



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 13th July 2022

PRESENT

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

Also Present

Janet Stanton – Town Clerk
Wendy Allen – Acting Committee Clerk
Councillor Steve Forster – HCC
Councillor Adrian Collett - HCC
1 member of the public

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received and accepted apologies from Cllr Sharma Krishnmurthy who had a home emergency and Cllr Tilley as it was her wedding anniversary

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Schofield thanked Cllr Tilley, The Clerk and all the volunteers for a very successful Platinum Jubilee celebration.

Councillor Schofield took the opportunity to update members on the following:

- **Ukrainian Support Evening**
 - Successful evening which particularly helped host families
 - Subsequently 20 families have not proved compatible with their host families and have had to be relocated, but it is potentially putting more pressure on the limited housing stock available to Hart.
 - Original agreements were for six months only on the basis of this being a short-term confrontation. All host families are being contacted to extend their agreements if possible.
- **New Executive Officer**
 - Held second interviews with Cllr Einchcomb to replace The Clerk
 - Very interesting to learn how other councils operate
 - Rochelle Halliday has been appointed and joins the Council on 1st October

- **NALC Local Council Webinar**
 - Interesting webinar and although FTC may or may not decide in the future to seek an award, the standards of the higher levels of Award called Quality and Quality Gold should be noted. These would be very useful benchmarks for FTC to be aware of.
- **Royal British Legion**
 - Attended RBL garden party for their service awards. One local lady has achieved 30 years' service in selling poppies.
 - Last year's poppy sales exceeded all previous records.
- **Benchmarkx**
 - Cut the ribbon to instigate the opening of the new Benchmarkx store at Travis Perkins
- **HALC's Local Council Finance training**
 - Attended, with some fellow councillors, HALC's Local Council Finance training webinar
- **Harlington Lease**
- Held a conference call along with Cllr Tilley with Cllr Radley and one of the HDC's Joint Chief Executives to discuss the current situation on the Harlington lease
 - A follow up meeting was held with members of the Harlington Working Group
- **HDAPTC AGM**
 - Attended along with Cllr Einchcomb.

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Annual Council held on Wednesday 1st June and Friday 10th June 2022 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

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

RLA	15 th June 2022
Development Control	13 th & 27 th June 2022

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 6 FTC - DEVELOPMENT OF A 4-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

Members discussed the merits of a 4-year business plan and noted:

- Finances are at a critical stage so longer term planning important
- It would be necessary to initiate a vision strategy that would aid transparency for residents
- Plan needs to be strategy led.
- Suggested that the plan should extend for 5 years to give a start to the new council in 2027

RESOLVED

That a Working Group be set to develop a 5-year Business Plan for Fleet Town Council. Members will be sent dates and the Working Group will be set up to include those that are available.

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 7 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Members considered the proposed Capital Projects spreadsheet.

RESOLVED

- To approve the proposed list of FTC Capital Projects
- To abstract from the list possible s106 projects and send the list to HDC for consideration when allocating projects for s106 funding

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 8 FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Members discussed the funding requests for Capital Expenditure and noted:

- Friends of Oakley Park have £7000 to contribute to the path repairs
- Friends of Ancells Farm Park have offered £5000 to contribute to the path extension
- Increasing deficit in council funds
- Need to build up a reserve for the time when the Cemetery is closed but still needs to be maintained
- Cemetery paths could be carried out in stages with first part using self-pour levelling compound to see the efficacy

RESOLVED

To agree the request to take funds from General Reserves for the following projects:

a.	Repairs to cemetery paths 1st stage	£10,000
b.	Repairs to the path outside All Saints School, Lea Wood Road	£3,700
c.	Repairs to the paths in Oakley Park (£9,000 less £7,000)	£2,000
d.	Ancells Farm Park Path extension between pavilion and bridges/Ancells Road (£9,000 less £5,000)	£4,000

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 9 S106 APPLICATION

Members discussed S106 application request following the RLA meeting and noted:

- The costs are approximate, and quotes will need to be obtained
- Questioned why Ancells Farm residents had not been consulted about the requirement for an outdoor gym. Clarified that it was included in the park development plan developed when the membership of the Friends Group was much larger.

RESOLVED

To progress S106 funding from Hart District Council for:

- A Trim Trail in Oakley Park - £12,500 approx
- An outdoor gym in Ancells Farm Park - £15,000 approx

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 10 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2022/2023

Members discussed and noted that

- Eleanor Greene has been the auditor for a number of years.
- With the Clerk retiring it would be useful to have the continuity

RESOLVED

To confirm the re-appointment of Eleanor Greene, Do The Numbers, as the internal auditor for Fleet Town Council for 2022/2023.

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 11 HONG KONG IMMIGRANT SUPPORT

Cllr Fang introduced the possibility of a support group for Hong Kong immigrants in the Fleet and the surrounding areas and proposed showing a film to residents.

