



## **FLEET TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING**

held on

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021

#### **PRESENT**

**Councillors:** R. Schofield (Chairman), G. Carpenter, G. Chenery, P. Einchcomb, R. Hill, L. Holt, A. Hope, K. Jasper, A. Oliver, D. Pierce, R. Richmond, R. Robinson, S. Tilley, S. Wheale, 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 Adrian Collett - HCC  
Councillor Katie Davies - HCC  
Charlotte Tickner – Managing Director, Fleet Phoenix  
Angela Forster - Trustee, Sasha's Project

Number of YouTube viewers - 9

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 1**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 2**

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 3**

#### **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Members noted the following question from Mr Russell Hunt, regarding the allotments at Edenbrook:

*"On behalf of a number of residents on the waiting list, I would like an update on the allotments at Edenbrook please. Although the site was fenced and a borehole installed well over a year ago, little work has been done since. What is the plan to complete the work, and release the plots to the waiting public?"*

Councillor Schofield responded to the question, stating that the Edenbrook SANG development including the allotments is the responsibility of HDC and the question should be directed to them. However, members noted that FTC has approached the responsible officer and can report that:

- Hart District Council successfully tendered for the design and build for the community gardens and have awarded this project to the Groundwork Trust who are long established in providing community green spaces throughout the country.
- HDC expects works to start in May and be completed by mid-summer.

- An Officer has been designated as the project manager who will run this project throughout its life in partnership with Hart Allotments Association and Hart Voluntary Action.
- HDC will post updates on all social media as they occur.

Councillor Schofield then updated members on the following:

- **Fleet BID 20 Minute Town presentation, presented by Subtrans.**
  - Mapped out that Fleet could be a pedestrian centric town.
- **HDC Workshop on town regeneration, presented by Matt Baker.**
- **New Frimley Health Trust presentation.**
  - An amalgamation of local Clinical Commissioning Groups, which will cover a broad and diverse area.
  - Some benefits of scale but appears to go against the idea of localised health services.
- **Live opening of Sasha's Project.**
  - Small attendance in keeping with current COVID guidelines.
  - Unable to visit the premises.
  - Thanks to the volunteers who work to run this valuable service.
- **Filming for the Centenary Rededication of the War Memorial.**
- **Council Tax Increase.**
- FTC's element of the Council Tax is to increase by 1.1%, yet FTC resolved not to increase its element of the tax.
- The division of legal responsibility is that FTC is required to notify HDC, as the tax collection authority, of how much money HDC are to collect on behalf of FTC to run the council for the coming financial year, called the Precept.
- HDC is then responsible for determining what is called the Tax Base, expressed as the total number of Band D equivalent properties derived by a complex calculation.
- The Band D equivalent Council Tax is the Precept/Tax Base
- FTC had been advised of the Tax Base for the financial year 2021/2022, for which a spreadsheet to demonstrate that the tax base multiplied by the previous level of Council Tax (£102.32). produced a sum of money that together with an agreed contribution from reserves covered FTC's running costs for next year.
- In the final computation of the Council Tax, HDC used a different Tax Base, not the one FTC had been advised of. A lower number was used that resulted in an increased element of Council Tax.
- Each household will therefore see a 1.1% increase in their contribution towards the Town Council, but FTC will only receive the same amount of money from HDC that was asked for, the Precept.
- FTC has queried the variation and received an explanation, but no apology.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 4**

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Members received and approved as a correct record the minutes and confidential minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. Due to an omission in the minutes, members noted that Councillor Hope's name was to be added to the Councillor's present list for this meeting.

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

RLA

17<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Development Control

8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Members noted that in the RLA minutes, Item 4 – Minutes of Previous Meeting, the third bullet detailed an amendment sought to the wording in the Clerks Report, whereby the words 'cherry trees' were to be replaced by 'cherry tree'. Following this, the meeting recording was checked against the minutes, and it was found that the original minutes were correct and the amendment sought changed the minutes incorrectly.

