



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors: G. Chenery, P. Einchcomb (Chairman), L. Holt, E. May, A. Oliver, R. Schofield

Absent: P. Wildsmith, B. Willcocks

Also Present: Rochelle Halliday – Executive Officer

Alex Robins – Harlington General Manager

Ben Crane – Facilities and Open Spaces Manager

Sian Taylor – Cemetery Clerk

Cllr Daniel Taylor (new FTC Member)

Brian Roberts - Environment Agency

Mike Bye and one other member - Friends of Oakley Park

Dave Harrison – Friends of Basingbourne Park

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 1

APOLOGIES

Members received and accepted the apologies from Cllr Woods, Tilley, Cottrell and Fang.

Cllrs Willcocks and Wildsmith were absent.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made for any item on the agenda.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 3

PRESENTATION FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Members received a presentation from Brian Roberts of the Environment Agency regarding the draft Flood Alleviation Scheme in Fleet. The following was discussed:

- Stakeholder liaison.
- Project progress since 2020 with studies of modelling and appraisal of the proposed project.
- Catchments areas focusing on Fleet Brook and Sandy Lane ditch.
- Issues of flooding intensity and property flooding.
- Currently looking at shortlist of options for flood alleviation including flood resilience measures for approx. 160 properties, topographical changes and de-culverting watercourses.
- Draft plans cover over Oakley and Basingbourne Parks and Beacon Hill. Current thinking is to slow water down and spread it out.
- Next steps are completion of draft scheme, preparation of a business case and community engagement.
- The Environment Agency are not planning on leading the delivery of the flood alleviation scheme and it will need joint financial support and additional grant funding.

Questions/Comments from Members

- Will people be reluctant to take on property level measures. The Environment Agency is projecting around 15 domestic properties likely to accept flood alleviation measures.
- Finding suitable land to take the water would be challenging in some locations especially Oakley Park.
- The draft schemes can be delivered in isolation.
- A site visit with the Environment Agency would be useful.

The full documentation discussed will be shared with the Council after the meeting.

Brian Roberts left the meeting at 7.40pm.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 4 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Members received and approved as a correct record the main and confidential minutes of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting held on 21st December 2022. The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 6 THE CEMETERY OFFICER'S REPORT

Members discussed the additional expenditure for the maintenance work to the Cemetery paths, to account for inflation. The steep increase was not deemed acceptable. It was noted that the revised price was included on the prior quote issued for the last meeting.

Members agreed that due to the urgent need of the work, that the Executive Officer should negotiate the price if possible.

Members discussed the request for introducing a deposit arrangement for the kerb stone plots. After some discussion, it was agreed to introduce a deposit fee at 50% of the full cost. The permission is valid for twenty-five years.

The revised cemetery fees were discussed briefly. It was suggested that due to the limited space that the option and impact of making the cemetery for Fleet residents only should be explored. **Action: Cemetery Clerk** to investigate.

A discussion took place regarding whether the surplus funds in the Cemetery cost centre should be ringfenced into an earmarked reserve to cover future maintenance costs. Whilst the Council is in a budget deficit situation, it was agreed to leave the funds within the cost centre to offset expenditure elsewhere. A Council decision is not required for this.

RESOLVED

- a) Members opted not to approve the revised cost of the cemetery paths work and to delegated to the Executive Officer to try and negotiate a lower price.
- b) To add to the cemetery fees the option of a 50% reservation deposit for the kerb blocks in the Garden of Remembrance.
- c) Members opted to approve the use of any surplus Cemetery income to reduce the overall year deficit until a balanced budget can be set.
- d) Members noted the Cemetery Officers Report.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 7**CEMETERY FEES 2023/24**

Members reviewed the proposed cemetery fees for next financial year. Some fees have increased to cover costs due to the effects of inflation. Other fees have been increased by a smaller percentage to remain competitive. The overall approach to fee setting was discussed.

RESOLVED

To approve of the proposed fees for Fleet Cemetery 2023/24 with effect from 1st April 2023.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 8**THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT**

The report of the General Manager of the Harlington for the period December 2022 – February 2023 was presented. Members noted the following:

- Performances are going well and more shows are selling out this last quarter.
- More new customers are buying tickets likely as a result of the brochure drop and wider distribution.
- Income levels are good but they are being offset by the higher than expected costs for the building.
- Members commented that expenditure on the building should be closely monitored to ensure that repairs due for the landlord to pay are passed on.

