

FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 5th April 2023 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

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

In Attendance: Rochelle Halliday – Executive Officer
Councillor Adrian Collett – HCC
Councillor Steve Forster – HCC
Councillor Stephen Parker – HCC
Daniel Trace – Sasha’s Project Trustee
1 member of the public

Absent: Cllr Cottrell and Cllr Wildsmith

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Willcocks (holiday), Oliver (medical) and Sharma Krishnmurthy (work commitments).

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr May declared a personal interest in Item 9 – Sasha’s Project Grant Application as she volunteers for the charity.

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Cllr Forster asked a question as a member of the public on behalf of Mark Butcher, requesting the status of negotiations with the Fleet Town Football Club Lease, why the Football Club’s solicitor has not been put in touch with the Council’s solicitor, the name of the Council’s solicitor and details of who is negotiating the lease on behalf of the Council.

Cllr Schofield confirmed that the questions raised would be considered as part of Item 11.

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 4 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Schofield reported his attendance during the period as follows:

- Annual Residents’ Meeting - 21st March 2023: a generally positive meeting although the Hart Police Inspector was substituted at the last minute for an Acting Sergeant.
- Fleet Market - 1st April 2023: attended the first anniversary event to mark the relaunched Saturday market.
- BID board meeting – 4th April 2023: Fleet BID are re-branding, which will include a new website and new logo, ‘Love Fleet’. There is a vacancy on the Fleet BID board and more retail representation is required.

Cllr Forster (HCC)

- Work on Hitches Lane / Elvetham Road starts on the 11th April 2023, for approximately twenty weeks. The works on the Church Crookham pipeline will also take place at the same time.
- A Member asked for an update on the Tavistock Road repairs. Cllr Forster confirmed that the relevant parties are discussing the work required, though it is now looking like the works will be the responsibility of Thames Water.

Cllr Stephen Parker (HCC)

- The Church Crookham pipeline works will continue to the end of April 2023.
- The Reading Road South pedestrian crossing scheme is progressing and support has been sought from various stakeholders.
- £6m has been given to Hampshire County Council from central government to expedite pothole repairs.

Cllr Adrian Collett (HCC)

- A community meeting was organised by Cllr May regarding the planning application to increase HGV movements at Ancells Farm Business Park, which Cllr Collett attended with a number of residents.
- The problem with the smell from the Fleet sewage treatment works is being dealt with by Cllrs Collett and Forster.
- The Environment Agency has confirmed that raw sewage has been discharged into Fleet Brook on a number of occasions.
- The management of parking restrictions, parking enforcement and traffic management transferred from Hart District Council back to Hampshire County Council on 1st April 2023.

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 6

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The main and confidential minutes of the Council held on 1st March 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

- Development Control 27th February 2023 & 13th March 2023
- RLA 15th March 2023

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 7

FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Members noted receipt of:

- a) The bank reconciliation and a list of payments for February 2023.
- b) A statement from Councillor Robinson confirming that the bank reconciliation and list of payments for February 2023 have been verified and signed off against the original bank statement.

RESOLVED

- a) To receive and accept the bank reconciliation and list of payments for February 2023.
- b) To accept the statement from Councillor Robinson that the bank reconciliation and list of payments for February 2023 have been verified and signed off.

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 8**CONTRACTED HYGIENE SERVICES FOR THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Members considered a new contract for the provision of various hygiene services at The Harlington and Ancells Farm Community Centre. Three quotes were provided for consideration.

Members were advised that Contractor C offered greater cost savings against the current contract and would not tie the Council in for longer than twelve months at a time (with a three month cancellation clause). A price review would take place for any service contracted beyond the twelve month period.

RESOLVED

To approve a twelve month hygiene contract at Ancells Farm Community Centre and The Harlington for the provision of air fresheners, hand dryers, hygiene bins and offensive waste bins with CJH Cleaning Services at an annual cost of £3,745 plus VAT.

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 9**GRANT APPLICATION – SASHA’S PROJECT**

Members considered a grant application for the waiver of rent at The Point for the Sasha’s Project service on a Friday and Saturday night from 9pm until 6am for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024.

Daniel Trace, a Trustee for Sasha’s Project, gave a short presentation on the work the charity undertakes, including providing a bridging service to young people often before they receive ongoing help from other agencies. The charity is also looking to do more outreach support in the coming year. There is an aspiration to open a 24/7 drop in centre, which will need significant funding.

The Council was thanked for their support, which has had an impact on supporting mental wellbeing in Fleet.

A Member referred to a recent article in a local magazine about the charity and asked why there was no reference to the support provided by the Council. Mr Trace replied that this was an oversight that would be corrected in future publicity.

A Member also asked for details of the charity’s other sources of income. Mr Trace confirmed that funds are mainly from individual donations.

RESOLVED

To approve the grant application from Sasha’s Project for use of The Point free of charge for the drop-in centre for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 10**STUDENT WORK PLACEMENTS**

Members noted the provision of placements for Farnborough College of Technology T-Level students was approved in principle by the RLA Committee, subject to full Council approval. The placements will be covered under the Council’s employer’s liability insurance.

Members were updated that Cllr Einchcomb and the Finance and Administration Manager attended a meeting with Farnborough College of Technology on 22nd March 2023 to discuss the placements. As a result ten CV’s have been received for consideration and the Council will interview up to five students after the Easter Holidays.

The Council is looking for up to two placement students and their work will be overseen by the Finance and Administration Manager.

The placements are due to start in early May for a period of forty-five days. The plan would be for them to work on the mapping of the new Council and Harlington websites, revision of the newsletter format and to conduct some survey work for Fleet Saturday Market.

RESOLVED

To approve the hosting of up to two student work placements from Farnborough College of Technology.

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 11 CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

Members received an update on the following:

- a) Fleet Town Football Club lease
 - No progress on agreement of the lease since the last meeting.
 - The Football Club’s solicitor would like to raise issues with the lease but will only release the information directly to the Council’s nominated solicitor.
 - Wellers Hedleys is the Council’s solicitors who originally drew up the standard lease terms and could be instructed to act for the Council once they have been informed of the main queries under consideration.
 - Members of the Lease Working Group identified themselves at the meeting.

- b) The Harlington draft lease
 - Members noted there is no significant progress since the last meeting.

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 12 COMPLAINTS

No new complaints have been received since the last meeting.

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 13 EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Members noted the Executive Officers report.

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted the time and date of the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7pm in The Harlington, which will be the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

FC APRIL 2023 ITEM 15 CONTRACTUAL MATTERS

The Chairman stated the reasons that this item needed to be confidential.

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 members of the public left at 8.25pm and the remainder of the meeting was conducted in confidential session and recorded in the confidential minutes.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Date:.....