



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 3rd February 2021

PRESENT

Councillors: R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Carpenter, G. Chenery, P. Einchcomb, R. Harrison, R. Hill, L. Holt, A. Hope, K. Jasper, A. Oliver, D. Pierce, R. Richmond, R. Robinson, S. Tilley, P. Wildsmith, G. Woods, J. Wright.

Also Present: Janet Stanton - Town Clerk
Susanna Walker - Committee Clerk
Charlotte Benham - Project and Committee Officer
Councillor John Bennison - HCC
Councillor Steve Forster - HCC
Councillor Katie Davies – HCC
Councillor Adrian Collett - HCC

No of live stream viewers – 10 (includes 2 officers)

FC February 2021 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

FC February 2021 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Tilley declared an interest in Item 10 – Commemoration of 2020.

FC February 2021 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

Councillor Schofield thanked the Town Clerk and the General Manager of the Harlington for all their hard work and time spent to secure the Harlington as a vaccine site for Fleet and the surrounding areas.

Members agreed to suspend standing orders to allow an additional item regarding the War Memorial 100th Year Anniversary Celebration to be brought into the agenda, at Item 9 – Annual Residents Meeting.

FC February 2021 ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members noted and approved the minutes of Council meeting held on Wednesday 6th January 2021, subject to an amendment to Item 17 – Town Clerk's Report, the last bullet point, to change the spelling of Oakleigh Park to Oakley Park. It was agreed that the confidential minutes of Wednesday 6th January 2021 would be carried forward to the next Council meeting on 3rd March 2021, due to a delay in circulation to members.

The Council also received the minutes of the following Committees:

Development Control 11th & 25th January 2021

Members noted that the RLA December 2020 minutes would be brought to the Council meeting in March 2021.

FC February 2021 ITEM 5

HCC / HDC UPDATE

HCC / HDC

Councillor Bennison reported on the following:

- **Asymptomatic Testing (*Lateral Flow Tests*).**
 - HCC to support small organisations and individuals with testing kits,
- **Watery Lane**
 - Road closure on Redfields Lane for gas and electricity works.
 - Removal of a small number of trees.

Councillor Collett updated members with the following:

- **COVID19.**
 - Condolences to Captain Sir Tom Moore's family, following his death.
 - Condolences to Councillor Keith Evans' family, following his death.
 - Congratulations to FTC in securing the Harlington as a vaccination centre.
 - HCC local tracing centre, to support national test and trace.
- **Budget**
 - Council tax increase of 4.99%.
 - 3% for adult services; 1.99% for everything else.
 - HCC to find a reduction of £80million from their budget, due to COVID.
 - £8million less for adult services.
- **Minley Home Farm.**
 - MOD proposed demolition to install training facilities.

Councillor Davies reported on the following:

- **COVID19.**
 - Reiterated thanks given to the Town Clerk, General Manager of the Harlington and Councillor Schofield for all their effort in securing the Harlington as a local vaccination centre.
 - COVID vaccination rollout.
 - Support to local care homes.
 - BAME community reluctance in vaccine uptake.
 - Vaccine safety promotion through all platforms.

Councillor Forster updated members on the following:

- **Fleet Pond.**
 - Works application to create cycle access and removal of trees near the car park.
 - Part of the HDC Green Grid Strategy.
- **COVID 19**
 - Promote the importance of COVID vaccine to all residents.
 - Thanks to all staff and volunteers at the vaccination centres.
 - Proposed date for the Harlington vaccination centre is 15th February 2021.
 - Fleet Town COVID rates one of the lowest in the area.
 - A small number of residents have been lost due to COVID.
- **Police.**
 - Precept increase for Police is £15 increase per Band D property.
 - Increase in effective visible policing.

- **Fleet High Street.**
 - Changes to pedestrianised areas in Fleet will be retained until the current tier of lockdown is changed.
 - Blue badge parking to be reinstated at the same time.
 - Planters to be retained until 8th March 2021.
- **Grants.**
 - Many local businesses have been supported by grants.
 - Larger councils like FTC have not benefitted from support.

