

FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors: R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Chenery, K. Cottrell, R. Fang, S. Engström, L. Holt,

A. Hope, S Sharma Krishnmurthy, E. May, R. Richmond, R. Robinson, B.

Willcocks, G. Woods.

Also Present

Rochelle Halliday – Executive Officer Councillor Mark Butcher – HDC Councillor Adrian Collett – HCC Councillor Steve Forster – HCC Councillor Stephen Parker - HCC

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr Einchcomb due to a medical issue, Cllr Tilley due to a medical issue, Cllr Oliver due to a family anniversary event and Cllr Wildsmith due to ill-health.

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Schofield gave an official welcome to Rochelle Halliday on her first Full Council meeting. On behalf of all of Councillor's thanks were recorded for the loyal and dedicated service delivered by Janet Stanton over the last 12 years and asked for approval that a small token of the Council's appreciation be sent on behalf of the Town Council.

He reported his attendance during the period as follows:

8th September - met with Hart Officers regarding the Harlington Lease.

17th September - along with Councillor Oliver and the Clerk met with residents from the Courtmoor Ward. Well attended and some lively conversations.

18th September - attended the National Moment of Reflection organised in collaboration with the Fleet and Crookham District Branch of the Roya British Legion. Very well attended by residents.

19th September - along with fellow Councillors and members of staff, supported the screening of the Queen's Funeral at The Harlington.

22nd September - attended the AGM of Fleet and District Neighbourhood Watch. Unfortunately, it was not well attended but a Police Report was given by our new Sergeant Mayne and PCSO Sam. Generally local crime by way of theft is down but Anti-Social Behaviour has increased significantly. In addition to our Sergeant and 2 PCSO's we now have 5 PCs who are all in their first 3 years of training. Some are part time as they are completing degree courses.

Despite previous criticism of our local police force, Cllr Schofield extend the Council's thanks to the police representatives for the rapid response and action of the police in removing travellers who had invaded Ancells Farm Park. They entered the park around mid-day but were removed at 8pm that same evening fortunately, with insufficient time to cause serious damage to the area.

27th September - attended the Fleet BID Board Meeting along with Cllr Fang. Starting to put in place a programme of events to attract footfall into the town and support our local businesses.

29th September - along with the Clerk and the Executive Officer had a follow up meeting with Hart's Officers regarding the Harlington Lease.

29th September - attended RAF Odiham's Annual Reception.

30th September - along with Cllr Woods attended the ASB Trigger meeting. An interesting concept that regrettably comes to the support of victims of ASB when virtually all else has failed and the victims have endured a prolonged period of abuse. More information on the Trigger mechanism will be distributed once copies of the slide presentations are received.

There should have been a meeting of the Civic Quarter Development Working Group, but this has been deferred until 1st November.

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 5 HCC/HDC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anti- Social Behaviour

Cllr Butcher gave an update. There is a disconnect between what ASB is being reported and the actual levels of ASB and cycle thefts. There is a new team based in the HDC office. Police are working on improving communication especially over social media.

Complaints have been received about Popworld, mainly related to assaults, vandalism, and drug taking in The Views.

Local events in response to the death of HM The Queen

Cllr Forster thanked all involved in the local events surrounding the death of HM The Queen.

Recent Crime Issue

The issue of stalking and a recent arrest were raised.

Transport

Fast train services are due to be reinstated in December. Various road works are currently taking place in Fleet.

Trees

Suggestions for locations of new trees can be submitted via the HDC website.

Planning

A planning application has been received for the former park and ride area in Elvetham Heath for retailer and a drive-through restaurant.

Cllr Collett then updated members:

South East Water

There is concern about the potential volume of traffic that will use Ancells Farm Road as a short cut to the motorway. There are some issues with the diversion signage. There may be a break in the works in early December, recommencing in January, to allow the temporary opening of Cove Road, if work progresses to plan.

Ancells School Bus

There is currently no official escort on the Ancells Farm School Bus, currently someone from Fleet Infant School is assisting. HCC are currently recruiting for Transport Escorts.

Sewage Farm

The odour from the Sewage Farm is an issue for Thames Water to resolve.

Traveller Sites

It is a District Council responsibility to make the case for a transit site for travellers and it is the lack of this facility that had led travellers to seek their own sites.

Cllr Parker reinforced earlier comments on the need for all crime to be reported so that action can be taken.

A287 Farnham Road Roundabout

The roundabout is scheduled to open at the end of October.

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Annual Council held on Wednesday 7th September 2022 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman. The confidential minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 7th September 2022 will be returned to the next Council meeting for approval.

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

Development Control 12 September (notes) and 26 September 2022

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 7 NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF 2021-2022 EXTERNAL AUDIT

Members received the Annual Governance and Accountability Return from the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP for the year end 31st March 2022. Members noted that there were no qualifications. Congratulations were given to the Town Clerk and her team on an outstanding financial report.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Governance and Accountability Return of the external auditor for 2021/2022 be received and accepted by Full Council.

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 8 FINANCIAL MONITORING

Members noted receipt of

- a. The bank reconciliation for August 2022
- b. The list of receipts for August 2022
- c. The list of payments for August 2022

Cllr Robinson confirmed inspection of the August 2022 bank reconciliation which were in order, he signed the bank statements and payment schedules.

RESOLVED to accept into the Minutes

- The bank reconciliation for August 2022
- The list of receipts for August 2022
- The list of payments for August 2022
- To confirm that the bank reconciliations for August 2022 equal zero and that the bank statements match the reconciliations.

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 9 COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Members received a revised list of the Membership of Committees and Working Groups. Cllr Chenery subsequently resigned from the Policy and Finance Committee. The final membership list is to be provided at the next meeting for noting.

RESOLVED

To approve the revised membership of

- RLA Committee
- Climate Change Working Group
- Community Emergency Working Group
- Parks and Open Spaces Working Group
- Risk Management Working Group

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 10 COMPLAINTS

Members noted that there had been no complaints.

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 11 EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that:

- Officers have been working on next year's budget, with the first draft to go to the Policy & Finance Committee meeting on 19th October.
- Members were asked to contact the Council Office if available to help at the Christmas lights switch on event on 23rd November.
- The Notice for a Casual Vacancy was posted on 21st September and will end on 5th
 October Addendum: Hart subsequently advised that the end date for applications is
 12th October.
- Members are reminded that the commemorative service for Remembrance Sunday will take place at The Harlington on 13th November.

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Council is on Wednesday 2nd November 2022 at 7pm in The Function Room of The Harlington.

FC OCTOBER 2022 ITEM 13 LEASE and CONTRACTURAL ISSUES

The Chairman stated the reasons that this matter needed to be confidential.

RESOLVED

That subject to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Exclusion of the public in accordance with Section 1(2) and by reason of the confidential nature of the business of the Town Council, the Public and Press will be excluded from the Meeting.

Cllrs Butcher, Collett, Forster and Parker left the m	eeting at 7.45pm.
The remainder of the meeting was conducted in co	nfidential session.
Signed	Date:

Chairman