



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

A

Minutes Council

Time and date

7.00pm on 28th April 2016

Place

The Council Chamber, South Street, Farnham

- * Pat Frost (Mayor of Farnham)
- * John Ward (Deputy Mayor)

- * David Attfield
- A Patrick Blagden CBE
- * Carole Cockburn
- * Paula Dunsmore
- * John Scott Fraser
- * Jill Hargreaves
- * Stephen Hill
- * Mike Hodge
- A Sam Hollins-Owen
- * Mike Hyman
- * Andy Macleod
- A Kika Mirylees
- A Julia Potts
- * Susan Redfern
- A Jeremy Ricketts
- * John Williamson

- * Present
- A Apologies for absence

Officers Present:

Iain Lynch (Town Clerk)
Rachel Aves (Team Leader)

There were 11 members of the public in attendance.

Prior to the meeting, prayers were said by the Revd Alan Crawley from The Parish of Badshot Lea and Hale.

- C181/15 **Unveiling of a Portrait of Her Majesty The Queen**
The Mayor unveiled a new portrait of HM The Queen, which Her Majesty had graciously signed, to hang in the Council Chamber. The Mayor reported that as part of the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations she had lit a Beacon at Farnham Castle and planted a tree in Gostrey Meadow.
- C182/15 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs Blagden, Hollins-Owen, Mirylees, Potts, and Ricketts.
- C183/15 **Declarations of interests**
Apart from declarations of personal interest by councillors who were dual or triple hatted by virtue of being elected to Waverley Borough Council or Surrey County Council, Cllr Attfield declared an interest in relation to planning application 2016/0566.
- C184/15 **Minutes**
The Minutes of the Farnham Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2016 were agreed for signature by the Mayor as a correct record.
- C185/15 **Questions and Statements by the Public**
- i) Mr Mark Westcott referred to proposals by Waverley Borough Council to overturn the Covenants in connection with the Memorial Sports Ground Deed of Gift, and concerns that it might also attempt to use their powers to appropriate the land under some useful legislation called "Appropriation for planning purposes". Mr Westcott said that in exploring options to remove Farnham Town FC to Weydon Lane, it seemed that the Borough Council was trying to show that the Memorial Ground was no longer required for the purposes for which it was used immediately prior to any appropriation. Mr Westcott asked what active measures Farnham Town Council was taking to ensure the community did not lose the Memorial Sports Ground in its present location to any use other than sports and the purposes for which it was intended and set out in the Deed of Gift?
- In response, the Mayor said the question would stand referred to the Strategy & Finance Working Group.
- ii) Mrs Celia Sandars noted that Waverley Planning Officers had recently given a screening opinion to Crest Nicholson Sainsbury's (CNS), Waverley's partner in the East Street/Brightwells development, that the Sewer Diversion Work part of the Brightwells scheme is not EIA development. Mrs Sandars said this apparently minor technical decision had potentially major consequences for Farnham residents. She noted that Farnham Town Council had objected to the screening opinion application in the interests of the town's residents but that Waverley, as the planning authority, ruled in CNS's favour although as both landowner and CNS's development partner Waverley had the power to prevent this happening. Waverley had demonstrated very poor judgement providing a major financial advantage to the developer at public expense and should have strongly advised CNS not to submit the screening opinion application or allow this evasion of its own planning decisions. Mrs Sandars asked if Farnham Town Council would write to the Waverley Executive requesting that, in the interests of Farnham residents and to prevent damage to its own reputation, Waverley inform CNS that it could not allow this abuse of the planning system

In response Cllr Ward said that the question had a number of facets including the Environmental Impact Assessment and whether the developer was being accorded a financial advantage. Cllr Ward hoped Mrs Sandars would agree that there were pertinent recommendations being made by the Strategy & Finance Working group to Council.

C186/15 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor said this was her last Council Meeting as Mayor and that she had had a busy year. The year would be concluding with an historic occasion – the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the first two minute silence that had taken place in Castle Street on 10th May 2016.

The Mayor thanked all members of Council for their kindness and how they had reacted during the year.

C187/15 Questions by Members

Cllr Hyman raised the question of the paramics modelling by Surrey County Council of the Royal Deer junction. He requested, following points made at the Annual Town Meeting of electors, that a presentation of the modelling be presented to Council. In response, the Mayor advised that she was aware of the concern outlined by Mr Hyman and would ensure that Surrey was asked for details of the modelling that had already taken place.

