

FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 5th July 2023 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Chenery, S. Engström, L. Holt, A. Hope, E. May, R. Richmond, S. Tilley, D. Taylor, G. Woods, K. Cottrell, A. Oliver, P. Wildsmith, B. Willcocks.

In Attendance: Rochelle Halliday – Executive Officer
Councillor Adrian Collett – HCC
Councillor Stephen Parker – HCC
Councillor Mark Butcher – HDC
Louise Rogers – Administration Support Officer

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 1

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Robinson (holiday), Einchcomb (unwell) and Sharma Krishnmurthy (unwell).

Cllr Fang was absent.

Apologies for absence was received for Cllr Forster HCC.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 3

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 4

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Schofield reported his attendance during the period as follows:

- 9th June- Met with officers and ecologists at the Cemetery to discuss badger activity- reported and debated at RLA meeting.
- 12th June- Attended a Fleet BID board meeting.
- 24th June- Cllr Holt attended the RBL Annual Garden Party on behalf of FTC.
- 27th June- Had a very useful meeting with Ms Liz Vango-Smith HDC's new environmental officer, including a brief tour of the Harlington and discussion on possible access to a government Public Building Grant.
- 29th June- Together with Cllrs Cottrell and Tilley we judged the school's environmental competition.
- 4th July- Attended the HDAPTC Meeting.

Cllr Stephen Parker (HCC)

- Elvetham Road and Hitches Lane roadworks are due to be completed by the end of August 2023. They are now proceeding with the next phases, the last phase will involve total closure of Hitches Lane which will take place in the school summer holidays. A contractor is monitoring traffic flow.
- Customers will be asked to separate waste for recycling at Household Waste Recycling Centre's to save funds.
- HCC local nature recovery for the county to address climate change is progressing.
- The County Deal is progressing.
- £7.5 million is being allocated to address potholes on top of the existing budget.
- To follow up on HCC reports for highways contact HCC Councillors.
- DIY waste charges are to be removed subject to Legislative changes.
- Not all options will be taken forward for the budget consultation, need to determine the highest priorities to retain.
- The Reading Road South pedestrian crossing proposal has MP support, a traffic survey assessment will take place in September 2023.

Cllr Adrian Collett

- The Fleet Station roundabout improvement will now not be funded.
- Farm Drive shops potholes have now been filled.
- Funding for potholes to be taken from proactive road maintenance.
- South East Water reinstatement condition is poor, this has been raised with highways who have agreed to reinspect the area in Aug/Sept.
- Fleet sewage issues - 831 hours of sewage from the plant has been discharged into Fleet Brook. An HDC Councillor has visited the site and Thames Water will stop the sludge cake transfer issue.
- Cllr Collett urged councillors to read the budget document as £132 million of budget savings is required.

Cllr Mark Butcher

- There has been increased reports with Anti-Social Behaviour in the town. It was discussed that Anti-social behaviour and police resources are limited in this area, so reporting is vital.
- Cllr Butcher would like to thank the Facilities and Open Spaces Manager for his quick response with regards to vandalism at the Cemetery.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 6

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th June 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

- Development Control 9th May, 22nd May, 12th June and 26th June 2023
- RLA 21st June 2023

Cllr Adrian Collett left the meeting at 7.34pm.

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

Members noted receipt of:

- a) The bank reconciliation and a list of payments for May 2023.
- b) A statement from Councillor Robinson confirming that the bank reconciliation and list of payments for April and May 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 May 2023.
- 2) To accept the statement from Councillor Robinson that the bank reconciliation and list of payments for April and May 2023 have been verified and signed off.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 8**APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2023/2024**

Members discussed and noted that:

- Eleanor Greene has been the auditor for a number of years, has a lot of knowledge so good to have continuity.

RESOLVED

To approve the re-appointment of Eleanor Greene, Do The Numbers, as the internal auditor for Fleet Town Council for 2023/2024.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 9**RESUBMISSION OF CONTRACTED HYGIENE SERVICES FOR THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Council approved a new hygiene services contract at the Council meeting on 5th April 2023 however the chosen contractor has not responded.

The Internal Auditor has advised that the next best choice can be considered, without having to re-run the quotation process.

