



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Friday 20th March 2020
at The Harlington at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors: R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Carpenter, P. Einchcomb, L. Holt, A. Hope, A. Oliver, G. Woods.

Also Present

Janet Stanton – Town Clerk
Susanna Walker – Committee Clerk

EFC March 2020 ITEM 1

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Councillors Ashworth, Chenery, Harrison, Jasper, Kirkpatrick, Pierce, Robinson, Tilley and Wheale.

EFC March 2020 ITEM 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EFC March 2020 ITEM 3

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from members of the public.

EFC March 2020 ITEM 4

CORONA VIRUS

Members reviewed the latest Government advice on the Coronavirus / Covid19 and considered the implications on the operation of the Town Council.

In response to the Covid-19 outbreak, Members discussed the following issues:

- All Council meetings being cancelled until further notice.
- All future discussions and decisions of the Council / Committee taking place via email and Members must provide a response of yes or no.
- Any decisions and resolutions being minuted and published in accordance with the relevant regulations. These resolutions will be sent out to all Members via email.
- The Town Clerk and Chairman having the authority to incur expenditure on behalf of the Council subject to a limit of £1000.

Members also discussed:

- HDC Planning Functions - all site visits have been postponed. Planning decisions may be delayed.
- The possibility of using Microsoft Teams to enable virtual Council meetings, through Member's phones or laptops.
- The possibility of using an audio conferencing package as an alternative way of holding meetings.
- The Harlington building now being closed to the public.
- The Council meeting on 01.04.2020 being cancelled.
- The Annual Resident's Meeting (ARM) on 24.03.2020 being postponed until further notice.
- The possibility of filming Member's presentations for the ARM and uploading onto social media.
- FTC awaiting government advice regarding the Annual Council Meeting to be held on 13.05.2020.
- HDC's request for all volunteers and volunteer groups to work through Hart Voluntary Action as the local Hub, to coordinate help to those who are socially isolating or socially shielded for 12 weeks or longer.
- HDC's operations which are not closing down but 95% of staff are working from home. Only a minimal presence will be maintained in the offices.

RESOLUTION

Members agreed:

1. That in the event that the scheduled meetings of the Council and Committees cannot be held during the Covid-19 outbreak that discussions and decisions of the Council / Committees may take place via email and telephone conferencing if necessary provided responses from Members prove that the discussion is quorate. Any decision made must be minuted and published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This special measure ceases upon the first meeting of the Council / Committee.
2. That during this outbreak of the Covid19, Reference Point 3.24 of the Financial Regulations, "other work" means work necessary to carry on the business of the Council.

Financial Regulations - 3.24

"The Clerk may incur expenditure on behalf of the Council which is necessary to carry out any repair replacement or other work which is of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether or not there is any budgetary provision subject to a limit of £1000. The Clerk shall report the action to the Council as soon as practicable thereafter."

3. That all Resolutions agreed during the Coronavirus / Covid19 outbreak will be included in the Minutes of the first Council Meeting after the special measures cease.
4. That the Annual Residents Meeting be postponed until further notice.

EFC March 2020 ITEM 5

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

There will be no meetings of Council until further notice. There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman