

## **FLEET TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

held on

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm

#### **PRESENT**

**Councillors:** R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Chenery, K. Cottrell, P. Einchcomb, S. Engström, A. Hope, E. May, A. Oliver, D. Taylor, S. Tilley, P. Wildsmith and G. Woods.

**In Attendance:** Rochelle Halliday – Executive Officer  
Louise Rogers – Administration Support Officer  
Councillor Steve Forster – HCC  
Councillor Stephen Parker – HCC  
Councillor Adrian Collett – HCC  
Friends of Oakley Park Representative

#### **FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 1                      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Fang (away), Cllr Holt (unwell), Cllr Krishnamurthy (medical), Cllr Richmond (prior engagement), Cllr Robinson (unwell) and Cllr Willcocks (work commitments).

#### **FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 2                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Tilley declared an interest for item 10 Music on The Views event, due to being on the organising committee for the event.

Councillor Taylor declared an interest for item 11 Fleet Market Support, due to being a director of Fleet Market CIC.

Councillor Oliver declared an interest for item 11 Fleet Market Support, due to his involvement as a Hart District Councillor.

Councillor Woods declared an interest for item 13 Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation, due to being a trustee of Hart Voluntary Action.

#### **FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 3                      QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no questions from the public.

#### **FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 4                      CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Schofield reported his attendance during the period as follows:

- 15<sup>th</sup> February - attended the Fleet Phoenix Supporters Afternoon Tea. It was an excellent afternoon tea prepared and served by young people who have been mentored by Fleet

Phoenix staff. The young people had produced a short video reflecting the progress in their personal development.

- 20<sup>th</sup> February - meeting with Chief Executive Officer of Hart District Council and their Property Services Manager to finalise comments on the Harlington Lease. It was a very productive meeting.
- 27<sup>th</sup> February - attended an on-line meeting with members of the Ringwood Greening Campaign who had completed their initial Warmer Homes campaign and surveyed nearly 100 properties in 9 weeks. They passed on tips and advice which were very useful.
- 12<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> March – attended the Fleet BID Board Meeting.

## **FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 5**

## **HCC/HDC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

### Cllr Forster (HCC)

- The roadworks in Fleet have caused some disruption but are running well. There has been a small number of resident queries. The roadworks on Fleet Road and Kings Road will move to night works.
- Hampshire County Council (HCC) is completing a review of their locations, as part of an exercise to see how office space is being utilised. This will not apply to Libraries or other public services.
- There are emergency roadworks on Cove Road due to a gas leak, which will be completed this week.

### Cllr Adrian Collett (HCC)

- The pavement reinstatement issues following the South East Water works on Cove Road are being progressed by HCC.
- Potholes are to be repaired on the road near Bramshot Farm Country.
- Thames Water may accept the need to replace the whole rising main at Elvetham Heath, due to failures in the sewerage system through the estate.

### Cllr Stephen Parker (HCC)

- There was a gas leak at Crookham crossroads.
- Surfacing works are to take place along Crookham Road.
- There are various roadworks in Church Crookham at present.

### Cllr Alan Oliver (HDC)

- Hart District Council set their 2024/25 budget last week.
- Edenbrook is to have a new bike track.
- The police have been active in dealing with the increase in Anti-Social Behaviour increase at the shopping centre.

### Councillor Peter Wildsmith (HDC)

- A pre-planning application for the conversion of the Regus office site to a logistics hub is expected to be submitted soon. A residents meeting will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> March at Ancells Farm Community Centre to discuss the impact on residents.

Cllr Collett left the meeting at 7:25pm.

## **FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 6**

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The main and confidential minutes of the Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

- Development Control 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024
- Policy and Finance 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Councillor Oliver advised members that he can provide updated information regarding the broadband roll out by Toob, ahead of the meeting Councillors are to have with the company.

Members were advised that a revised lease agreement for the Fleet Market has been received from Hart District Council.

#### **FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 7 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

Members noted receipt of:

- a) The bank reconciliation and a list of payments for January 2024.
- b) The statement from Councillor Robinson will be deferred until the next meeting due to Councillor Robinson not being present at this meeting.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1) To receive and accept the list of payments for January 2024.
- 2) To defer verification of the bank reconciliation to the next meeting.

#### **FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 8 THE HARLINGTON DEVELOPMENT**

Members received an update on the lease for The Harlington.

