



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7pm

PRESENT

Councillors: G. Chenery, P. Einchcomb (Chairman), R. Fang, L. Holt, R. Schofield, D. Taylor, S. Tilley and G. Woods

Also Present: Rochelle Halliday – Executive Officer
Alex Robins – Harlington General Manager
Ben Crane – Facilities and Open Spaces Manager
Friends of Oakley Park representative
Friends of Basingbourne Park representative

RLA MARCH 2024 ITEM 1

APOLOGIES

Members received and accepted the apologies from Councillors May and Oliver.

Councillors Wildsmith and Willcocks were absent.

An apology of absence was also received from the Cemetery Clerk.

RLA MARCH 2024 ITEM 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

RLA MARCH 2024 ITEM 3

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Friends of Basingbourne Park representative asked whether it is possible to reduce the mowing of the fields and the area around the parks in the summer to enable wildflowers to grow.

The Friends of Basingbourne Park informed members that heathland areas are not as wet as they have been in the past and that it is necessary to try and divert the water. The Environmental Agency review suggested slowing down the flow of water and so the Friends of Basingbourne Park have installed some leaky dams in the area. The Friends of Basingbourne park representative asked if the leaky dams can be kept in place?

Members advised careful observation of the impact of the measures. Particular attention should be paid to the effect of the leaky dams on tree roots and the impact on ecology. The measures need to be surveyed and to confirm that there will be no adverse impact. Hart District Council Rangers have previously indicated that they may be able to assist with advising on this matter. Officers could also contact Hart District Council's flood resilience officer.

RLA MARCH 2024 ITEM 4

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Members received and approved as a correct record the minutes of the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on 20th December 2023, subject to the following correction:

- Item 8 CCTV, to delete 'them' on the first line of the last paragraph.

Members discussed the future of the Basingstoke Canal, and agreed to look into whether the decision has been taken regarding the operating model.

RLA MARCH 2024 ITEM 5

THE CEMETERY CLERK'S REPORT

Members received the report of the Cemetery Clerk.

Members discussed that action should be prepared for the licence for remedial works to a plot affected by badger activity. A letter will be crafted to Natural England requesting a global licence to effect repairs at the Cemetery.

Members discussed reviewing burial capacity at the next meeting, to understand the remaining burial provision and whether there is any potential land to create additional burial space.

RESOLVED

To note the report.

RLA MARCH 2024 ITEM 6

THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT

Members received the report from The General Manager of the Harlington and Ancells Farm Community Centre.

Members asked when the second bar area will be brought into full use. The Harlington General Manager confirmed that this will be subject to securing more casual staff.

RESOLVED

To note the report.

The General Manager left the meeting at 7:43pm.

RLA MARCH 2024 ITEM 7

FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACES MANAGER'S REPORT

Members received the report from the Facilities and Open Spaces Manager and discussed the following points:

Ancells Green Gym

To promote the dates of the Green Gym induction day on social media.

Ancells Farm Sink Hole

Progress is being made with Thames Water and will be requesting a site meeting.

Basingbourne Pavilion

- The Police and Hart District Council Community Safety team are aware of the anti social behaviour issues at the pavilion.
- The leaky ceiling issues are due to the drainage downpipe being knocked out. This needs to be fixed and caged.
- Any changes to the configuration of the exits at the pavilion should take into account fire safety.

Calthorpe Park

Members discussed the flooding issues around the coffee shop area.

Tennis Courts

Members discussed whether the sinking fund is sufficient to cover the cost of replacing the court.

This should be investigated further.

Tree Planting Grant

To consider planting trees at The Views and Ancells Road.

Olly's Orchard

To contact Olly's parents again to take publicity photos for the orchard.

Open Spaces

To include Ancells Farm Park in the South and Southeast in Bloom Awards 2024.

Sports Fund

- To recommend to Council that the VAT refund of £9,517 is ear marked to go towards the skate park renovation.
- Members discussed how to fund the full cost of the skate park and whether to include other parks in the town, if the project is to be funded by a public works loan. It was suggested to make a proposal for the next meeting to see the payback cost over different terms.
- To arrange an Open Spaces Working Group meeting to discuss which playgrounds to prioritise, along with the skate park, and to gather information to obtain quotes.

RESOLVED

- 1) To arrange an Open Spaces Working Group Meeting to discuss the parks and skate park project.
- 2) To recommend to Council allocating the sports VAT refund of £9,517 to an ear marked reserve for the skate park renovation.
- 3) To note the report.

RLA MARCH 2024 ITEM 8

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Members received and noted the report from the Executive Officer.

RLA MARCH 2024 ITEM 9

FUTURE EVENTS

Members noted the following future events:

Easter Egg Hunt	23 rd March 2024	Basingbourne Park
Fleet Half Marathon	24 th March 2024	Around Fleet/Calthorpe Park
Easter Egg Hunt	30 th March 2024	Oakley Park
Circus Wonderland	21 st - 28 th April 2024	The Views
FT Colts Tournament	3 rd – 5 th May 2024	Calthorpe Park
Fleet Carnival	6 th July 2024	High Street/Calthorpe Park
SCAM JAM	20 th July 2024	The Views
Summer Project (Fleet Phoenix)	27 th July- 29 th August 2024	The Views
Music on The Views (FTC event)	25 th August 2024	The Views
Lions Fireworks Fiesta	2 nd November 2024	Calthorpe Park

RLA MARCH 2024 ITEM 10

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 7pm at The Harlington.

The meeting closed at 8:27pm.

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

Chairman