



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

held on

Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 7pm

* Councillor Schofield (Chairman)

* Councillor Einchcomb (Vice Chairman)

* Councillor Chenery	* Councillor Powell
# Councillor Fang	0 Councillor Richmond
* Councillor Holt	0 Councillor Stanton
* Councillor Hope	* Councillor Taylor
* Councillor Kuntikanamata	* Councillor Tilley
* Councillor May	0 Councillor Wildsmith
0 Councillor Neves	* Councillor Woods
* Councillor Oliver	

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

Also in attendance:

Rita Tong – Executive Officer
Sarah Moore – Finance & Administration Manager
Councillor Steve Forster – HCC
Mike Bye – Chair of Friends of Oakley Park
Nick Cooper & Jane Shilling- Hart Rotary Club

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received and accepted the apologies as recorded above.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Tilley and Schofield declared an *Other Registerable Interest* in Agenda Item 10 on the grounds they are both members of Fleet BID.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 9th - Attended Fleet BID Board Meeting representing the Harlington as a business member. The members of the Board are mindful that the current term of the BID expires next March 2027.

March 10th - Our Annual Residents Meeting, a well-attended and well received meeting. Very successful experiment in the use of Slido to conduct online questions and polls. The

use of pre-recorded presentations again proved to be a success. The community Awards was well received, and it was a great pleasure to see the enthusiasm of our younger residents in receiving their award for helping deliver the new Skate Park project.

March 12th - Sat in on a video presentation on the procurement rules regarding the incorporation of Social Value benefits. Over 600 people were logged into the presentations

Participated in a video conference with Skelly and Couch to run through queries on their Appendix in the RIBA Stage 2 Report.

March 17th - Along with Cllr Woods and representatives from Church Crookham Parish Council participated in a video conference with representatives from HCC Transport Department and Rushmoor Voluntary Action for a performance review on the Fleet Connect bus service. There has been a lack of regular reporting principally due to staff shortages in HCC. A new member of staff is joining the HCC team and should hopefully improve performance reporting.

The service is well received by users, but the user group remains fairly static with a predictable pattern of usage so there is capacity for greater usage within the existing reduced service.

March 19th - Held on-site meetings with representatives of BFF and Synergy to receive an update on progress and seek clarification on issues raised in the RIBA Stage 2 Report.

Along with the Executive Officer and other members of staff attended BFF's Design Review Meeting when all technical specialists (14 in number) attended to report on progress and issues with RIBA stage 3 design development. Technical specialists took the opportunity to further explore the Harlington.

Later in the afternoon participated in a meeting between BFF and Hart's Senior Planning Officer to discuss the Harlington Project and seek clarification on any Pre Application planning issues. The meeting also discussed any planning and licensing issues regarding the temporary siting the Harlington – discussed later in the agenda.

March 24th - Along with Cllr Tilley visited the Marketing Suite of the new care home (Heron Manor) on RRN. At long last the development is due completion late Summer this year. The current Manager of the Care Home and the Site Construction Manager have developed a good working relationship with the near neighbours of the development.

The issue of longer-term parking was raised, and the management are very mindful of the issue, especially staff parking and arrangements are being developed.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 5

HCC/HDC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following reports were received from Hampshire County Council.

Cllr Steve Forster (HCC)

- **Roadworks:** The contract for the installation of two pedestrian crossings on Reading Road South has been awarded. Works are scheduled to commence on 13 April 2026.
- **Local Government Reorganisation:** The Government has announced its preferred model for the Hampshire region. Under the proposal, the number of councillors representing the current Hart District Council area would be reduced by half.
- **Parking Traffic Orders:** A number of Parking Traffic Orders have been drafted in response to requests from schools and residents, following several incidents caused by inconsiderate parking outside schools. The draft orders will be shared with the relevant schools and the police for review before proceeding to public consultation. Due to the associated safety concerns, it is anticipated that implementation will follow promptly once agreed.
- **New Bus Service:** A new bus service is currently being tendered. While the route has not yet been finalised, it is expected to run from Farnborough through Hartland Village and include the train station. The service is initially proposed to operate hourly, with the potential for increased frequency subject to demand. It is hoped the service will commence in summer 2026.
- **Recent Crimes:** Members were advised of a ram raid at Pedal Heaven on 31 March 2026 involving at least two vehicles, during which bicycles valued at over £10,000 were stolen. A further incident the same night involved the removal of a recently installed wooden pig from a roundabout in Ancells. Additionally, there has been a recent increase in vehicle thefts.