Part I – Items for Decision

C188/15 Community Enhancement Working Group

Cllr Hill introduced the notes of the Community Enhancement Working Group meeting held on 16th March 2016, at Appendix B to the Agenda. He said that the launch of the 2016 In Bloom campaign at Forest Lodge Garden Centre had gone extremely well and everyone looking forward to 2016. Cllr Hill reported that the Community Group had started to improve the East Street flower bed opposite Papa Johns and that attempts to improve the alleyways in town were continuing. The Community Toilet Scheme had attracted a number of businesses and a meeting to plan the launch of the scheme was taking place shortly.

Cllr Attfield noted that the Blooming Litter Pickers project was great and he had never seen Badshot Lea looking so good.

Cllr Fraser asked whether the Brightwells area, which was looking very neglected, could receive some extra attention. In response, Cllr Hill said he would see if any additional resource was available.

C189/15 Cemeteries and Appeals Working Group

Cllr Cockburn introduced the report of the Cemeteries and Appeals Working Group held on 14th April at Appendix C to the Agenda. Although there were no specific recommendations for Council, Cllr Cockburn drew attention to the exempt Annex which outlined how an appeal had been resolved. She also referred to the discussions that had taken place to evolve the services that were offered to bereaved customers and the initial consideration on columbaria that would be followed up with a report to a future meeting.

Strategy and Finance Working Group

C190/015 Cllr Ward introduced the report of the Strategy & Finance Working Group held on 19th April at Appendix D to the Agenda. He began by complimenting Cllr Ricketts on doing a wonderful job in following up on the problem of unsightly bins in the town. With combined efforts, a suitably secluded place had been found to move the bins to and it appeared that the waste disposal companies were supportive of the potential solution. Further work would continue.

C191/15 Cllr Ward referred to discussion on the potential difficulties for residents over the possible withdrawal of the Meals on Wheels Service. The Strategy & Finance Working group was not recommending replacing funding but thinks that Farnham Town Council should facilitate options with schools, public houses and care homes if appropriate.

Cllr Cockburn advised that Waverley Borough Council was carrying out an in-depth review and that the Town Council should liaise with the Borough Council. In response, Cllr Fraser stressed that every effort should be made for the Borough Council to come to a decision as quickly as possible. He was concerned that the Royal Voluntary Service had already sent letter to its customers and volunteers saying that the service may cease in September.

After further discussion, **It was RESOLVED *nem con* that:**

Farnham Town Council:

- i) supports the continued provision of a daily visit for people in receipt of Meals on Wheels;**
- ii) offers to support a solution in discussion with RVS, principal authorities and others to ensure a service is continued.**

C192/15 Cllr Ward reported on discussion by Strategy & Finance on the Motion passed at the Annual Town Meeting of Electors. Broadly Farnham Town Council supports the regeneration of what was once called the “East Street Area of Opportunity” but had previously expressed a number of concerns about how the project was being handled. It was a matter of record that FTC opposed the Compulsory Purchase Order for the Marlborough Head which was eventually granted as the developers claimed that the retail space was needed to make the project viable.

Cllr Ward said that the Strategy & Finance Working group sympathised with the concerns expressed by its citizens about the continual use of NMAs (Non Material Amendments) which seem to have dramatically altered the approved project and understood concerns that this may have financially advantaged the selected developer. However, the Working Group felt that an open-ended financial commitment to support legal action was not appropriate at this stage, but considered that the Town Council should take Counsel’s Opinion as to whether due process had been followed. Cllr Ward added that being well aware that Counsel’s opinions were often coloured by the way the question was formulated, the Town Council should use a solicitor experienced in these matters as an adviser to ensure that it obtained the desired information in an unbiased manner.

Cllr Ward concluded his introduction by saying that the Working group also thought that the proposed Sewage and other works which would bring considerable disruption to Farnham should be the subject of an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment).

Cllr Williamson agreed with everything said by Cllr Ward, underlining how important it was for the Council to be seen to be listening to residents and take on board the points they make – even if they are not always agreed with. He suggested a cap should be put on the level of funding that would be expended at this stage.

Cllr Macleod said he was astonished that this was actually happening; that a developer would be using a device or loophole and that the Borough Council was not using its powers as the landowner or development partner to stop it.

