



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 1st September 2021

at the Harlington

PRESENT

Councillors: R. Schofield (Chairman), P. Einchcomb, R. Fang, L. Holt, A. Hope, K. Jasper, A. Oliver, R. Robinson, S. Tilley, P. Wildsmith, G. Woods, J. Wright.

Also Present: Janet Stanton - Town Clerk
Wendy Allen – Office Manager
Susanna Walker – Committee Clerk
Mr Kumar Kuntikanamata
Mrs Mohua Chakraborty
Councillor Steve Forster – HCC
Councillor Adrian Collett - HCC
Councillor Parker – HDC

Councillor Schofield welcomed Councillor Fang to his first Council meeting,

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received and accepted apologies of absence from Councillor Chenery, due to health reasons, and Councillor Richmond, due to a prior commitment.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

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

- **Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022**
 - There will be an extra Bank Holiday at the beginning of June to give everyone a 4-day break.
 - NALC has suggested Town and Parish Councils light a beacon.
 - Jubilee celebrations in Fleet to be discussed at the RLA meeting on 15th September.
- **Police and Crime Commissioner Action Plan**
 - Opportunity to comment on draft plan.
 - FTC to potentially send a consolidated response.

- **NALC Documents**
 - New NALC publication titled 'Local service delivery and place shaping – A framework to support parish and town Councils'.
 - Challenging but interesting read.
 - Proposed collaboration of local government and devolution of local services, funded through the precept.
- **Kevin Ings, HCC**
 - Announcement of retirement at the end of September.
 - Led community bus initiatives.
 - FTC wishes to pass on thanks and best wishes for a long and hearty retirement to Mr Ings.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members received and approved as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th July 2021.

The resolution to Item 6, p3 – SPEED INDICATOR DISPLAYS (SIDS), was discussed. Members agreed that FTC would not become custodians of the SIDS and instead borrow from HDC when required. Members noted that the location lists would be resent to members, to choose the top 3 locations. It was made clear that any location chosen must be within the rules of SIDS and would need approval from HCC. Any data received would be extracted by HDC and given to FTC for their own use.

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

Policy & Finance	21 st July 2021
Establishment	22 nd July 2021
Establishment (CONFIDENTIAL)	22 nd July 2021
Development Control	26 th July 2021
	9 th and 23 rd August 2021

Members were reminded that the Budget 2022/2023 is now being prepared.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 5 CO-OPTION

Further to the Casual Vacancy for Fleet Central Ward having been advertised and 10 registered voters not coming forward to request a by-election, Council Members were given the option to co-opt a Councillor. In line with The Representation of the People Act 1985, members were asked to consider valid applications for co-option to Fleet Town Council from the following applicants:

- Mr Kumar Kuntikanamata
- Mrs Mohua Chakraborty

Both candidates were given the opportunity to give a 2-minute presentation to elaborate on their application submission and themselves to the Full Council, with questions from members following each presentation. Candidates were then thanked for their presentations and their enthusiasm and passion in standing for Councillor. Members of the public and all external guests at the meeting were asked to leave the meeting, to allow the Full Council to conduct a confidential vote.

RESOLVED

Members determined to appoint Mr Kumar Kuntikanamata to the role of Councillor to Fleet Central Ward.

Members of the public and all external guests were allowed back into the meeting, where the Chairman announced that Mr Kumar Kuntikanamata was the successful candidate as a co-opted Councillor. Thanks was given to Mrs Mohua Chakraborty for her presentations and

participation in the meeting. Members noted that Mr Kumar Kuntikanamata could join the Council's meetings from October 2021, once all the relevant documents had been signed.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 6 FINANCIAL MONITORING

Members received and noted the following:

1. a. The bank reconciliation for July 2021
b. The list of receipts for July 2021
c. The list of payments for July 2021
2. Councillor Robinson confirmed that the bank statements for June and July 2021 match the reconciliation, and he has signed the bank statements and payment schedules.

RESOLVED

Members accepted and approved into the minutes:

1. a. The bank reconciliation for July 2021
b. The list of receipts for July 2021
c. The list of payments for July 2021

Members accepted and approved into the minutes:

2. Councillor Robinson's confirmation that the bank reconciliation for June and July 2021 equals zero, and the bank statements match the reconciliation.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 13 HCC/HDC

Members agreed to bring forward Item 13 to this point in the meeting.