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

RESOLVED

To approve a new hygiene contract at Ancells Farm Community Centre and The Harlington for the provision of air fresheners, hand dryers, hygiene bins and offensive waste bins with Sanaway Ltd at an annual cost of £4,050.28 plus VAT for a period of twelve months.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 10**BADGER ACTIVITY AT FLEET CEMETERY**

A full update on the badger activity was provided at the last RLA meeting on 21st June 2023. Since that meeting the Cemetery Clerk has asked The Ecology Co-op to proceed with the licence application.

Subject to the licence being granted, it is recommended that the Council create a specific Ear Marked Reserve of £10,000, taken from General Reserves, to fund the surface repairs at the Cemetery. The licence application fee of £1,901 + VAT will be taken from this amount.

RESOLVED

- 1) The update was noted.
- 2) To approve the transfer of £10,000 from General Reserves to a new Ear Marked Reserve for reactive repairs to the cemetery.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 11**SECTION 106 ANCELLS FARM GREEN GYM**

Members received and noted the report from the Facilities and Open Spaces Manager. Three quotes were received.

RESOLVED

To approve Fresh Air Fitness for the provision of six pieces of outdoor gym equipment including installation at Ancells Farm Park at a cost of £12,980.25 + VAT.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 12**CLIMATE CHANGE**Repair Café

a) Cllr Cottrell provided a summary of the proposal for setting up a monthly Repair Café in The Harlington. It was advised that electrical safety will be part of the Risk Assessment, which will come under the Council's Liability. Confirmed that the repairers will need to be DBS checked.

The Greening Campaign

b) To consider and agree to pursue Stage 2 of the Greening Campaign and to hold a public meeting to promote The Greening Campaign.

The Schools Climate Change Competition

c) The Chairman announced the winners of the Fleet Town Council Climate Change competition in Schools. The overall winner is Ollie and a plaque will be placed at The Views orchard called 'Ollie's Orchard' to recognise his achievement.

The year 5 school prize is a wildlife camera which will be awarded at a school assembly.

RESOLVED

- 1) To approve opening a Repair Café at The Harlington.
- 2) To approve proceeding with phase 2 of The Greening Campaign, which will involve a public meeting to be held on Monday 4th September 2023.

Cllr Stephen Parker left the meeting at 8:15pm.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 13**HART DISTRICT COUNCIL (HDC) COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS**

At the RLA meeting on 21st June 2023, the Hart District Council Countryside Manager attended to introduce the District Council's Countryside Engagement Plan.

The main purpose of the engagement plan is to:

- Develop engagement between the District Council and its stakeholders regarding the management of their land.
- To inform the parishes about the District Council's activities and to avoid duplication of effort.
- To work together on joint projects to deliver mutual benefit.
- To provide the parishes with a point of contact in the Countryside Team.

The District Council has also suggested that regular partnership meetings take place between themselves and each parish. The Council is asked to agree which Members will attend these meetings.

RESOLVED

To approve that Cllrs May, Willcocks, Cottrell, Tilley and Taylor will attend the HDC Countryside Partnership meetings along with the Executive Officer and to hold three such meetings per year.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 14

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

To approve moving the meetings of the Establishment Committee:

- a) 12th July 2023 to 26th July 2023.
- b) 13th September 2023 to 8th November 2023.

A member asked whether the timing of the Annual Meeting in May should be permanently changed to the second Wednesday of the month, so the meeting does not coincide with the Annual Elections. The Executive Officer confirmed that the meeting for 2024 will be confirmed towards the end of the year.

RESOLVED

To approve moving the Establishment Committee meeting dates, as follows:

- 1) 12th July 2023 to 26th July 2023.
- 2) 13th September 2023 to 8th November 2023.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 15

COMPLAINTS

New Complaints

No new complaints have been received since the last meeting.

Monitoring Officer’s Report and Recommendations – 18th April 2023

In relation to the code of conduct complaint made to the Monitoring Officer in January 2023 and the resulting Monitoring Officer’s report received in April 2023, Cllr Oliver apologised unreservedly if Mr Forster or anyone else was offended by comments made at the January 2023 Council meeting.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 16

EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Members noted the Executive Officers report.

The Fleet Community Map was discussed, Fleet Town Council does not have the resources to keep it up to date.

Hart District Council has been asked to consider if they will promote it.

Cllr Alan Hope left the meeting at 8.39pm.

FC JULY 2023 ITEM 17

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 8.41pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date:.....