

FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Chenery, P. Einchcomb, L. Holt, A. Hope, E. May, A. Oliver, D. Taylor, P. Wildsmith and G. Woods.

In Attendance: Rochelle Halliday – Executive Officer
Councillor Steve Forster – HCC
Friends of Oakley Park Representative

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 1

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cottrell (family commitments), Cllr Fang (away), Cllr Richmond (away), Cllr Robinson (unwell), Cllr Tilley and Cllr Willcocks.

Cllr Krishnamurthy was absent.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Oliver declared an interest for item, 9 Permitted Development Rights - Article 4 Direction, due to his Portfolio Holder role at Hart District Council.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 3

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 4

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Schofield reported his attendance during the period as follows:

9th March - Attended the Greening Campaign launch event. Represented the Warming Homes Pillar, attracted good level of interest. Overall good turn out and many thanks to Cllr Taylor and his helpers for providing the gazebos, Cllr Cottrell, the Executive Officer and the Projects and Committee Officer for organising the event.

13th March - Attended HDC Planning Meeting to present the Council's position on FNP Policy 11 protecting the loss of bungalow stock.

15th March - Attended the Fleet Pond Society AGM along with Cllr Ellie May. A well-attended evening with a very detailed report by Jim Storey, Society Chairman and a presentation on an Arctic voyage.

18th March - Attended the Annual Residents' Meeting. A disappointing attendance, especially as the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner presented along with representatives of Fleet Phoenix, HVA and the Greening Campaign.

19th March - Along with other members of this Council participated in an on-line meeting with representatives of broadband provider, TOOB, who explained the latest position regarding the installation of their fibre optic cable and new telegraph poles to aid network distribution.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 5

HCC/HDC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Cllr Forster (HCC)

- The Annual Residents' Meeting was excellent, especially the opening performance.
- Roadworks on Fleet Road/Knoll Road to Kings Road have been postponed until the end of May at the earliest but no date has been fixed yet.
- Resurfacing works on Ively Road will commence soon.
- The Fleet Half Marathon was successful, but it may not be a possibility next year as there is a lack of volunteer marshals.
- Hampshire County Council received around 10,000 responses to the Future Services Consultation. The outcome will be published in June/July.
- The Elvetham Heath underground sewer system issues are spreading, with potential issues over a 20km stretch of piping. A public meeting about this is being held at Elvetham Heath on the 24th April 2024 at 6pm.
- Cllr Forster advised to let him know of any police issues, as a meeting is taking place with the local beat Police Officer this week.
- A new real time bus information display is being installed at Fleet Railway Station.
- A new zebra crossing at Calthorpe Park School is being progressed, with a view of installation in the summer holidays. There are some delays with scheme approval at District level.

Cllr Alan Oliver (HDC)

Cllr Oliver will raise the issues regarding the zebra crossing approval via the Hart District Council Executive Director.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 6

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th March 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

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|-----------------------|--|
| • Development Control | 11 th and 25 th March 2024 |
| • RLA | 20 th March 2024 |
| • Establishment | 28 th February 2024 |

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 7

FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Members noted receipt of:

- a) The bank reconciliation and a list of payments for February 2024.
- b) A statement via email from Councillor Robinson confirming that the bank reconciliation and list of payments for January and February 2024 have been verified and signed off against the original bank statements.

RESOLVED

- 1) To receive and accept the bank reconciliation and list of payments for February 2024.
- 2) To accept the written statement from Councillor Robinson that the bank reconciliation and list of payments for January and February 2024 have been verified and signed off.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 8

YEAR END RESERVES MOVEMENTS

Members received the year end reserves movement report and agreed the transfers as proposed.

A year end surplus is projected. This is mainly due to significantly higher bank interest from the investments of the Harlington Development fund.

The Council also received a VAT refund on sports lettings of £9,517.

RESOLVED

To approve the reserves movements as follows:

- To transfer £30,000 from the General Fund to the Harlington Development Fund (code 360).
- To transfer £9,517 from the General Fund to the Play Equipment Ear Marked Reserve (code 345) specifically to put towards the skate park refurbishment.
- To transfer £3,000 from the Badger Grounds Works Ear Marked Reserve (code 340) to cover the unbudgeted expenditure for remedial work at the Cemetery due to badger activity.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 9

PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS - ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION

Cllr Schofield provided the background information on the matter; the item is to ask for an Article 4 Direction to disallow permitted development rights to be used for the adding of an additional floor to bungalows.

A suggestion was made to take advice from the Hart District Council Executive Director prior to drafting any letter.

Cllr Oliver abstained from the vote.

RESOLVED

To approve the writing to Hart District Council to request an Article 4 Direction to disallow permitted development rights to be used for the adding of an additional floor to bungalows.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 10

HARLINGTON UPDATE

Members received verbal update.

The lease for The Harlington is in the process of being finalised.

The Harlington Working Group will hold a meeting to review the architectural brief and to prepare the documents for proceeding to tender the work.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 11

COMPLAINTS

No new complaints have been received since the last meeting.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 12

EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Members noted the Executive Officer’s report.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 13

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted the time and date of the next Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 (Annual Town Council Meeting) at 7pm in The Harlington.

Members of the public left the meeting at 7:45pm.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – CLOSED SESSION

The Chairman stated that the following items for discussion relate to the engagement and terms of service in relation to employees.

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.

FC APRIL 2024 ITEM 14

STAFFING MATTERS

Members received an update on the process for recruiting the Executive Officer vacancy.

The following matters were discussed:

- The interview process and panel.
- The salary and superannuation range for the post.
- That a Locum Clerk will be put in place to cover any gaps.
- That an Extraordinary Council meeting will be held on 1st May 2024 to ratify the appointment of the Executive Officer.

RESOLVED

To note the update.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date:.....