Councillor Collett reported on the following:

- **Cove Road water mains work**
 - Work is on schedule.
 - Cove Road closure now from Ancells roundabout to Minley Road. Diversion to the motorway will continue but concerns of an unofficial shortcut through Ancells Road.
 - HCC Highways to monitor over the next 10-12 weeks.
- **Pavement use**
 - Ancells Road pavement is not dual use for pedestrians and cyclists.
 - Report any safety issues through Highways online portal.

Councillor Forster updated members on the following:

- **Fleet Library**
 - Work is now complete, and scaffolding removed.
 - Fit for occupation for another 20 years.
- **SIDS & Speeding**
 - Reports of speeding on Ancells Road.
 - HCC working with Fleet Police and Chief Inspector.
 - SIDS campaign when Cove Road re-opens.
 - Campaign to reduce speeding and improve safety
 - Suggested for both motorists and pedestrians around Calthorpe Park School.
- **County Deal**
 - HCC have put forward an EOI to the government to take part in the localisation and devolution of power.
 - Potential benefit from more localised budget and decision making.
- **Road Maintenance**
 - Highways survey the state of the roads on a regular basis.
 - Any issues to be reported online.
 - Potholes - recent permanent repairs in Fleet area.

Councillor Parker discussed the following:

- **Report any road safety issues online.**
- **Reading Road South**
 - Issues with pedestrians crossing the road, especially Courtmoor School pupils.
 - HCC seeking to site a safe crossing place.

Councillor Oliver reported the following:

- **Green bins**
 - Suspended for 2 weeks.
 - Collection to resume from Monday 13th September 2021.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 7 NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF 2020-2021 EXTERNAL AUDIT

Members received the Annual Governance and Accountability Return from the External Auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP for the year end 31st March 2021. 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 2020/2021 be received and accepted by Full Council.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 8 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Members noted that this year's Remembrance Sunday service and parade will take place on Sunday 14th November 2021 and that further details on the arrangements will be provided once finalised.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 9 CHRISTMAS

Members noted that the Christmas Lights Switch-on and Festival will take place on Wednesday 24th November 2021. More details will be provided nearer the time.

Members also noted that it is intended to revert back to holding the Christmas Day lunch in The Harlington for local residents who would otherwise spend Christmas on their own. The planning and organisation of this event is under way.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 10 POLICE UPDATE

Members received a Police Report from Councillor Woods. The following points were raised:

- The last quarterly review was held in July and reference to anti-social behaviour (ASB) was made.
- Reports factor the end of lockdown contributing to the rise in ASB.
- Regular patrols are now in place in areas including Merivale and Calthorpe Park to prevent nuisance.
- The recruitment of both PCs and PSCOs continues, with 6 new PCs and 2 new PSCOs in the district being trained in Fleet and Yateley.
- Efforts are being made to prevent young people becoming involved in County Lines activities, which has resulted in raids and arrests in both Fleet and Rushmoor.
- The communication from the new Police Commissioner refers to recruitment, ASB, improving police visibility and crime reporting via 101. Members noted that these 4 topics were all items included in the letter from FTC to the Chief Constable earlier this year.

It was suggested that for future Council meetings, any written Councillor reports be included in the agenda packs.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 11**COMPLAINTS**

Members noted that there was 1 complaint related to rats in Calthorpe Park which had been dealt with. Matters discussed included:

- Increase in rat population due to COVID lockdown and less traffic on the road.
- Residents to try and keep areas clean and not deposit garden waste into parks.
- Baiting is visible at Calthorpe Park.
- FTC to undertake a leaflet campaign to residents near the parks, re. rats, problems and potential solutions.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 12**COVID UPDATE AND TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

Members received and noted an update from the Town Clerk. The following matters were discussed:

- A long serving member of FTC team, Patricia Moyce-Philips retired this week.
- Vaccination delivery – dates have been agreed with PCN.
- The Cemetery extension may go ahead, it does not require planning permission.
- Chairman's coffee mornings to restart, with the first one being Courtmoor Ward on Saturday 4th September 2021.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 14**DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE RLA COMMITTEE**

Members noted that due to the show times of the Christmas Pantomime, it is not possible to hold the RLA meeting on the scheduled date of Wednesday 15th December 2021. The new date for the RLA meeting has been brought forward to Wednesday 8th December 2021. Members are noted this change of date.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 15**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date and time of the next meeting of the Council is on Wednesday 6th October 2021 at 19.00 in the Harlington.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.46.

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 were excluded from the Meeting.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 16

HARLINGTON AND CIVIC QUARTER UPDATE

Members received and noted an update report on the Harlington and Civic Quarter.

FC Sept 2021 ITEM 17

RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

Members received and discussed a proposed recognition of community service within Fleet.