A Member asked whether we can re-engage the original architect or reuse some original documents, so we are not duplicating works and costs. The Chairman advised a much more detailed study is now required for options and we need to follow the procurement guidelines.

The tender document will be adapted to ensure that there is scope for re-using some of the original documents, where possible.

The Public Sector Decarbonisation fund for the installation of an Air Source Heat Pump has not been successful. FTC will be having a debrief meeting with Hart District Council to discuss this.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1) To note the update.
- 2) To approve starting the tender process for architectural design services for The Harlington development.

#### **FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 9 CONTRACTED HYGIENE SERVICES FOR THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Members received the proposal for a new contract for the provision of various hygiene services at The Harlington and Ancells Farm Community Centre.

## **RESOLVED**

To approve Woosh Washrooms on a minimum twelve-month contract, with rolling 90 day cancellation, to provide hygiene services at The Harlington and Ancells Farm Community Centre.

Councillor Steve Forster left the meeting at 7.50pm.

## **FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 10**

## **MUSIC ON THE VIEWS EVENT**

Members received the report for the Music on The Views event, provisionally to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The item was being brought to the Council in light of changing circumstances around external grant funding, to see if the event could still be supported by the Council.

Members discussed the security arrangements for the event, as it is vital to ensure public safety and minimise any reputational risk to the Council. Adequate security for the size of the event is essential. It was confirmed that the event will be employing the same security staff used at The Harlington.

Footfall for events in Fleet tend to be well attended. The Harlington has a good track record of selling 400+ tickets for similar events at the venue.

Several Members were keen to see this new event take place for the benefit of the town.

Since the supporting paper for this meeting was produced, a further £2,000 of grant funding has been secured, so the amount to ringfence by the Council is now £3,741. It was noted that this amount would be vastly reduced if ticket sales exceeded the modest sales projection the proposal was based on, and further external sponsorship support is secured.

## **RESOLVED**

To approve ringfencing up to £3,741 of funding from general reserves to enable the Music on The Views event to be organised.

## **FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 11**

## **FLEET MARKET SUPPORT**

Members received the report on support for the Fleet Market.

Members discussed that the market is in financial difficulty at present. The market is seeking funding to keep the market afloat whilst options are being explored to sustain its future.

Members discussed the following points:

- Reduced footfall is the key issue affecting trader attendance.
- Fleet BID may be able to financially support special events.
- The location of the market is a major problem from the footfall point of view, as it is not in the retail end of the high street.
- If the proposal is agreed, a full report should be submitted to the May Council meeting to determine if the support has been effective.

## **RESOLVED**

To approve allocating funding of up to £1,500, to be drawn down as required, to support the continuation of Fleet Market.

Cllr Parker left the meeting at 8.25pm.

**FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 12****TREE SURGERY WORKS**

Members received the report of Tree Surgery Works to be carried out. At Basingbourne Park there have been previously agreed playground maintenance repairs required, hence why the overspend stated in the report is more than the request for funding.

It was noted that these works are required to comply with the Council's tree maintenance regime.

It was also noted that the Council's budget is likely to be in surplus at the year end.

**RESOLVED**

To approve allocating £5,370 from general reserves for tree surgery works at Ancells Farm Park and Basingbourne Park.

**FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 13****HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL FUTURE SERVICES CONSULTATION**

Members received the final response to the Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation report. The following amendments were made:

- Point B – add that the loss of HVA services would mean extra resource would be required to undertake community work, such as mass vaccinations or support for Ukrainian refugees.
- Point J – add could HCC make use or earmark for future use their £1.1m Bus Service Operator's Grant from the Department for Transport to support services over a number of years.
- Add in a general point that the budget cuts proposed affect the voluntary sector and will have an impact on the most vulnerable members of the town.

**RESOLVED**

To approve final response to the Hampshire County Council Future Services Consultation report subject to the amendments stated above.

**FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 14****ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING**

Members noted the final agenda for the Annual Residents' Meeting.

**FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 15****COMPLAINTS**

No new complaints have been received since the last meeting.

**FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 16****EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Members noted the Executive Officers report.

Members agreed for Pop-Up Hub to be held at the Greening event on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**FC MARCH 2024 ITEM 17****DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the time and date of the next Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 at 7pm in The Harlington.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm

**Signed**.....  
**Chairman**

**Date:**.....