



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 7pm

* Councillor Einchcomb (Chairman)

* Councillor Woods (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Chenery

Councillor Fang

0 Councillor Holt

0 Councillor May

0 Councillor Oliver

* Councillor Schofield

* Councillor Taylor

* Councillor Tilley

Councillor Wildsmith

Councillor Willcocks

* Present # Absent & No Apology Received 0 Apology for Absence L Late

Also in attendance:

Rita Tong – Executive Officer

Alex Robins – Harlington General Manager

Friends of Basingbourne Park representative

Friends of Oakley Park representative

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 1

APOLOGIES

Members received and accepted the apologies as noted above.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Tilley declared an other registerable interest in Agenda Item 11 on the grounds that she is the organiser of the event.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 3

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A representative from Friends of Basingbourne Park reported ongoing issues with youths in the park, including climbing onto the pavilion roof, setting fires, and broken glass. Can the Council take action?

The Chairman responded that the Council would contact the Neighbourhood Police Officer to address the matter.

The Friends of Basingbourne Park representative also asked if the Council could look at installing CCTV cameras to overlook the youth shelter and the pavilion?

Fleet Town Council will ask the Facilities and Open Spaces Manager to investigate the matter.

Friends of Oakley Park representative asked when the CCTV cameras that fell off the wall from within the pavilion were going to be reinstalled?

Fleet Town Council will ask the Facilities and Open Spaces Manager to investigate the matter.

RLA SEPTEMBER 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 19th June 2024.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 5

THE CEMETERY CLERK'S REPORT

Members received an update from the Executive Officer on behalf of the Cemetery Clerk.

On 11 September 2024 a qualified ecologist came to inspect animal activity at the cemetery that was suspected to be the work of badgers. After looking at the site, she determined it was in fact rabbit activity and that the Council could proceed to make good for the area affected.

A request has been made from a resident of Church Crookham for the Council to consider reducing the fees charged from the non-resident rate to the resident rate.

RESOLVED

Members resolved to note the report regarding badger activity at the Cemetery.

Members considered the request to reduce fees charged, and authorised the Executive Officer to respond on the Council's behalf declining the request on the basis that residents pay a lower amount as they pay for the upkeep of the cemetery through their Council tax.

RLA SEPTEMBER 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.

RESOLVED

Members resolved to note the report which included updated performance figures provided at the meeting.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 7

NO MOW MAY

To consider whether to implement a No Mow May regime for the Council's open spaces.

RESOLVED

Members considered the rationale behind the No Mow May initiative but opted instead to establish permanent, well-maintained bug corridors.

Officers were tasked with identifying suitable locations for these corridors, seeking input from Fleet Greening, Friends of Parks groups, and residents.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 8

CALTHORPE PARK TENNIS COURTS

A member of the public commented that the tennis courts would benefit from a wind break and gave a low-cost solution of a plastic banner. However, given this Council's commitment to being sustainable and its Greening Campaign, a possible long-term solution could be planting a windbreak.

RESOLVED

Members considered the request for a windbreak at Calthorpe Park Tennis Courts, noting it was the first such complaint since the Council's inception. Due to the low number of complaints and the

cost of a natural windbreak, Members agreed to monitor the situation but take no further action at this time.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 9

CALEBS COFFEE BUILDING FRONTAGE SOAK AWAY AND DRAIN WORKS

The cycle path and frontage to Calebs Coffee Shop in Calthorpe Park floods during heavy rain fall. Attempts have been made to mitigate the problem such as raising the frontage, putting in antiflood devices and increasing the size of the soakaway, with no success.

An option has been presented to install an overflow pipe which would run from the inground soakaway to the neighbouring foul sewer line and take any overflow away. This option would be dependent on approval from Thames Water to install the overflow pipe. The cost to Fleet Town Council would be approximately £3,525 +VAT.

RESOLVED

Members considered the installation of an overflow pipe from the soakaway in Calthorpe Park but did not think it was a viable option. Whilst an application has been submitted to Thames Water, it was not thought likely that approval would be granted.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 10

TABLE TENNIS VANDALISM

During April 2024 the Table Tennis in Calthorpe Park was vandalised. A repair / replacement of half the table was made at the cost of £1,240. After this repair, in May 2024, further damage was done at an estimated cost of £925. Before this repair could be made, the table was damaged further forcing Officers to have it removed from site.

The table tennis has not yet been replaced, waiting for this Committee to consider at what level of cost and how many instances of vandalism make replacing this piece of equipment unviable.

RESOLVED

Members resolved not to replace the table tennis facility at Calthorpe Park at this time but agreed to review the matter in the spring.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 11

MUSIC ON THE VIEWS

Members considered the report from Cllr Tilley on the Music on the Views event held on 25th August 2024.

RESOLVED

Members noted the report and that the financial washup would be presented to the Policy & Finance Committee meeting on 16 October 2024.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were advised to contact the Executive Officer if they wished to attend the South and Southeast in Bloom awards at Wisley Gardens on Friday 20 September 2024.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 13

**HAMPSHIRE FOREST PARTNERSHIP-
COMMUNITY ORCHARD GRANT**

Members noted that the community orchard grant application had been approved and the intended locations for planting.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 14

EDENBROOK PLAY AREA

Members noted that Officers intended to provide feedback to residents on the results of the survey conducted. Once options have been costed, residents may be requested to provide further input into the process.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 15

ROSPA REPORTS

Members noted that the ROSPA inspections have been completed on all FTC owned play equipment. Quotes were being sought for repairs that fall outside the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 16

FUTURE EVENTS

Members noted the following future events:

Bat Walk	14 th September	Oakley Park
Lions Fireworks Fiesta	2 nd November 2024	Calthorpe Park
Remembrance Sunday	10 th November 2024	Gurkha Square & High Street
Christmas Festival	27 th November 2024	Gurkha Square & High Street
Fleet Half Marathon	16 th March 2025	Calthorpe Park

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 17

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 7pm at The Harlington.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – CLOSED SESSION

The Chairman stated that the following items for discussion relate to the engagement and terms of service in relation to employees and terms of tenders, and proposals and counterproposals in negotiations for contracts.

RLA SEPTEMBER 2024 ITEM 18

FLEET TOWN FOOTBALL LEASE

Members reviewed the recommendations of the Lease Working Group in response to the Fleet Town Football Club counter proposals.

Members noted that the Lease Working Group were unable to resolve the issue surrounding insurance until a decision was made by the Fleet Town Football Club but that the wording for both options was contained within the draft lease.

RESOLVED

Members resolved to approve the draft lease, subject to finalising the arrangements for insurance.

Members also resolved that the lease could not be signed until the ongoing issue regarding lighting was resolved.

Members received an update on the potential costs for installing drainage at Edenbrook Play Area.

RESOLVED

Members noted the potential costs and requested that the Executive Officer seeks a contribution from the developers of the estate.

The meeting closed at 8:51pm.

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

Chairman