FC February 2021 ITEM 6 INSURANCE

Members received a report, detailing that the current 5-year insurance policy ends in March 2021. Members noted the following:

- Due to COVID restrictions, FTC resources are currently under pressure and going out to tender is not possible.
- The insurance company is able to offer a one year extension to FTC's current policy
- The one year policy extension would be within budget which includes the new playground at Calthorpe Park.
- It is proposed to retender at the end of December 2021.
- New insurance policies are likely to have limited business disruption cover.

RESOLVED

Members approved:

- a. To extend the Council's current insurance policy for a further year, ending on 31st March 2022.

FC February 2021 ITEM 7 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members received a report proposing an extension to the current Christmas Lights contract. Members discussed the following:

- Christmas Lights contract is up for renewal.
- FTC resources are stretched due to COVID restrictions.
- Existing contractor has agreed that they are able to extend the current contract for a further year, with a 25% discount on all hired products if required.
- Proposed saving would be £1995.00.
- Discussions with the BID.

RESOLVED

Members approved:

- a. To extend the Christmas lights contract for a further year, to end in January 2022.
- b. To accept a further 25% discount of the hired products for the current displays making a budget saving of £1,995.00.

FC February 2021 ITEM 8 ASSET REGISTER

Members received a copy of the Asset Register as of 27th January 2021. Members discussed:

- Insurance.
- The Harlington not being on the register as it is not FTC property.

RESOLVED

Members approved and received into the minutes the Asset Register as of 27th January 2021.

Members agreed to set aside standing orders in order to discuss the War Memorial 100th Year Anniversary Celebration on 10th April 2021 alongside the agenda item on the Annual Resident's Meeting. Members discussed:

- Due to COVID, there will be no public gathering.
- British Legion to be involved.
- FTC and British Legion to produce a short video including wreath presentation and interviews with local people and groups.
- Church Crookham produced a similar video to commemorate their War Memorial 100th Year Anniversary.
- FTC is proposing to produce a high-quality video for the Annual Resident's Meeting inhouse.
- Proposal to use an external production company for the War Memorial video, due to inhouse resources being used for the Annual Resident's Meeting.
- Approximate cost no more than £1500.00.

RESOLVED

Members agreed:

- a. That an external production company produce a video to commemorate the War Memorial 100th Year Anniversary.
- b. To approve a maximum budget of £1500.00.

Councillor Schofield continued with Item 9 – Annual Resident's Meeting. A lively discussion was had, raising the following points:

- Annual Resident's Meeting date to move to 25th May 2021.
- Due to current legislation, the meeting will be virtual and online.
- The new proposed date will be post-election.
- A video to be produced inhouse, involving Councillors, members of the public and interaction with the local community.
- Agenda to be included in the TownTalk newsletter.
- Residents to send in any questions or points to be raised.
- Potentially produce a second video to answer questions.
- Engagement is two-way. A video online is not an opportunity for residents to engage and interact with the Council.
- No live opportunity for residents to ask questions.
- Online is a different way of reaching people and different groups within the community.
- FTC to engage with production including any potential story board planning, watching filmed rushes etc.
- Video to be interesting, information and interactive with residents.
- Anyone wishing to be involved to contact the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

Members approved:

- a. The revised date of 25th May 2021 for the Annual Resident Meeting.
- b. That the 2021 Annual Resident's Meeting be virtual subject to government legislation.
- c. The format of the Meeting.

Members received a verbal report from Councillor Tilley, regarding a proposal to commemorate 2020. Councillor Tilley outlined the following:

- The proposal to plant several trees in the Views to:
 - commemorate the year that we have all gone through as a country.
 - celebrate the wonderful healthcare workers, key workers and volunteers.
 - act in memory of those who have sadly died as a result of the pandemic.

- Trees to be planted in the Views, due to the park's proximity to the town and accessibility.
- Position of trees planted to take into account any future plans for the park.
- Proposed choice of trees are white flowering cherry trees, due to the annual blossom and its representation of new beginnings and revival.
- Annual blossom display will enable an annual remembrance time for all residents to come together.
- Trees to be protected by metal tree guards.
- Information panel or plaques to explain the purpose of the trees.
- Local businesses and charities have expressed an interest in sponsoring a tree.
- Proposed cost to sponsor a tree is approximately £200-£300 including stakes, planting and water pipes.

