



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

A

Minutes
Council

Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 27th July 2017

Place

The Council Chamber, South Street, Farnham

Councillors

- A Mike Hodge
- * David Attfield
- * David Beaman
- * Carole Cockburn
- A Paula Dunsmore
- A John Scotty Fraser
- * Pat Frost
- * Jill Hargreaves
- * Stephen Hill
- A Sam Hollins-Owen
- * Mike Hyman
- * Andy Macleod
- A Kika Mirylees
- A Julia Potts
- A Susan Redfern
- * Jeremy Ricketts
- * John Ward
- * John Williamson

- * Present
- A Apologies for absence

Officers Present:

Iain Lynch (Town Clerk)

There were 4 members of the public in attendance.

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

C037/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Fraser, Cllr Potts and Cllr Ward and after the meeting from Cllr Hollins-Owen.

C038/17 Minutes

The Minutes of the Farnham Town Council Meeting held on 22nd June were agreed and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record. It was agreed that the Minutes of Thursday 11th May 2017 should record the attendance of Cllr Hollins-Owen.

C039/17 Declarations of interests

Apart from the standard declarations of personal interest by councillors and by those who were dual or triple hatted by virtue of being elected to Waverley Borough Council or Surrey County Council, the following disclosures of interest relating to items on the agenda were made:

Cllr Beaman – as chair of the South West Surrey Disability Forum in relation to item 7 of the notes of the Strategy and Finance Working Group meeting. The Town Clerk advised that he had agreed a dispensation to allow Cllr Beaman to stay for the discussion on this item as it was a generic matter.

C040/17 Questions and Statements by the Public

There were no questions from the public.

C041/17 Town Mayor's Announcements

- i) The Deputy Mayor drew attention to the engagements he had attended on behalf of the Mayor including The Rotary Kids Out day at the Army Sports Stadium which had been excellent and the The Bell's Piece fête which had been very successful.
- ii) The Deputy Mayor recorded the thanks of the Farnham Town Council to Waverley Borough Council for the speedy action taken to deal with a number of recent traveller incursions in the Town.
- iii) The Deputy Mayor congratulate Mr John Burdett on his retirement from the Outside Workforce Team and sent good wishes Lara Prior for her forthcoming wedding.

Part I – Items for Decision

Tourism and Events Working Group

C042/17 Council confirmed an adjustment to the membership of the Working group whereby Cllr Williamson replaced Cllr Cockburn for the 2017/18 municipal year.

C043/17 Cllr Hargreaves reported on the Tourism and Events Working group held on 27th June attached at Appendix B to the agenda.

The Group had received an update from Gavin Stride, of the Farnham Maltings, on the evolution of the Craft Town project and plans to take things forward. A smaller group would shape the annual activities and a work with a wider reference group of those involved. Council noted that Farnham Town Council would submit an

application to the Arts Council on behalf of the project to support the implementation of the strategic objectives.

Council received details of the debrief on the successful walking Festival and for a reception to be held in October for the volunteer leaders and to launch the 2018 festival.

Council noted the progress on arrangements for the Feast of Food and the Christmas Market and of two interpretative signage projects for the Old Park and Wrecclisham.

Strategy and Finance Working Group held on 18th July

C044/17 Cllr Cockburn introduced the notes of the Strategy and Finance Working Group meeting held on 18th July 2017, at Appendix C to the Agenda. Cllr Beaman advised that although listed as in attendance, he had not been present at the meeting.

C045/17 Council noted the first quarter's finances had been considered in detail by Strategy & Finance including:

- a) Financial Budget Comparison between 1st April and June 30th 2017
- b) Bank reconciliation at 30th June 2017
- c) Statement of Investments at 30th June 2017
- d) Debtors at 30th June 2017

It was noted that consideration was being given to the possibility of investing in bonds for a better return than being achieved from the deposit accounts.

C046/17 Cllr Cockburn reported on the discussion that had taken place following the feedback from the Councillor's Strategic workshop. The decisions to continue with prayers organised by Churches Together at the start of each Council meeting and to rename Twinning to International Partnerships was endorsed. Council agreed that the suggestion by Strategy and Finance to add 'taking practical action' to the Council's Vision be endorsed, and supported the approach of furthering relationships with the Farnham 6th Form College and University for the Creative Arts to add value to the time spent by students in Farnham where possible.

Council agreed that one of the key roles of the Council was to act as a catalyst facilitating activity undertaken by others in the community where possible to deliver effective outcomes.

It was RESOLVED *nem con* that:

The Council's vision be "*Farnham Town Council should be the influential and effective voice for Farnham bringing together the views of all organisations working for the good of the town and taking practical action to make Farnham a better place*".

C047/17 Cllr Cockburn advised that the Strategy & Finance Working Group had considered several consultations:

i) Surrey County Council Community Recycling Centres.

Council noted the proposed reductions in service as a result of the financial challenges affecting Surrey County Council and agreed to object to further closures and seek investment to relocate the current site which was inadequate in view of the growth of the town. There was also concern that the extension of charging would lead to

further fly-tipping that meant the cost was unfairly transferred to individual landowners.

