



## FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 at 7pm

\* Councillor Schofield (Chairman)

\* Councillor Einchcomb (Vice Chairman)

0 Councillor Chenery	* Councillor Richmond
* Councillor Cottrell	* Councillor Robinson
0 Councillor Fang	* Councillor Taylor
* Councillor Holt	0 Councillor Tilley
* Councillor Hope	0 Councillor Wildsmith
0 Councillor May	* Councillor Willcocks
* Councillor Neves	* Councillor Woods
* Councillor Oliver	

\* Present    # Absent & No Apology Received    0 Apology for Absence    L Late

#### Also in attendance:

Rita Tong – Executive Officer  
Declan James – Candidate for Co-Option  
Councillor Stephen Parker – HCC

#### FC JULY 2024 ITEM 1

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received and accepted the apologies as noted above.

#### FC JULY 2024 ITEM 2

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Taylor and Willcocks declared a pecuniary interest for item 14 – Fleet Market CIC on the grounds that they are Directors of the CIC.

#### FC JULY 2024 ITEM 3

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

#### FC JULY 2024 ITEM 4

#### CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Schofield reported his attendance since the last meeting as follows:

**6th June** - Attended D-Day act of remembrance at the war memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of the Council.

**6th June** - Participated in the Harlington Tender Review to select top three submissions for invitation to attend interviews.

**17th June** - Attended Fleet BID Board Meeting

**19th June** - Participated in the Harlington Tender interviews for the short-listed tenderers.

**25th June** - Attended CCTV survey of Ancell Farm sewer to ascertain cause of “sink holes along sewer route. Inspection frustrated by hydraulic condition of sewer with surcharged manholes. Later the same day met representative of Thames Water who conducted manhole inspection of both the sewer and the parallel Surface Water Drain (1400mm diameter). Agreed further investigation was necessary.

**26th June** - Together with the Executive Officer held Teams meeting with Morris solicitors re- Harlington Lease.

**29th June** - Attended the RBL annual garden party and award ceremony on behalf of the Council.

**3rd July** - Together with the Executive Officer held Teams meeting with Morris solicitors re- Harlington Lease.

**3rd July** - Together with the Executive Officer attended a meeting with the Chief Executive, Hart District Council re- Harlington Lease.

## **FC JULY 2024 ITEM 5**

## **HCC/HDC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following reports were received from Hampshire County Council and Hart District Council.

### Cllr Stephen Parker (HCC)

- The failure of the building on Oak Tree Parade is being addressed. The situation involves ten freeholders, making it a complex issue to resolve. It was confirmed that the brickwork in the area of the failure has been made safe. However, there is concern that other areas along that length may also be at risk of failure.
- The bike track at Edenbrook Park has been well received by residents. There are three tracks designed to serve a range of ages and experience levels. Members were encouraged to promote the facility to advocate for the County to provide additional similar facilities.

### Cllr Oliver (HDC)

- There is now a facility to recycle small electrical items through kerbside refuse collection.

Councillor Stephen Parker left the meeting at 7.10pm the end of his report.

## **FC JULY 2024 ITEM 6**

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

- Development Control                      10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- RLA    19<sup>th</sup> June 2024

## **FC JULY 2024 ITEM 7**

## **COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION TO FILL A CASUAL VACANCY**

Members received a presentation from the candidate. The candidate left the room whilst voting took place.

### **RESOLVED**

To approve Declan James to be co-opted as a Member of Fleet Town Council.

Declan James signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and remained for the remainder of the meeting.

**FC JULY 2024 ITEM 8**

**FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

Members noted receipt of:

- a) The bank reconciliation and a list of payments for May 2024.
- b) A statement from Councillor Robinson confirming that the bank reconciliation and list of payments for May 2024 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 2024.
- 2) To accept the statement from Councillor Robinson that the bank reconciliation and list of payments for May 2024 have been verified and signed off.

**FC JULY 2024 ITEM 9**

**APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2024/2025**

Members considered the report from the Executive Officer on the appointment of an Internal Auditor for Fleet Town Council for 2024/25.

**RESOLVED**

Members resolved to go to the market and tender for the position of Internal Auditor for the 2024-25 financial year. Members further resolved that the current Internal Auditor be invited to tender.

**FC JULY 2024 ITEM 10**

**COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

Members received an update on the progress made on the Council's new website and the use of social media in Council communications.

**RESOLVED**

Members noted the progress made on the Council's new website and the use of social media in Council communications. Members approved the discontinuance of Twitter (now known as X) as a platform used in social media communications.

**FC JULY 2024 ITEM 11**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following announcements were made:

- An update on the situation about the unauthorised encampment at Basingbourne Park and the steps taken by Officers regarding the matter.
- The request from the Police & Crime Commissioner to complete a survey to feed into the development of the Police & Crime Plan

**FC JULY 2024 ITEM 12**

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7pm in The Harlington.

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – CLOSED SESSION**

The Chairman stated that the following items for discussion relate to the engagement and terms of service in relation to employees and terms of tenders, and proposals and counterproposals in negotiations for contracts.

**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.

**FC JULY 2024 ITEM 13                      THE HARLINGTON TENDER**

Members received an update on appointing architectural services for The Harlington development.

**RESOLVED**

Members noted the progress in appointing an architect to design the refurbishment of the Harlington and requested that the Executive Officer follow up on the references for the architects involved.

**FC JULY 2024 ITEM 14                      FLEET MARKET CIC**

Members considered a report from Councillor Taylor on the Fleet Market CIC.

**RESOLVED**

Members authorised the Executive Officer to sign an agreement on behalf of Fleet Town Council with the Fleet Market CIC to operate a Saturday market at Gurkha Square.

**FC JULY 2024 ITEM 15                      COMMUNITY TRANSPORT CONTRACT**

Members considered the request by Hampshire County Council to extend the contract for Community Transport for six months.

**RESOLVED**

Members resolved to agree in principle the request by Hampshire County Council to extend the contract for Community Transport for six months.

**FC JULY 2024 ITEM 16                      HARLINGTON LEASE**

Members received an update from the Chairman on the progress of the Harlington Lease.

**RESOLVED**

Members resolved to note the report on the progress of the Harlington lease.

The meeting closed at 9:06pm.

**Signed**.....  
**Chairman**

**Date**:.....