Cllr Hill agreed that a cap should be applied and asked what was an appropriate sum. The Town Clerk advised that the Legal expenses earmarked reserve stood at £20,000 but that Council could adjust the reserves if appropriate. Cllr Ward said he was happy that the initial advice would not exceed the earmarked reserves figure of £20,000 and he proposed this as an additional recommendation, seconded by Cllr Cockburn.

**It was RESOLVED by 11 votes to 2 that:
Farnham Town Council:**

- i) Ask the Secretary of State to review the Screening Opinion decision for the moving of the Sewers on the basis that they are for an EIA development and as such an EIA statement is required by legislation;**
- ii) Take independent legal advice and Counsel's opinion, if required, to clarify: a) whether due process has been followed and b) whether the project had changed so substantially that it was no longer the same project such that it may be advantaging the developer and not now be delivering best value for money for the taxpayer; and**
- iii) The funding for the initial advice should not exceed the earmarked reserves figure of £20,000**

C193/15 Cllr Ward reported on the detailed discussions on the provisional 2015/16 outturn. Income had been 105% of target and as such there was a healthy outturn with a small surplus rather than a deficit for the year. As such the Working Group had reviewed the earmarked reserves and made a number of adjustments. One outstanding debtor (£750) had been agreed for write off although the debt would continue to be pursued. The monthly direct debits and standing orders had been reviewed for 2016/17 and the impact of the new Practitioners Guide had been considered.

C194/15 Cllr Ward advised that the Code of Corporate Governance had been reviewed and was attached at Appendix H for the Council's approval.

It was RESOLVED *nem con* that the Code of Corporate Governance be adopted.

C195/15 Cllr Cockburn provided an update on the work of the Infrastructure Planning Group advising that the intention for the Regulation 15 Consultation Draft in May assumed no changes to National Guidance and that there would be no additional factors emerging from Waverley Borough Council. The Transport Plan was still awaited and the Borough Council was now consulting on its latest Avoidance Strategy which was essential to getting the Neighbourhood Plan adopted. Farnham was pressing for an early date for adoption by Council and hoped it may be June although this was dependent on co-operation from Waverley.

C196/15 Cllr Ward advised that Planning Permission had been received for the Hale Chapels project and fundraising was now starting. It was noted that the Surrey County Council Leader's Fund was open and application for up to £30,000 had to be made by the mid July.

Planning & Licensing Consultative Group

C197/15 Cllr Ward introduced the minutes of the Planning & Licensing Consultative Group held on 21st March 2016 and 4th, and 18th April 2016 at Appendices E, F and G to the Agenda.

C198/15 Cllr Attfield asked that the Council referred back application 2016/0566 as it seemed out of character with the area. This was agreed.

Upon clarifying the situation, although Councillor Attfield had not received a Neighbour Notification regarding the development he was advised that it could be considered that he had interest and as such he made a pecuniary declaration of interest in the matter.

C199/15 Cllr Cockburn made a plea that all ward members took the same level of concern as Cllr Attfield for applications in their own wards. He always reviewed applications and made comments even if he was unable to attend meetings.

C200/15 Motion from Annual Town Meeting

Cllr Ward advised that he thought the Motion had already been thoroughly considered and he hoped the electors would be content with the decisions made by Council. With permission from the Mayor, the mover of the Annual Town Meeting Motion, Mr David Beaman, said that he was satisfied with the debate and the action being taken.

Election to Working Groups 2016/17

C201/15 Council noted that Councillors had identified preferences for the Working Groups for 2016/17 in accordance with Standing Order 15 which were attached at Appendix I, in order of preference for each Working Group as indicated by each councillor. Council then proceeded with appointments to each Working Group in accordance with Standing Order 15.

C202/15 The Mayor proposed, and it was agreed *nem con* that Council be adjourned in order that each Working Group could appoint its Lead Member to confirm the composition of the Strategy & Finance Working Group.

The full list of appointments to Working Groups is set out at Annex I.

Appointment of Task Groups

C203/15 Council agreed that the Task Group be re-established for 2016/17, and the full list of appointments is included in Annex I to these minutes.

Appointment of Representatives on Outside Bodies

C204/15 Council noted that Councillors had given preferences, in accordance with Standing Order 15, for being the Council's representative on External Bodies for 2016/17. Remaining appointments were agreed and the full list is attached at Annex 2 to these minutes.

