



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 7pm

* Councillor Einchcomb (Chairman)

* Councillor Taylor (Vice Chairman)

* Councillor Chenery
Councillor Fang
* Councillor Holt
* Councillor May
* Councillor Oliver
Councillor Powell

* Councillor Schofield
* Councillor Stanton
* Councillor Tilley
Councillor Wildsmith
* Councillor Woods

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

Also in attendance:

Rita Tong – Executive Officer
Facilities and Open Spaces Manager (FOSM)
Cemetery Clerk
Friends of Basingbourne Park representative
Friends of Oakley Park representative
Jon Cragg - Hart Football Club representative
Andy Le Roux - Vine Church representative

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

Members received and accepted the apologies as noted above.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Stanton declared an *Other Registrable Interest* in Agenda Item 7 as she is on the committee of the Repair Café.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public present at the meeting.

RLA MARCH 2026 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 10th December 2025.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 5 THE CEMETERY CLERK'S REPORT

Members received a report from the Cemetery Clerk.

Members noted that a complaint regarding the actions of a grave digger had been resolved.

Members noted a complaint concerning the condition of the lawn in certain areas of the cemetery and requested that the Cemetery Clerk investigate potential remedial measures.

Members further noted a complaint regarding the designated location for the scattering of ashes and requested that the Cemetery Clerk undertake a review of practices at other cemeteries and report her findings to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED

- a) To note the Cemetery Clerks report.
- b) To request that the Cemetery Clerk report back to the Committee on:
 - i. practices relating to the scattering of ashes at other cemeteries; and
 - ii. options for improving the condition of the lawn.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 6 THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT

Members considered the report from the General Manager on events, hirings, and operational activities of The Harlington and Ancells Farm Community Centre.

Members noted that the request for forward-looking information and updates on forward sales for events within the next three to six months, together with the General Manager's assessment of whether operations are on track to achieve the full-year budget targets, had not been included in the current report.

RESOLVED

To remind the General Manager to include forward-looking information, specifically forward sales for events within the next three to six months and an assessment of progress against full-year budget targets.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 7 GREENING FLEET

Members received a report from the Executive Officer on the Greening Fleet Campaign. Members noted that, since the launch of the campaign in 2024, activity across the pillar groups had reduced significantly, with most pillars no longer actively progressing projects under the Greening Fleet framework. The Repair Café remained a notable exception.

Members agreed that the campaign had not developed as originally intended and should therefore be closed. Members requested that the Executive Officer write to Terena Plowright, National Greening Campaign Co-ordinator, to advise of the Council's decision and the reasons for it. Members further requested that the Executive Officer formally thank the volunteers from each pillar for their contributions to the campaign.

Members acknowledged the continued importance of environmental and greening initiatives and agreed that new initiatives should be developed to replace the campaign. However, in light of the forthcoming elections, it was agreed that this work should be undertaken by the new administration.

RESOLVED

- a) To continue supporting the Repair Café through the provision of hall hire and minor administrative support (including photocopying and promotion).
- b) To close the Greening Fleet Campaign and its associated Facebook page.
- c) To retain a budget for greening initiatives and to review potential future initiatives following the formation of the new administration.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 8**PLAY EQUIPMENT AT BASINGBOURNE PARK**

Members considered a proposal from the Friends of Basingbourne Park for the installation of a gondolier (“snake”) group swing within the over-eights play area at Basingbourne Park.

Members expressed support for the proposal in principle, including the potential to fund the project through available Section 106 developer contributions. It was suggested that residual monies from application 14/00106/MAJOR be utilised, with any remaining balance to be met from application 13/02513/MAJOR.

RESOLVED

- a) To agree in principle with the installation of a gondolier / snake swing within the over-eights play area at Basingbourne Park.
- b) To undertake further feasibility work including site suitability, safety requirements and confirmed cost estimates.
- c) To investigate the availability of S106 funding or other external funding sources to support the project.
- d) To report back to Committee with detailed proposals and confirmed costs before any procurement is undertaken.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 9**OPEN AIR CIVIC AND COMMUNITY EVENTS POLICY**

Members reviewed the *Open Air Civic and Community Events Policy*, originally approved in October 2017 and last reviewed in October 2020.

Members considered a revised version of the policy and made a number of minor amendments.

Members noted that the new administration may wish to review the current policy position of not directly managing events.

RESOLVED

To recommend the amended *Open Air Civic and Community Events Policy* to the Policy & Finance Committee for approval.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 10**PAVILION MULTI USER POLICY**

Members reviewed the *Pavilion Multi User Policy*, originally approved in October 2017 and last reviewed October 2020.

Members considered a revised version of the policy and made a number of minor amendments.

RESOLVED

To recommend the amended *Pavilion Multi User Policy* to the Policy & Finance Committee for approval.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 11**CCTV IN OPEN SPACES**

Members considered a report detailing current CCTV provision across Fleet’s open spaces, including associated costs, and discussed whether this provision should continue.

