £1000, as from the financial year 2010/2011. Resolved to vire funds for that allowance from Council Development.

Prop: BS Sec: S.F

Resolved, for clarity, also to call this allowance a Chairman's Civic Allowance.

Prop: SF Sec: S. Fisher

Resolved to approve a Member's Allowance of £200 applicable as from the financial year 2011/2012, available only on production of receipts for printing costs and/or childcare. Resolved to vire funds for that allowance from Vision Development.

Prop: RA Sec: SF

Action: The clerk

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 12: NOMINATIONS FOR THE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION SCHEME

Resolved that the Fleet Town Council would nominate Colin Gray for the volunteer recognition scheme.

Prop: GW Sec: BS

Councillors who wished to nominate other civic minded parishioners could directly nominate these on the forms supplied to them.

Action: The clerk

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 13: FLEET FOOTBALL CLUB

A report was received from Councillor Schofield which indicated that action to replace the lights was being taken, and that generally relationships between the Football Club and the residents were improving.

Cllr Woods was thanked for his involvement with the Football Club.

F.C. MAR 2011 ITEM 14: CLERK'S REPORT

A clerk's report was received indicating that a letter had been sent to Hart District Council on the Core Strategy. The estate agent acting for owners on Ancells Farm Commercial Area had been contacted regarding the business units. He will pass on the message to the owners that, should they wish to apply for a change of use application to turn the units into residential properties, they should write to Hart District Council informing them of their willingness to have the development included in the SHLAA listing.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 10.30 pm.

The next meeting will be on 6th April 2011, at the Harlington, at 7.30 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....