Members discussed how FTC can help, the following points were raised:

- Since 2020 200 families have arrived in the area – mostly Hareshill which is in Crookham village' The new arrivals are generally in work but not integrated into the community.
- Can't compare the situation to the Ukrainian arrivals who have lost their homes and are bereaved
- Want to integrate all new arrivals
- Film club may be interested in showing the film

RESOLVED

- To discuss possible opportunities to integrate new arrivals into the community outside of the meeting

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 12 CONSULTATION

Members noted the Hampshire Catchment Management Plan

RESOLVED

The Chairman to respond on behalf of the Council

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 13 BASINGSTOKE CANAL SUPPORT

Members considered and looked at ways to support Odiham Council. The following was discussed:

- Canal is badly silting
- Principle problem is the work at Church Crookham has come to a standstill as the contractor has walked off the site. This has caused no flow of water through the canal.
- Cllr May is attending the JMC meeting
- Canal is a site of Special Scientific interest.

RESOLVED

- The Chairman to write in support of Odiham Councils letter and will put together some background information for Cllr May to prepare for the meeting.

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 14 CLIMATE CHANGE

Members received and noted the Terms of reference for the working group and the Climate change Policy. They noted that

- The life of the Council needed to be amended in the terms of reference to read 2022-2026
- Energy Certificate for the Harlington has been received and is at level B
- HDC will sign off their report on 18th July to take to Cabinet; this will have their pathway for the future included.
- Climate change clause to be in all contracts in the future
- All policies to be reviewed and have included "to consider climate change impacts and decisions"

RESOLVED

- To approve the Terms of Reference
- To approve the recommendations put forward by the Climate Change Working Group
- To approve amendments to Climate Change Policy and to include in the Action section a point to read “To eliminate non-essential single use plastic”

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 15 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Members noted the Policy

RESOLVED

Members approved the Risk Management Policy

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 16 SHARYN WHEALE – PLAQUE

Cllr Woods introduced the item and proposed wording of the plaque to read “*This row of Japanese cherry trees was planted by Fleet Town Council in memory of Cllr Sharyn Wheale who worked tirelessly for the residents of Fleet.*”

RESOLVED

Members approved the installation and the wording of a plaque in memory of Cllr Sharyn Wheale to be installed in Baker Way at the entrance to The Views from Victoria Road.

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 17 MARKET FUNDING

Members received and noted a request from Cllr Richmond on behalf of Fleet Market CIC proposing that an application be made by Fleet Town Council to HDC for S106 Funding from the town centre improvements contribution by Martin Lines site, application no 18/00694/OUT for the installation of an electrical supply into Gurkha Square for use by the market. The funding requested is £482.69. Members discussed:

- S106 might not be the right way to finance the electrical supply
- Possibility of a grant from FTC

RESOLVED

Members agreed to task the Clerk to formally complain to HDC about the condition of the brickwork to the raised beds in Gurkha Square car park being a Health and Safety issue.

That Fleet Market CIC consider applying for a community support grant for the electrical supply.

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 18 APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK

Members noted that Rochelle Halliday has been appointed as the new Executive Officer/Responsible Financial Officer to Fleet Town Council and her employment with FTC will start on 1 October 2022.

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 19 TOWN CLERK’S REPORT

The Clerk reported that one member of staff has COVID.

Councillor Forster updated members on the following:

- **Station Works**
 - Errors made by the contractor; HCC taken them to task
- **Open reach works on Reading Road South**
 - May be possible to reinstate the full traffic lights instead of the 4-way temporary ones by the Oatsheaf.
 - Utility companies don't have to notify HCC of highway works. This work was in response to a driver crashing into the terminal box.
- **Fire at Crookham Park**
 - 5 appliances attended the fire today at Crookham Park. The Parish Council stepped in to help residents and worked with HDC to arrange temporary accommodation for displaced residents.
- **Hitches Lane**
 - New crossing at Hitches Lane and Elvetham Heath roundabout.
 - New crossing for Leisure centre and Calthorpe Park School
 - Road closure on Hitches lane to sort out the footpath and remove trees
- **Water Pipeline**
 - Temporary traffic lights for 2 weeks at Railway bridge at Elvetham Heath to allow for the water pipeline
- **Transport consultation**
 - HCC are undertaking a consultation regarding the supported passenger transport services. Response is required by 24th July 2022
- **Request**
 - Request FTC move HDC and HCC councillor slot to the beginning of the meeting.

Councillor Collett updated members on the following:

- **Minley road**
 - Minley Road resurfacing is about to commence; this will give the road a new lease of life.
- **Cove Road**
 - People are walking along the Cove Road which does not have a footpath. Vegetation will be cut back where possible.

Councillor Wildsmith updated members on the following:

- **Fleet Pond Carpark**
 - Fleet Pond Carpark is now open
 - Official opening of the new boardwalk this Friday
- **Antisocial Behaviour**
 - Please report any antisocial behaviour via the new online system. There is also a QR code to enable residents to do this.

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting of the Council is on Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 7pm in The Function Room of The Harlington.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.41pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....

Chairman

Part 3 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Under 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

The following types of business will be treated as confidential:

- a. Engagement, terms of service, conduct and dismissal of employees**
- b. Terms of tenders, and proposals and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts**
- c. Receipt of professional legal advice and preparation of cases in legal proceedings**
- d. The early stages of any dispute**
- e. Matters of a Commercial nature**

FC JULY 2022 ITEM 21 STAFFING

To receive an update on a confidential staffing matter.