

## **FLEET TOWN COUNCIL**

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

held on

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.00pm

#### **PRESENT**

**Councillors:** R. Schofield (Chairman), K. Cottrell, P. Einchcomb, S. Engström, L. Holt, E. May, A. Oliver, R. Robinson, S. Tilley, P. Wildsmith, B Willcocks and G. Woods

**In Attendance:** Rochelle Halliday – Executive Officer  
Charlotte Benham – Projects and Committee Officer  
Councillor Steve Forster – HCC  
Councillor Mark Butcher – HDC  
Friends of Oakley Park Representative  
5 Members of the public

#### **FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 1**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Chenery (prior engagement), Fang (away), Hope (unavailable), Richmond (away), Sharma Krishnmurthy (prior engagement) and Taylor (away).

An apology of absence was made for Cllr Parker (HCC).

#### **FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 2**

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Oliver declared an interest for item 11, Hart District Council Parish Settlement Capacity Study, due to his role as a District Councillor reviewing the responses to the Study.

Members noted that for Item 12, Withdrawal of Stagecoach Bus Service to Calthorpe Park School, Cllr Engström had contacted Stagecoach through her Hart District Council email address.

#### **FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 3**

#### **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Members of the public were invited to speak during item 12.

#### **FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 4**

#### **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Schofield reported his attendance together with the Executive Officer at a number of meetings regarding the Harlington lease and the Public Services Decarbonisation Scheme grant application.

## FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 5

## HCC/HDC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

### Cllr Forster (HCC)

- On behalf of Councillor Parker, there is a traffic and pedestrian survey on Reading Road South, regarding the proposed crossings, scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September.
- The Hart District Council licensing meeting confirmed taxi fares will be set at the same level.
- There is a Public Spaces Protection Order consultation underway for dog fouling covering all public space in the district.
- No schools in Hart are affected by the Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) issue. Other buildings and one school in Hampshire are waiting for final confirmation though likely to be unaffected.
- Works have been scheduled for pothole repairs in the area.
- Hitches Lane works are now complete. Any concerns should be reported to Hampshire County Council.
- A further survey is to be conducted for works at the crossing for Calthorpe Park and Hart Leisure Centre.
- Farnborough Airport consultation is underway to increase the number of flights to be operated. This ultimately will be considered by Rushmoor Borough Council as the planning authority.
- Toob will be rolling out its fibre broadband to local premises.
- Stagecoach had been in dialogue with Hampshire County Council regarding the No10 bus service withdrawal. There is a separate proposal for a demand driven transport service between Farnborough and Fleet, funded from s106 developer contributions.

### Cllr Alan Oliver (HDC)

- The Toob application/process for permitted development to erect telegraph poles, where required, will be published in the weekly planning list. Councils can therefore monitor the areas where these applications are located.

### Cllr Mark Butcher (HDC)

- There has been the usual summer increase in Anti-Social Behaviour, with a serious incident related to one local group causing issues. Retailers are reporting very similar problems compared to last year. More people need to report incidents as they happen.

## FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 6

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

- Development Control 10<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023
- Policy & Finance Committee 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023
- Establishment Committee 26th July 2023

The Council received the minutes for Development Control for 24<sup>th</sup> July, a typographical error was made on page 3, 'Church' should read 'Church Crookham' to be corrected.

Members agreed to take item 12 next.

**FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 7****FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

Members noted receipt of:

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

**RESOLVED**

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

**FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 8****RISK REGISTER 2023/24**

Members received the update of the Risk Management Working Group. The Finance and Risk Register for the 2023/24 financial year was reviewed by the Council.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) To note the update of the Risk Management Working Group.
- 2) To approve the Finance and Risk Register 2023/2024.

**FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 9****HEALTH AND SAFETY AND HR SERVICES CONTRACT**

Members received a report on a new contract for the provision of combined health and safety and human resources consultancy services. The proposal for a combined service will operate more efficiently and save money. Three quotes were obtained for the contract.

Members requested adequate notice be given to the current human resources provider.

Members thanked the Finance and Administration Manager and Officers for their work on the contract and the quality of information provided within the Officer's report.

**RESOLVED**

To approve Croner (Contractor A) for the provision of combined health and safety and human resources consultancy services for a period of 3 years at a total cost of £12,531 (cost per year £4,177).

**FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 10****POLICY REVIEW**

Members received the revised Complaints Policy.

**RESOLVED**

To approve the revised Complaints Policy bar one minor correction to numbering due to item 7 being deleted.

**FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 11****HART DISTRICT COUNCIL PARISH SETTLEMENT CAPACITY STUDY**

Members received the Executive Officer's report on the Hart District Council Parish Settlement Study.

Members discussed that the Planning Committee have provided notes on this item in the last meeting minutes.

The Council will formally respond but Members can respond individually or send comments to the Projects and Committee Officer to collate and submit.

## **RESOLVED**

To agree to submit a detailed view from the Development Control Committee in response to the study.

### **FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 12**

### **WITHDRAWAL OF STAGECOACH BUS SERVICE TO CALTHORPE PARK SCHOOL**

A member of the public made a statement on behalf of parents at Calthorpe Park School regarding the impact of withdrawing the bus service, including safety concerns, increased traffic, and a lack of consultation by Stagecoach. It additionally impacts those who don't have a car, working parents and pupils who rely on the bus for independent travel.

Members received the report of withdrawal of the No. 10 bus service to Calthorpe Park School from the Pondtail area. Members discussed the following points:

- The route timetable could be adjusted so that all pupils who need the service can access it.
- The demand for the service to meet future population needs does not appear to have been considered.
- The service is needed in the area furthest away from the school with no safe alternative route.
- The service is usually full in the afternoon.
- The need for better and earlier consultation with Hampshire County Council and potential users.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1) That the Council send a letter to the Commercial Manager of Stagecoach expressing the Council's serious concern and to mention that the Council can put them in contact with interested users.
- 2) To agree that the council writes to the director responsible for transport at Hampshire County Council.
- 3) To agree that the Council liaise with Calthorpe Park School and the potentially impacted residents.
- 4) To write to the local MP.

Councillors Willcocks, Forster and Butcher left the meeting to attend to an altercation going on outside the meeting room.

5 members of the public left the meeting at 8:05pm

Executive Officer left the meeting at 8:06pm

### **FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 13**

### **COMPLAINTS**

A complaint was received due to the Cemetery bins overflowing and green waste not being collected. This is due to people putting plastic in the green bins and therefore the waste is not being collected.

Signs will be erected next to the bins at the Cemetery clarifying the need to separate the waste.

**FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 14**

**HYGIENE SERVICES CONTRACT - UPDATE**

Members noted the update from the Executive Officer regarding the Hygiene services at The Harlington and Ancells Farm Community Centre. The contract is to be reviewed for approval by Council again later in the year when the contractual termination notice can be served.

The original successful tenderer has been notified of the contractual situation.

**FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 15**

**THE GREENING CAMPAIGN**

Members received a verbal update from Cllr Cottrell regarding the Greening Campaign public engagement meeting that was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

The meeting was attended by 68 members of the public and a good number of residents had signed up to join working groups for each of the five pillars of the campaign.

Members noted that a Climate meeting had been held before the Council Meeting to formulate a plan for the coming months.

**FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 16**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Members noted the Executive Officers report.

Members noted the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Application is progressing well.

To note the Development Control meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 has been cancelled due to only receiving two applications.

Councillor Willcocks returned for the close of the meeting.

**FC SEPTEMBER 2023 ITEM 17**

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Council meeting will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7pm in the Harlington.

The meeting closed at 8:42pm

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

**Date:**.....