Regarding the Development Control minutes, members also noted that the Chairman had met with Mark Jaggard and Emma Whitaker to discuss the assessment of planning applications.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 5**

#### **MEETINGS**

Members noted that Government has decided not to extend the temporary legislation on the holding of virtual meetings and all Council Meetings after 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 should revert to face to face meetings. The following was discussed:

- Any resolutions made at virtual meetings following 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 will not be valid.
- The government has recommended Councils to bring forward any meetings scheduled in May to before 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021, where virtual meetings will still be legal and all resolutions of the meeting binding.
- The Annual General Meeting of FTC to be brought forward to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
  - The primary purpose of this meeting is to establish the administrative practices of the Council for the coming year, elect a chairman, allocate councillors to committees etc.
  - Any matters that may require debate can be deferred to the next Council Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

#### **RESOLVED**

To approve the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council to conduct the statutory business of the first council meeting of the year on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 6**

#### **SASHA'S PROJECT**

Members received and considered a grant application for hire of The Point by Sasha's Project. Members discussed the following:

- Sasha's Project is a drop-in centre for young people struggling with mental health issues.
- The opening of the centre was delayed until 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021, because of COVID.
- Funding to be sought from other local and parish councils.
- The original recommendation was 'to approve the use of The Point for one night per week on a Saturday night/Sunday morning for Sasha's Project for a period of 6 months whereas the grant application requested the use of The Point for 37 nights, until the end of 2021.
- An amendment was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to remove the words "for a period of six months" and substitute "for 37 nights until the end of 2021."

Members voted on the adopted amendment and

#### **RESOLVED**

To approve the use of The Point for one night per week on a Saturday night/Sunday morning for Sasha's Project for 37 nights, until the end of 2021 and Sasha's Project to provide quarterly feedback reports to FTC.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 7**

#### **EVENT APPLICATION**

Members received and considered an event application from Friends of Ancells Farm to hold a Community Table Tennis Fun Day at Ancells Farm and playing fields on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The following was discussed:

- Ancells Farm has installed an outdoor table tennis table.
- Fun Day to welcome the end of lockdown and create interest in table tennis.
- Small event, due to current government guidelines.
- All paperwork, including risk assessment, public liability, and insurance documents to be provided.
- No bond to be charged to Friends of Ancells Farm.

## **RESOLVED**

To approve the Community Table Tennis Fun Day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

### **FC April 2021 ITEM 8**

### **FINANCIAL MONITORING**

Members received and noted the following:

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

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Members approved and accepted into the minutes:

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

### **FC April 2021 ITEM 9**

### **FIBRE DATA CENTRE**

Members received and considered a report on a proposed Data Fibre Centre in Fleet.

Members discussed the following:

- FTC has been approached by Up Connect, on behalf of a client wishing to provide Ultrafast Broadband to Fleet and lease a small piece of land to locate a mini data centre.
- The proposed site agreed by both FTC and the supplier is a piece of scrub land in Calthorpe Park, on the track off Crookham Road before the entrance to FTFC's leased area.
- Proposed area is approximately 7.5m x 7.5m.
- FTC to update this area and reinstate fencing.
- Company to provide natural screening and plants around the cabinet.
- Planning permission will be sought by UP Connect's Client.
- Security and insurance provided by the data company.
- Potential issues with noise, as near resident's houses.

## **RESOLVED**

Members approved:

- The location of the Data Centre in Calthorpe Park
- To negotiate with Up Connect's client for the parcel of land in Calthorpe Park and progress the lease/legal documents.

### **FC April 2021 ITEM 9A**

### **FLEET TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

Members were asked and approved the waiving of Standing Orders to discuss an additional item, regarding the support to Fleet Town Football Club to secure an FA Grant for facility improvements. Members supported the proposal and noted the following:

- The Lease Working Group (LWG) has met to investigate a new lease for FTFC.
- FTFC currently applying to be a limited company.
- FTFC require a new lease of 10 years, to apply for major grants.
- Extension of current lease not an option.
- FTC do not wish to rush new lease negotiations.
- FTFC facilities including changing rooms and clubhouse are inadequate and need improvement works.
- Football Association Foundation Grant available every season.
- FTFC unable to apply for grant, due to limits with lease.