Following Councillor Tilley's presentation, members raised the following points:

- Cherry blossom trees only flower for a short time.
- Potential to have trees that blossom during the different seasons, to allow people to remember at varying times throughout the year.
- Different trees for different seasons disperse the need for an annual event.
- Different trees potentially lose impact of one whole display.
- The spiritual nature of white flowering cherry trees is appropriate for this commemoration.
- The cherry tree foliage turns red/orange in the autumn.
- The Views Working Group was not involved in any discussions.
- Initial proposal brought to the RLA.
- The Views future plans taken into consideration.
- Open Spaces Working Group to consider this proposal.
- Possible incorporation with sensory stations in the Views.
- Community engagement.
- Approach residents to find out how they would like to commemorate 2020.
- No need to rush to create a memorial.
- Tree planting is not likely to be the only memorial in Fleet.
- Local businesses want to be involved.
- Time frame to plant trees.
- Cherry trees can be planted before the end of March or later in year from November to March.
- Engagement with the public with online questionnaire.
- Feels too early to plant trees to commemorate 2020 when the current pandemic and situation is still ongoing.

RESOLVED

1. That Council does not support this initiative and therefore, the motion was not carried.
2. That a meeting of the Parks and Open Spaces Working Group is arranged to progress a suitable Commemoration of 2020/2021 in Fleet.

FC February 2021 ITEM 11

POLICE

Further to the letter sent to Hampshire Constabulary on behalf of Fleet Town Council and their received response, members received a verbal update from Councillor Woods on a recent meeting with Chief Inspector Halfacre. Councillor Woods reported on the following:

- Chief Inspector Halfacre recognises the limitations with the online reporting system and lack of access some residents have.
- Neighbourhood team covers a large area.
- Additional PC in Fleet.
- HDC has one of the lowest crime rates in HCC.
- Pandemic has been a challenge to the police.
- Drugs and their impact.
- Residents must report anything that they are concerned by.

- Every incident is logged by the police.
- Make policing more visible.
- Liaison group with the police and to establish a regular team meeting every 3 – 6 months.
- Councillor Woods and Councillor Hill to form this group.

NB: Regarding Item 10 – Commemoration of 2020, a recount and revote took place here, due to a miscount of the previous vote. Following the revote, it was announced that a majority of members did not support the initiative and the motion was not carried.

FC February 2021 ITEM 12

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Members received a verbal update from Councillor Schofield regarding the Business Improvement District (BID). Members noted the following:

- The BID's revenue and levy receipts has been reduced due to the current situation.
- BID continues with its programme to support Fleet and the High Street but at a reduced level.
- Emma Molyneux, one of the founding members of the BID, has resigned from the BID Board.
- Special thanks go to Emma Molyneux from FTC for all her hard work with the BID.
- More public awareness about the BID and what it stands for.

FC February 2021 ITEM 13

FLEET TOWN COUNCIL - COVID19 RECOVERY

Members received an update from the Town Clerk on the COVID19 recovery at FTC. Members noted the following:

- FTC has applied for further funding and because of an application for The Local Restrictions Supply Grant; a payment of £6,477.00 has been received. However, a query has been raised with HDC regarding the amount paid.
- FTC has provided funding of £1,000 to HVA to assist with the transport costs to and from the vaccination centres.
- Local businesses to be approached to acquire more funding for HVA to continue with the ongoing transport requirements.
- The North East Hants & Farnham CCG has announced that the NHS England has approved the Harlington as a vaccination site.

FC February 2021 ITEM 14

COMPLAINTS

Members noted that the complaints had been received and dealt with.

FC February 2021 ITEM 15

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

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

- **Census 2021.**
 - All Councillors to help spread the word within the community.
- **Playgrounds.**
 - Rushmoor playgrounds are currently closed.
 - Fleet playgrounds remain open, as infection rates are lower.
 - Weekly inspections around all parks.
 - Some play equipment has been removed to secure social distancing in playgrounds.
 - FTC is following government guidelines and trying to make playgrounds as safe as possible.

The date and time of the next virtual meeting of the Council is scheduled for Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 19.00.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:32.

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

There were no confidential items.