Cllr Alan Oliver (HDC)

- **Local Government Reorganisation:** The Government has requested that new unitary authorities consider aligning parish elections with unitary elections to reduce costs to residents. Should this be supported, it may result in the May 2026 parish elections being held for a reduced term of office (two years rather than the standard four).

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 6

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 4th March 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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

- Development Control 9th and 23rd March 2026
- RLA 18th March 2026

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 7

FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Members noted receipt of the bank reconciliation and the list of payments for January and February 2026.

Councillor Stanton confirmed via email that the bank reconciliation and list of payments for January and February 2026 had been verified and signed off against the original bank statement.

Members considered a request from Fleet Cricket Club to contribute towards the legal costs of updating their lease due to their new legal status. Members determined that this would more appropriately be a grant request and that the club should complete an application.

Members agreed that Officers be allowed to transfer funds between Council accounts without the need to gain Council approval in order to maximise interest income. Such transfers would still require two Councillors authorisation on the bank portal

RESOLVED

- a) That the bank reconciliation and list of payments for January and February 2026 be received and accepted.
- b) That the statement from Councillor Stanton confirming the verification and sign-off of the January and February 2026 bank reconciliations and list of payments be accepted.
- c) That Officers be allowed to transfer funds between Council accounts without the need to gain Council approval in order to maximise interest income.
- d) Request Fleet Cricket Club submit a grant application for cost of legal fees.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 8

CYBER ESSENTIALS

Members considered a report regarding the Council's objective to strengthen its resilience against cyber-attacks through achieving the Cyber Essentials accreditation.

Members noted that a decision not to support the Officer's recommendations would result in the Council being unable to attain Cyber Essentials certification. However, it was recognised that the primary aim of the exercise was to enhance the Council's overall cyber resilience. Members confirmed that they had gained a clear understanding of the associated risks and the implications of the various options available.

Members discussed the respective advantages and disadvantages of Council-issued devices compared with the use of personal devices. Consideration was also given to individual preferences for Android and Apple platforms. It was noted that the Officer recommendation in favour of Apple devices was based on their enhanced security features, as well as the ability for devices to be remotely reconfigured upon return from a departing Councillor and reissued efficiently, without requiring physical handling by the Council's IT contractor.

RESOLVED

That the recommendation be approved to provide each Councillor with an Apple iPad with cellular capability, at an estimated one-off cost of £15,000 and ongoing annual operational costs of approximately £3,000.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 9

GRANTS

Members considered the grant application from Hart Rotary Club for £650 to pay for room hire at The Harlington for a Mental Health Awareness Event on 14 April 2026.

RESOLVED

- a) To award £650 grant aid in kind to Hart Rotary Club to offset cost of Hall Hire at The Harlington.
- b) To request that a post event report be provided by Hart Rotary Club.
- c) To note the record of grants awarded for 2026/27.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 10**FLEET BID MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Members considered and approved the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Fleet BID contribution towards The Views playground replacement project.

RESOLVED

To authorise the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 11**HARLINGTON UPDATE**

To receive an update from the Chairman on the Harlington renovation project.

The Chairman updated Members on the meeting held on 19 March 2026 and its implications on timings and cost of the Harlington Project.

Members considered the quote received to provide support in establishing the new venue at Hart Shopping Centre and the latest status update on lease negotiations to secure a unit at the Hart Shopping Mall.

RESOLVED

- a) To note the update from the Chairman.
- b) To authorise the Executive Officer to communicate the Council's position to the Hart Shopping Centre regarding the lease negotiations.
- c) To progress the pre-planning application for the alternative venue as recommended by a Hart District Council's planning officer.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 12**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To following announcements were made:

- Terena Plowright, National Greening Campaign representative, acknowledged the Council's decision to formally close the Greening Fleet campaign. She thanked the Council for the support given towards the campaign.
- Hart District Council has requested that those Members who planned to submit their nomination papers in the upcoming election make an appointment to do so.
- Members thanked the Chairman of the Council, Cllr Bob Schofield, for his hard work and dedication to the Council and Fleet residents during this current administration.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 13**FLEET CONNECT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

Members noted the operators' update on the Fleet Connect service and that the service was currently advertising for another paid driver.

Members requested that a cost per trip be calculated and circulated.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 14**ANNUAL RESIDENTS' MEETING**

Members noted the feedback from the Annual Residents' Meeting on 10 March 2026.

FC APRIL 2026 ITEM 15

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on **Wednesday 20th May 2026** at 7pm at the Harlington.

The meeting closed at 9.19pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date:.....