Part 2 – Items Noted

C205/15 Actions under the Scheme of Delegation

The Town Clerk reported that Porthaven, the developer of the former Plymouth Brethren site had removed hedging and kerbing that was on Council property. As a result, having taken legal advice, the Town Clerk had used delegated powers to erect a fence to re-establish its boundary and protect the Town Council's interests. He advised that further advice was being taken and discussions with the developer would continue to find a mutually agreeable solution.

Reports from Other Councils

- C206/15
- i) Cllr Frost reported on the Surrey County Council Bus Review and that it was hoped to safeguard what was needed in the Farnham area. She reported that after the distress caused by the potential stopping of Route 65, Stagecoach had agreed that the service would continue indefinitely.
 - ii) Cllr Frost reported that the County Council's new fund for supporting local shopping centres was seeking applications.
 - iii) Cllr Williamson reported that the Waverley Council Meeting held on 19th April had agreed to consult the Town Council and Ward Councillors on the proposals for the Memorial Hall and the possible move to Weydon Lane of the Football Club having allocated £50,000 to undertake a feasibility Study.
 - iv) Cllr Cockburn reported that through the Farnham Area Conservation Management Plan Group funding had been allocated by Waverley Borough Council to remove unsightly railings in the Dyas Yard. It was noted that there was need to identify other projects which could be funded by developer contributions and all councillors were asked to identify potential projects in their wards and advise the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk would obtain an up-to-date list of monies available and projects suggested to circulate to all councillors.

C207/15 Reports from Outside Bodies

The Mayor advised that she was hosting a 'thank you' reception for local organisations and others who had worked with the Town Council over the past twelve months.

The Mayor took the opportunity of thanking Rachel Aves for the work she had undertaken over the past four years, and in particular what she had done with a wide range of external groups and councillors in progressing the Neighbourhood Plan and the Planning and Licensing Working group in particular. She wished her well on behalf of the whole Council as she moved into a new role in the private sector.

C208/15 Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next Meeting would be the Annual Meeting and Mayor Making on Thursday 12th May 2016.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.43pm.

Date

Chairman

WORKING GROUPS 2016/17

I Working Groups	Membership 2016/17
<p>Strategy & Finance Working Group</p> <p>(6 members plus Lead Members (LM) from working groups not already appointed to this Working Group)</p> <p><i>Meeting dates in 2015/16. Tuesday mornings at 9.30am. 9-10 meetings a year.</i></p>	<p>Cllr David Attfield Cllr Carole Cockburn Cllr Pat Frost Cllr Jill Hargreaves Cllr Jeremy Ricketts Cllr John Williamson</p> <p>Plus Cllr Stephen Hill (Lead Member Community Enhancement)</p>
<p>Community Enhancement Working Group</p> <p>(6 members)</p> <p><i>Meeting dates in 2015/16. Wednesday mornings 9.30am. 4-5 meetings a year</i></p>	<p>Cllr Stephen Hill ** Cllr Mike Hyman Cllr Sue Redfern Cllr Jeremy Ricketts Cllr John Williamson Cllr Carole Cockburn</p>
<p>Tourism & Events Working Group</p> <p>(6 members)</p> <p><i>Meeting dates in 2015/16. Tuesday mornings at 9.30am.</i></p> <p><i>4-5 meetings a year.</i></p>	<p>Cllr Jill Hargreaves ** Cllr Carole Cockburn Cllr Stephen Hill Cllr Mike Hodge Cllr Andy Macleod Cllr John Williamson</p>
<p>Cemeteries & Appeals Working Group</p> <p>(6 members)</p> <p><i>Meeting dates in 2015/16. Thursday morning at 9.30</i></p> <p><i>4-5 meetings a year.</i></p>	<p>Cllr Carole Cockburn* * Cllr David Attfield Cllr Jill Hargreaves Cllr Sam Hollins-Owen Cllr Sue Redfern Cllr John Williamson</p>

