

FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Tuesday 15th August 2023 at 4.30pm

PRESENT

Councillors: R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Chenery, K. Cottrell (arrived during item 4), S. Engström, P. Einchcomb, E. May, A. Oliver, R. Richmond, R. Robinson, S. Tilley, D. Taylor and G. Woods.

In Attendance: Rochelle Halliday – Executive Officer

EFC AUGUST 2023 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Hope (unavailable), Fang (away), Sharma Krishnmurthy (work commitments) and Holt (unavailable).

Cllrs Willcocks and Wildsmith were absent.

EFC AUGUST 2023 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Oliver and Engström declared an interest for item 4 as they are also Members of Hart District Council.

EFC AUGUST 2023 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

EFC AUGUST 2023 ITEM 4 PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME

Cllr Schofield provided background information regarding the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) 3c grant, which could fund a new sustainable heating system for The Harlington building.

It was clarified that only the freeholder or the owner of a long-term lease could apply for the grant.

Involving the Library with the 'whole building' approach required for the application was also discussed.

The application would involve contracting a consultant to prepare the evidence base and submit the application, for which three quotes had been received a few days before the meeting. The quotes ranged greatly in price but generally offered a similar service.

Members discussed the grant application and its implications in detail.

RESOLVED

1. To accept that Hart District Council would have to submit the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme application for The Harlington as owners of the building.
2. To appoint a specialist contractor (under Financial Regulation 11.1 ii) to undertake the consultancy work for the PSDS application up to the value of £20,000, to allow for contingency.

The preferred contractor is Leisure Energy UK, at a cost of £7,990 plus 1% of successfully awarded PSDS funds.

3. To approve that the Council will fund a minimum 12% contribution under the PSDS application to cover the like for like cost of a fossil fuel replacement heating system.

EFC AUGUST 2023 ITEM 5 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FLEET FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME CONSULTATION

Members discussed the Fleet Flood Alleviation Scheme proposals, that had just been subject to public consultation by the Environment Agency.

Some concern was raised about the effectiveness of the natural flood management option and the impact on amenity land in the Council's parks. A further concern was raised at Basingbourne Park about holding back water in an area that already floods and had historically flooded private residences.

The draft partner feedback form was reviewed.

RESOLVED

To approve submission of the partner feedback form for the Fleet Flood Alleviation Scheme consultation as proposed.

EFC AUGUST 2023 ITEM 6 TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO THE CCLA INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

Members reviewed the proposal to transfer bank account funds to the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund. The proposal was to ensure the Council's funds attract the best interest rate, whilst maintaining enough funds for operational purposes in the current account.

RESOLVED

1. To approve the transfer of £100,000 from the Cambridge Building Society account to the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund (to be transferred via the HSBC current account).
2. To approve the transfer of £250,000 from the HSBC account to the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund.

EFC AUGUST 2023 ITEM 7 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 7pm in The Harlington.

The meeting closed at 5.15pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date:.....