

FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1st MARCH, 2007, AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SOUTH STREET, FARNHAM

- * Cllr D J Attfield (Town Mayor)
 - * Cllr C G Genziani (Deputy Town Mayor)
 - o Cllr P G Burden OBE
 - Cllr M A Clark
 - * Cllr C A Cockburn
 - * Cllr S Farrow
 - o Cllr (Mrs) P M Frost
 - * Cllr R D Frost
 - o Cllr J M Harris
 - * Cllr S A G Lang
 - * Cllr J E Maines
 - * Cllr (Mrs) A E Mansell MBE
 - * Cllr C H Mansell
 - * Cllr P G Marriott
 - * Cllr (Mrs) P M Marriott
 - * Cllr M W Norris
 - o Cllr (Mrs) S Scrivens
 - * Cllr V K Scrivens
-
- * Present
 - o Apologies for absence

Officers Present:

Roland Potter (Town Clerk)
Sheila Rayner (Assistant Town Clerk)
Nick Goddard (Assistant Town Clerk)
Wendy Coulter (Member Services and Grants Officer)

C 239/06 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present to ask a question.

C 240/06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P G Burden, (Mrs) P M Frost, J M Harris and (Mrs) S Scrivens.

C 241/06 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th January, 2007, were approved and signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

C 242/06 CORRECTION OF MINUTES

An amendment of the Special Town Council Minutes of 30th November was agreed and signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

C 243/06 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Name of Councillor	Agenda Minute No.	Subject	Type of Interest	Reason
C A Cockburn	Appendix C	Farnham Community Task Force	Personal / Prejudicial	Member of the Committee
C A Cockburn	Item 7	Farnham Voluntary Service Council	Personal	Farnham Town Council representative
C A Cockburn	Item 8	40Degreez	Personal	Waverley Borough Council representative
S Farrow	Item 3	Town Council Special Meeting	Personal / Prejudicial	Membership of Farnham Trust
R D Frost	Appendix C Annex A	Farnham Voluntary Service Council	Personal	Trustee
J E Maines	Item 7	Community Grants	Personal	Partner the Chairman of FVTF
J E Maines	Item 8	Revenue Grants	Personal	Chairman of Trustees of 40Degreez
(Mrs) A E Mansell	Item 7	Farnham Maltings	Personal	Husband is member
(Mrs) A E Mansell	Item 8	Friends of St Andrews	Personal	Members of FOSTA
C H Mansell	Item 8	Revenue Grants	Personal	Member of Farnham Maltings
(Mrs) P M Marriott	Item 7	Farnham Community Task Force	Personal / Prejudicial	Vice Chairman
(Mrs) P M Marriott	Item 7	Farnham Swimming Baths Trust	Personal / Prejudicial	Trustee
(Mrs) P M Marriott	Item 7	Friends of St Andrews	Personal / Prejudicial	Member
(Mrs) P M Marriott	Item 7	Farnham Voluntary Service Council	Personal / Prejudicial	Treasurer
(Mrs) P M Marriott	Item 8	40Degreez	Personal / Prejudicial	Husband is treasurer
P G Marriott	Item 7	Farnham Community Task Force	Personal / Prejudicial	Husband of Vice Chairman
P G Marriott	Item 7	Farnham Swimming Baths Trust	Personal / Prejudicial	Husband of trustee
P G Marriott	Item 7	Friends of St Andrews	Personal / Prejudicial	Member
P G Marriott	Item 7	Farnham Voluntary Service Council	Personal / Prejudicial	Husband of Treasurer
P G Marriott	Item 8	40Degreez	Personal / Prejudicial	Treasurer
V K Scrivens	ES 229/06	Hindhead Tunnel	Personal	Member of Waverley Borough Council – already expressed views
V K Scrivens	ES 235/06	Air Quality	Personal	Environment Portfolio Holder for Waverley Borough Council

V K Scrivens	WA 07/0001	Runfold House Studio	Personal	The applicant is "probably" known to me.
--------------	------------	----------------------	----------	--

C 244/06 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present to make a statement.

Part 1 – ITEMS FOR DECISION

C 245/06 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reminded members that the Town Meeting would be taking place in the Great Hall at the Farnham Maltings on Thursday 8th March, 2007, starting at 7pm. He reminded members that at 5pm there would be an exhibition of displays of work carried out by local organisations in partnership with Farnham Town Council.

C 246/06 COMMUNITY GRANTS

Members considered a report on the delegation of authority to the Grants Review Group for Community Grants.

Members noted that a total of 19 Community Grant applications had been received totalling £31,595. Each application was copied and sent to members for assessment.