** Lead Member of Working Group

2 Consultative Group	Membership 2016/17
<p>Planning & Licensing Consultative Group (9 members – including one from each ward)</p> <p><i>Meetings in 2015/16 Monday mornings at 9.30am</i> <i>Approximately 20 meetings a year.</i></p>	<p>Cllr Carole Cockburn <i>(Bourne)</i> Cllr Paula Dunsmore <i>(Wreccllesham & Rowledge)</i> Cllr J Scotty Fraser <i>(Upper Hale)</i> Cllr Mike Hyman <i>(Hale & Heath End)</i> Cllr Andy Macleod <i>(Moor Park)</i> Cllr Kika Mirylees <i>(Shortheath & Boundstone)</i> Cllr Jeremy Ricketts <i>(Weybourne & Badshot Lea)</i> Cllr John Williamson <i>(Castle)</i></p>

3 Standing Panels	Membership 2016/17
<p>HR Panel (Task Group of Strategy and Finance)</p> <p>(6 Members)</p> <p><i>Meets twice a year or as required for specific purposes</i></p>	<p>Cllr David Attfield Cllr Jill Hargreaves Cllr Stephen Hill Cllr Sam Hollins-Owen Cllr Mike Hyman Cllr Andy MacLeod</p>

<p>Services to Farnham Awards Panel (Task Group of Council)</p> <p><i>Meets twice a year or as required</i></p>	<p>Mayor Deputy Mayor Cllr David Attfield Cllr Jill Hargreaves Mrs Wendy Craig</p>
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4 Task Groups (Reappointed on an annual basis as required)	Membership 2016/17
<p>Infrastructure Planning Group (Task Group of Strategy and Finance) (5 Members)</p> <p><i>Normally meets on a Friday morning at 10am</i></p> <p><i>(5 Members)</i></p>	<p>Cllr Paddy Blagden Cllr Carole Cockburn Cllr Andy MacLeod Cllr John Williamson</p>

Assets Task Group (Task Group of Strategy and Finance) (3 members)	Cllr David Attfield Cllr Jill Hargreaves Cllr Sam Hollins-Owen
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Wellbeing Task Group (Task Group of Strategy and Finance) Normally meets at 6pm on a Wednesday	Cllr Paula Dunsmore Cllr Scotty Fraser Cllr Andy MacLeod Cllr Jeremy Ricketts
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Representatives on Outside Bodies 2016/17

Organisation	Councillors representing the Council in 2016/17
40 Degreez	Cllr Stephen Hill
Allotments Liaison Group	Cllr Stephen Hill
Badshot Lea Recreation Ground	Cllr David Attfield
Bishop's Meadow Trust	Cllr David Attfield
Blackwater Valley Recreation & Countryside Management Committee	Cllr Mike Hodge
Bourne Recreation Ground	Cllr Sam Hollins-Owen
Brightwells Gostrey Centre	Cllr John Williamson
Farnborough Aerodrome Consultative Committee	Cllr David Attfield Cllr John Williamson (Reserve)
Farnham/Andernach Friendship Association	Cllr Pat Frost
Farnham Conservation Area Management Plan	Cllr Carole Cockburn
Farnham Crime Prevention Panel	Cllr Jeremy Ricketts
Farnham Maltings Association Council of Management	Cllr Pat Frost
Farnham Public Art Trust	Cllr Carole Cockburn
Farnham Rivers Management Committee	Cllr Mike Hodge
Farnham River Watch	Cllr Mike Hodge
Farnham Quarry Liaison Group	Cllr David Attfield
Farnham Sports Council	Cllr Carole Cockburn
Farnham Visitors Forum	Cllr Jill Hargreaves
Hale Recreation Ground	Cllr Scotty Fraser
New Ashgate Gallery	Cllr Sam Hollins-Owen
North East Hants & Farnham Clinical Commissioning Group	Cllr Jeremy Ricketts
Runfold Quarry Community Liaison Group (Suez/Sita)	Cllr Andy MacLeod
Surrey Association of Local Councils (2 representatives)	Mayor and Leader
Surrey CC Farnham Local Group (2 places)	Cllr Andy MacLeod Carole Cockburn
Waverley Towns and Parishes Meetings	Mayor plus Deputy Mayor
Wrecclesham Community Centre	Cllr Pat Frost
Wrecclesham Recreation Ground Committee	Cllr Paula Dunsmore

In addition, the Mayor, Leader and Clerk plus relevant Lead Members to attend Liaison meetings with the University for the Creative Arts

Representatives of Farnham Town Council are expected to attend meetings and report back on relevant matters to Council.