It was agreed that the General Manager's report could be amended to highlight the shows that performed well and less well only, rather than narrative on every show in the period. The report on Ancells Farm Community Centre should remain.

RESOLVED

To note the report of the General Manager of The Harlington.

Harlington General Manager left at 8.35pm.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 9**FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACES MANAGER'S REPORT**

Members received and noted the report of the Facilities and Open Spaces Manager (FOSM) for December 2022 – March 2023 along with the repairs list and associated costs for the playground works.

The following matters were discussed:

ROSPA Playground Reports

- Dealing with unbudgeted repairs is difficult when the Council is running a deficit budget so careful consideration needs to be made when approaching repairs.
- Need to consider price vs lifespan when considering repairs – for example any matting that is replaced with an upgraded rubberised surface will likely last longer
- Rather than replacing a piece of equipment of a poor design with like-for-like, the Council would like to consider alternative options first.
- Once the ROSPA report is received it should be saved to the Council portal for Members to review. A summary schedule of works should then be prepared for the Committee to review before undertaking any Medium risk repairs. For High risks officers to repair, in in budget, or take out of use pending a Council decision if over budget.

Ancells Pavilion

- Insurance for remedial work - FOSM met with contracted for insurance company and can confirm all works to repair the pavilion after the water leak will be covered through insurance.

Calthorpe Park

- Members noted there has always been a flooding problem by the public toilets. Installing a soakaway as discussed is unlikely to be an adequate solution – other options need to be sought and considered.

Harlington

- Auditorium flooring – members noted that the auditorium flooring will need sanding and resealing soon.

RESOLVED

Members noted the report of the FOSM.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 10 STUDENT WORK PLACEMENTS

Members considered the option of hosting student work placements from Farnborough College of Technology to help map out a new website, redesign the newsletter and do some market research for the weekly market. The placements are for a period of 45 days and are likely to take place in May.

A meeting at Farnborough College of Technology to meet prospective placement students is to take place on 22nd March 2023.

RESOLVED

To approve, in principle, the hosting of student work placements from Farnborough College of Technology with formal approval to be sought at the next Full Council meeting.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 11 TEMPORARY 4G NETWORK INSTALLATION ON CALTHORPE PARK

Members considered granting permission in principle for the installation of a temporary 4G network in Calthorpe Park for the Coronation event and potentially for future events. Any installation will be carried out and paid for by a third party. The network signal in the Calthorpe Park area is very poor and makes taking card payments at events difficult.

RESOLVED

To approve permission in principle for the installation of a temporary 4G network by an authorised third party in Calthorpe Park, subject to location and design being agreed by Officers.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 12 TEMPORARY INSTALLATION TO RAISE AWARENESS OF YOUTH SUICIDE

Members noted a request from Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service to host a sand timer that is being toured around Hampshire to raise awareness of youth suicide.

The 6ft sand timer revolves every 40 seconds to reflect that every 40 seconds across the world someone will end their life by suicide. Coloured balls pass through the timer to reflect on average how many young people end their life by suicide each year. There is also an information board detailing where people can get help.

The installation has been pencilled in for 11th September 2023 for a four week period.

Members noted that the installation would need to be placed somewhere within range of CCTV to ensure it is secure.

RESOLVED

To agree to the temporary installation of the youth suicide awareness sand timer in September, subject to deciding the best location for it.

1 member of the public left the meeting at 9.19pm.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 13 EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

Members noted the Executive Officer’s Report.

A donation has been received from the Friends of Ancells Farm as a contribution towards installing a new path. Since the cost of the originally proposed path now far exceeds budget, it was advised that the donation should be returned with a letter confirming that the Council would be willing to discuss any future projects with the group that they may wish to donate to.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 14 FUTURE EVENTS

Members noted the list of future events.

RLA MARCH 2023 ITEM 15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 21st June 2023 at 7pm in The Harlington.

The meeting closed at 9.29pm

Signed: **Date**.....

Chairman