RESOLVED

- a) To review the continuation of the CCTV provision upon receipt of the 2026/27 pricing from Hart District Council.
- b) To authorise the Executive Officer to write to Hart District Council requesting full details of the contract, including provisions for equipment replacement, and clarification as to why previous instructions for cameras to operate on a panning setting have not been maintained.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 12**CEMETERY ROAD – TARMAC REPAIRS**

Members considered repair and maintenance works required on Cemetery Road, a private road owned and maintained by Fleet Town Council, which currently has a number of potholes.

RESOLVED

- a) To accept the quote of £1,550 to repair potholes between Richard Close and the Cemetery gates.
- b) To report all other potholes to Hampshire Highways.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 13**EVENT APPLICATIONS**

Members considered applications to hold events on Council land as follows:

- Hart Football Club Kickathon – Ancells Farm Park – 17 May 2026
- The Vine Church Summer Community Event – The Views – 18 July 2026

During discussion, Members raised concerns regarding the limited number of Temporary Event Notices (TENs) permitted and the need to ensure that the Council does not exceed this allowance, thereby potentially impacting other established events. Members also queried whether the area identified as “The Views” for the Vine Church event included Gurkha Square.

RESOLVED

- a) To approve both applications.
- b) That no charge be made for the use of the park in respect of these events.

The representatives from Hart Football Club and The Vine Church, along with the Cemetery Clerk, left the meeting at the conclusion of this item (approximately 7.48pm).

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 14**CALTHORPE PAVILION**

Members considered a report regarding the condition of the roof structure at Calthorpe Park. The report also highlighted a separate issue relating to soil erosion and drainage along a pathway within the park.

RESOLVED

To authorise the Facilities and Open Spaces Manager:

- a) To obtain three quotations for the roof repair works, with the costs to be met from General Reserves.
- b) To write to Hampshire Highways advising that the installation of the adjacent roadway has contributed to flooding issues within the park, resulting in significant cost implications for Fleet Town Council in seeking to remedy the matter.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 15**BASKETBALL COURT AT ANCELLS FARM PARK**

The Council has received correspondence from a local resident, writing on behalf of themselves and other residents, suggesting the installation of a dedicated basketball court at Ancells Farm Park.

Members noted that they had previously recommended the installation of a Multi Use Games Area, which would have included a basketball court; however, residents at that time strongly opposed the proposal.

The Council currently has other priorities within its capital works programme and is therefore unable to progress this suggestion at this time but will retain it for potential future consideration.

RESOLVED

To note the request for a basketball court at Ancells Farm Park and, whilst not progressing the proposal at this time due to current capital priorities, to retain the suggestion for consideration

as part of future play and open space development planning.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 16 ANCELLS KITCHEN

Members noted the progress of the supply and installation of a kitchen at Ancells Farm Community Centre. Works are scheduled to take place during the Easter holidays.

Members also requested that the approved design be circulated for information.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 17 HALLMASTER REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Members received the Hallmaster report to 28 February 2026 and noted that the information provided did not make sense and therefore required review.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 18 BASINGBOURNE WOODLAND – POTENTIAL ENCROACHMENT

The Facilities and Open Spaces Manager gave an update on this issue.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 19 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman, as part of his opening statement, made the following tribute:

This afternoon I attended the funeral of one of Fleets' most favourite citizens, namely Hilary Wigg.

Hilary contributed considerably to the Leisure, Recreation and well-being of thousands of Fleet residents.

Hilary was well known for setting up Fleets first swim school in what was to become known as Wiggs Pool.

Leslie and Hilary Wigg realised that there was a need for a local indoor pool for serious swimming and that its running costs could be met by charging for lessons.

In 1966, with the help of Eric and Mary Cleeves and other volunteers, they designed and built a 25 x 8-yard heated pool with depth of 2'3" to 4'6" housed in a basic wooden building. In 1967, the Fleet Swimming School (affectionately known as 'Wiggs' Pool') opened and was an immediate success.

The pool remained open for 17 years and during that time many thousands of children and adults learnt to swim. Life Saving and Water Safety classes were also held and in 1968 the Fleet Swimming Club, later to become the Hart Swimming Club, was inaugurated.

Hilary lived until she was 96 years old and her legacy is set to continue as there is a proposal to name the Training Pool at Hart Leisure Centre in her memory.

The Executive Officer made the following announcements:

- Councillors seeking re-election in the May elections must submit their nominations to Hart District Council by 9 April 2026.
- A Freedom of Information request was received from a resident, who had posted a complaint shortly beforehand on Facebook regarding a gate at Ancells Farm Park. The information requested, where held, has been provided.

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 20**FUTURE EVENTS**

To note future events taking place on Council property, as detailed below.

Fleet Marathon	29th March 2026	Calthorpe Park
Easter Egg Hunt	4 th April 2026	Oakley Park
Circus World	19 th April-26 th April 2026	The Views
Brass Band Concert	14 th June 2026	Oakley Park
Councillors' Coffee Morning	20 th June 2026	The Harlington
Fleet Carnival	4 th July 2026	Calthorpe Park & High Street
Oakley Park Summer Fete	18 th July 2026	Oakley Park
Lions Beerfest	1 st August 2026	The Harlington
Music On The Views	22 nd August 2026	The Views

RLA MARCH 2026 ITEM 21**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 17th June 2026, 7pm at The Harlington.

The meeting closed at 9:35pm.

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

Chairman