- FTC, as the freeholder, can apply on FTFC's behalf.
  - FTFC will complete the application and provide all the documents.
  - FTC to vet application before submission.
  - Grant to be paid to FTC if successful.
  - Appropriate indemnity from FTFC.
- FTFC an asset to Fleet.
- FTC should not set a precedence in applying for a grant on behalf of another group.
- FTC to agree with FTFC release of grant money.
- Outstanding issues with FTFC including floodlights to be discussed and dealt with by the LWG.

Members **RESOLVED** that

FTC support FTFC in securing an FA Foundation Grant for the improvement of the changing facilities and club house.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 10**

#### **TOWNTALK**

Members noted that the TownTalk newsletter will be delivered to properties in Fleet between 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 11**

#### **RESIDENT'S PRESENTATION**

Members noted that the resident's presentation and the reasons behind the decision are being communicated to residents through the latest edition of TownTalk newsletter.

Residents are asked to send any concerns or questions they may have to FTC by 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and, where possible, they will be accommodated within the presentation. If not, they will be included in an online live Question and Answer session after the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 presentation.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 12**

#### **WAR MEMORIAL CENTENARY**

Members noted that a short centenary commemoration film is currently being filmed and will be publicly available to watch on the FTC Website or on social media from mid-late April.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 13**

#### **GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON FORM OF MEETINGS**

Members noted that having ended the use of virtual meetings from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the government is now collecting evidence on the experience of authorities and individuals in the use of virtual meetings. Members noted that FTC will respond to this, but individual responses were also encouraged.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 14**

#### **COMPLAINTS**

Members noted that there were 4 complaints, which had all been dealt with. Matters discussed included:

- **Calthorpe Park.**
  - Current government guidelines to block off the tunnel slide.
  - Picnic benches include an overhang for wheelchairs. These are in line with all required specifications.

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

- FTC's achievements during the pandemic.
- Cemetery.
- Reduced staff levels, due to furlough scheme.
- Vaccinations.
- The volunteers at the Vaccination Centre.

## FC April 2021 ITEM 16

## HCC / HDC UPDATE

## HCC / HDC

Councillor Forster reported on the following:

- **Pale Lane.**
  - Traveller incursion, which has been passed to the police.
- **Business Grants.**
  - Restart grants available for businesses.
  - To be processed from 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
- **Vaccinations.**
  - Infection rate in HDC approximately 37 per 100,000.
  - Infection rate in HCC approximately 27 per 100,000.
- **May Elections.**
  - Usual polling stations will be open.
  - One way system in place at most stations.
  - Voters encouraged to bring their own pen.

Councillor Bennison updated members on the following:

- **HCC and IOW Fire & Rescue Service.**
  - Amalgamation of HCC and IOW Fire & Rescue Services.
  - Launched 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.
- **Household Waste Services.**
  - From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, opening hours will be 0900-1800 every day.
  - 50,000 slots available for booking each week.
- **Roadworks.**
  - Dinorben Avenue roadworks have been completed.
  - Beacon Hill Road will be closed from 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 for 4 nights. A diversion will be in place.
  - Watery Lane has no roadworks at present.

Councillor Collett reported on the following:

- **Temporary Mortuary.**
  - Temporary mortuary in Basingstoke has been closed.
- **May Elections.**
  - Voters to take a pen and wear a mask.
  - Postal votes.
- **Blackbushes Road roundabout on A30**
  - Fleet Arm to be built.
- **Blackbush Airport.**
  - High Court have upheld the Appeal Court decision and ruled that the land should not be de-registered.

Members also discussed the following:

- **Green Waste Bins.**
  - Renewal process for residents.
  - Campaign to stop green bins being left out without subscriptions.

- **Waste Services.**
  - Waste team transferring to Basingstoke and Dean.
  - No impact to service and collections.
  - Thanks was given to the teams who have provided an excellent service throughout the past year.

Councillor Davies updated on the following:

- **Waste Collection.**
  - Residents to contact relevant Ward Councillor regarding any missed bin collections.
- **Grants.**
  - Process of applications longer due to COVID and elections.

#### **FC April 2021 ITEM 17**

#### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

As agreed, and approved by members in Item 5 of this meeting, the date and time of the next virtual meeting of the Council is now scheduled for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 19.00. There will be no opportunity for HDC and HCC updates, due to the formal business of the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.46.

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.**

There were no confidential items.