Members noted that the Grants Group was delegated authority to make recommendations to Full Council for Grant Allocations based on a summary matrix of members' scores.

However, due to some outstanding member assessment forms and the unavailability of the members of the Grants Review Group for meetings, the group were unable to make any recommendations to Full Council.

Applicants were informed that the decision date for the Community Grant allocations was 1st March, 2007. The date allowed for allocations to be paid out from the start of the new financial year.

Due to the shortage of time available in the current municipal year, Members were requested to consider the delegation of authority to the Grants Review Group to assess and recommend grants for ratification by the new Council in May 2007.

It was proposed by Cllr V K Scrivens and seconded by Cllr R D Frost that authority be delegated to the Grants Group to assess and approve grant payments for 2007/2008.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Grants Group to assess and approve Community grant payments for 2007/2008.

C 247/06 REVENUE GRANTS

Members were asked to consider a report on the delegation of authority to the Grants Review Group for Revenue Grants.

Members noted that on 4th January, 2007, Council adopted an interim procedure for the approval of Major Revenue Grants to be paid in 2007/2008 based on the revised Grants Policy and Guidelines for Community Grants.

The Council appointed 5 elected members to form a Grants Review Group to consider all applications for final approval by Full Council.

Members noted that it was also agreed that the Group would receive presentations from Grant applicants and establish the basis of a service level agreement with applicants.

Members noted that 4 Revenue Grant Applications had been received totalling £92,414.

Due to the unavailability of the members, the Grants Group was unable to meet in time to make recommendations to Full Council.

Members noted that Major Revenue Grant applicants relied upon an early decision to assist with their budgeting for 2007/2008 and it had been the Council's practice to notify the outcome of the grants awarded before the start of the financial year i.e. 2007/2008.

Due to the shortage of time available in the current municipal year, Members were requested to consider the delegation of authority to the Grants Group to assess and approve grants on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the grants group to assess and approve Major Revenue Grant payments for 2007/2008.

C 248/06 CONSULTATION ON STANDARDS BOARD

Members were asked to consider a report on a Consultation on amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for local Authority Members.

Members discussed the amendments to the Model Code of Conduct and raised the following points.

In paragraphs 10,11 & 12 on public services interests the changes proposed seemed to address the problems that many local council were facing. Paragraph 10 was particularly well worded.

Members noted that even if a member has a prejudicial interest such as a membership of an outside body they would still be allowed to attend a meeting to answer questions. The member would not be allowed to take part in the decision making process but would be allowed to be questioned. Under the new regulations members would be able to be trustees on outside bodies and be able to remain in a discussion to answer questions.

The subject of bullying was raised and members questioned what its meaning was under the code and how would it be defined. It was suggested that some kind of definition be included as bullying was a very nebulous concept.

It was agreed that Officers would write to inform Central Government that Farnham Town Council approves of the improvements to the Code and that Officers would give some of the examples of the problems that Farnham Town Council has encountered since the Code had been brought into practice. It was agreed that on the subject of bullying that the guidance be clearer and be available sooner than it was when the last Code was brought into place.

RESOLVED: That Officers write to Central Government to inform them that Farnham Town Council approves of the improvements to the Code and examples be given of the problems encountered by Farnham Town Council has encountered since the Code was brought into practice. The subject of bullying should be made clearer and guidance be available sooner than previously.

Part 2 – ITEMS TO NOTE

C 249/06 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(1) Environmental Services Committee

Members were asked to approve and agree Minute Number ES 230/06 PROPOSED FARNHAM RIVER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – the Recommendation that:

- a) the invitation for Farnham Town Council to join the proposed Farnham River Management Committee be noted with thanks
- b) Councillor D J Attfield (Town Mayor) be nominated as the Farnham Town Council representative on the Farnham River Management Committee.

The above recommendation was approved and agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr S Farrow and seconded by Cllr V K Scrivens and

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on 1st February, 2007, be noted.

It was noted that there were no meetings of the Public Services Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee.

C 250/06 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED: That the observations made by the Plans Panel held on 21st December, 18th January and 7th December, 2006 and dealt with in accordance with delegated authority, be noted.

C 251/06 REPORTS FORM OUTSIDE BODIES

Written reports were received from members on the following Outside Bodies:

The Blackwater Valley Partnership Group
The Farnham Andernach Friendship Association
The Farnham Community Task Force
The Farnham Crime Prevention Panel
The Farnham Visitors Council
The Farnham Voluntary Service Council

Reports attached to record minutes.

C 252/06 THANK YOU LETTER

Members noted a letter of thanks from the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

C 253/06 ITEMS TABLED

None.

C 254/06 PUBLICITY

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.02pm.

Date

Chairman