It was RESOLVED nem con that:

The Town Clerk submit the Council's response objecting to the additional day's closure and proposing reinvestment or relocation of the site with an Invest to Save approach.

C048/17

ii) Waverley Borough Council Community Infrastructure Levy

Council considered the latest draft charging schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) that would come into force once the Local Plan was adopted. Council agreed with the comments proposed by the Working Group that:

- There should not be a reduction in CIL where a SANG contribution was also payable;
- There should be a CIL charge for office construction;
- There should not be a higher than standard discount for construction in the Waverley or Farnham area. The 'normal' discount for uncertainties in costing development of 30% should apply; and
- The Regulation 123 list should include some additional 'Infrastructure types' to include cemetery improvements and air quality improvements.

It was RESOLVED nem con that:

That the Town Clerk submit the Council's response in consultation with the Infrastructure Planning Group.

C049/17

iii) Waverley Borough Council Blue Badge Scheme and parking charges

Council considered the new consultation on charges for blue badge holders in Waverley car parks. Council reinforced the concern of the Working Group that:

- Disabled spaces were not close to the car park machines meaning that people with respiratory problems were significantly disadvantaged by the new arrangement;
- The additional income generated was not worth the inconvenience being caused;
- If charges were to be applied, Waverley should consider a pre-paid voucher system, similar to that used for residents' visitor permits or in Woking.

It was RESOLVED nem con that:

Farnham Town Council is strongly opposed to the introduction of charging Blue Badge holders to park in Farnham's car parks as the benefit is disproportionate to the difficulties caused.

C050/17

iv) Waverley Borough Council Local Plan Part 2

Cllr Cockburn reported that the Strategy & Finance Working Group had considered a draft response to Waverley Borough Council's Local Plan Part 2 Consultation which was attached at Annex 1 to the Notes of the Working Group

It was RESOLVED nem con that:

The response to Waverley Borough Council's Local Plan Part 2 Consultation, set out at Annex 1 to the Notes of the Strategy & Finance meeting, be endorsed.

C051/17

Council received details of the Well-being Task Group held on 17th July noting that discussion on air quality; the Dementia Action Alliance; and the proposed joint well-being day with the Farnham Hospital Integrated Care Centre had taken place. Council also considered the ongoing need for a Western Bypass/Wrecclesham Relief Road to

alleviate poor air quality, although it was noted that the most significant issue was how such a project would be funded. Council agreed that the suggestion for a viability study, in conjunction with partners such as Surrey County Council, should be reconsidered by the Infrastructure Planning Task Group.

It was RESOLVED *nem con*

That the Infrastructure Planning Group consider whether an updated viability study on a Western Bypass/ Wrecclesham Relief Road should be undertaken.

- C052/17 **Planning & Licensing Consultative Group**
Cllr Williamson introduced the minutes of the Planning & Licensing Consultative Group held on 3rd July and 17th July 2017 advising that with the Neighbourhood Plan now made, planning was moving into a new era. Applications would now be considered against the Neighbourhood Plan and things wouldn't be in the control of developers.

Part 2 – Items Noted

- C053/15 **Actions under the Scheme of Delegation**
None reported.

C054/15 **Reports from other Councils**

- i) Cllr Macleod reported that he had met with the Area Highways Officer to discuss a number of complaints he had received. He also advised Council of the financial pressures affecting Surrey County Council that had led to significant funding cuts for Supported Living units in the County three of which were in Farnham. Council also heard that there would be no Localism Funding from Surrey County Council and that there had been an 80% reduction in Highways Maintenance funding.
- ii) Cllr Cockburn reported that at the recent Local Committee meeting held in Haslemere, it was announced that the consultation on a scheme to reduce traffic congestion in Farnham had been shelved. Cllr Cockburn would be writing to the Chair of the Local Committee seek clarity as to what Surrey County Council was intending to do as the funding for the consultation had been ring fenced from on-street parking income.
- iii) Cllr Cockburn reported on the enormous pressure being faced by the Legal Department at Waverley Borough Council as a result of ongoing legal challenges on Planning Inquiries and Judicial reviews and thanked them for the work they were doing in support of Farnham.
- iv) Cllr Cockburn updated Council on the Local Plan Inquiry, advising that the Inspector had endorsed the Spatial Strategy but that there was still the need for an additional 1300 home in the Borough over the life of the Local Plan.

- C055/15 **Reports from Outside Bodies**
There were no reports from representatives on Outside Bodies.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

C056/17 **On a Motion proposed by the Mayor, it was RESOLVED nem con to exclude members of the public and press from the meeting at Part 3 of the agenda in view of the confidential items under discussion.**

C057/17 Council received an update on a long-standing cemetery matter.

C058/17 **Date of next meeting**

Members noted that the next Council Meeting would take place on Thursday 21st September 2017

The Deputy Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.54pm.

Date

Chairman