



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

A

Minutes
Council

Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 23 September 2010

Place

The Council Chamber, South Street, Farnham

- * Cllr J Ward (Town Mayor)
- * Cllr G Hargreaves (Deputy Town Mayor)
- * Cllr D Attfield
- * Cllr G Beel
- * Cllr C Cockburn
- o Cllr V Duckett
- o Cllr (Mrs) P Frost
- o Cllr R Frost
- * Cllr L Fleming
- * Cllr C Genziani
- * Cllr S Hill
- * Cllr D Le Gal
- * Cllr A Lovell
- o Cllr J Maines
- * Cllr S O'Grady
- * Cllr R Steel
- * Cllr C Storey
- Cllr A Thorp

- * Present
- o Apologies for absence

Officers Present:

Roland Potter (Town Clerk)

The proceedings of the meeting of Farnham Town Council held on Thursday 23 September 2010 were digitally recorded for Council purposes only.

QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no questions by the public.

C 075/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors V Duckett, P Frost, R Frost and J Maines.

C 076/10 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interests.

C 077/10 STATEMENTS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no statements by the public.

C 078/10 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor thanked all the Councillors who had attended and helped with the Farnham Town Council stall at the Freshers Fayre.

The Town Mayor reported that the Retailers Evening had been received very enthusiastically and the retailers had offered support. It had been agreed that the retailers would participate in 'late night opening' during the lead up to Christmas 2010.

The Mayor reminded Members that the Farnham Awards Ceremony would take place on 27 September, at 6.30pm, in the Council Chamber.

On 28 September the awards for the Schools hanging baskets would be awarded at Squires Garden Centre, in Badshot Lea.

The Mayor also reminded Members that the Farnham Feast of Food would be taking place in Castle Street on 2 October 2010 and that volunteers were still required, especially for the Mayor's tea tent.

Part I – Items for Decision

C 079/10 CONSULTATION FROM WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL SETTING A LOCAL HOUSING TARGET FOR THE WAVERLEY BOROUGH LDF CORE STRATEGY

Members considered a response to the consultation from Waverley Borough Council on Setting a Local Housing Target for the Waverley Borough LDF Core Strategy. Members noted that the closing date for the response to the consultation was 13 October 2010.

Cllr Cockburn highlighted to Members that if surrounding developments in adjoining and neighbouring areas such as Farnborough, Aldershot and Bordon were taken into consideration, there would be an extra 5,000 to 6,000 people living within 5 miles of Farnham.

Cllr Steel reiterated that although Waverley Borough Council were asking three questions in their consultation, that did not preclude the Town Council from making its own observations and statements.

The Town Mayor explained that he had recently attended a presentation by Rushmore Borough Council on the proposed new developments within their Borough. He explained that the Borough Council was completely behind its developments, but that they would put greater strain on Farnham's infrastructure.

Cllr O'Grady highlighted to Members that Hart District Council had a major development site near Sandy Hill which would impact greatly on the north west side of Farnham.

Cllr Le Gal reiterated that Farnham did not want any greater urban spread. She reiterated that Farnham did not want another housing site added to Badshot Lea or in the fields behind the University.

Cllr Lovell reminded Members that infrastructure in Farnham was vital, however if the Town Council remained positive about the proposed housing it would stand a better chance of getting the infrastructure the town needed.

Cllr Cockburn felt that there was a case for no further houses to be built in Farnham until there was an improvement in the current infrastructure. She went on to explain that Waverley Borough Council, as the planning authority had always relied on Windfall Sites to allocate its housing needs. She also reminded Members that Farnham was positioned in the centre of all the other major housing developments that were taking place in the surrounding area.

The Town Mayor agreed that there were enough houses being built in the surrounding area to provide for the demand of housing without the need to build further housing in Farnham.

Cllr Steel said that Farnham was a unique, historic market town and the retailers were in a niche market, most shops were run by owner/retailer. He went on to explain that when the South East Plan was drawn up, Waverley Borough Council never challenged the number of houses it was allocated to build each year. Therefore other Boroughs had much lower housing allocations than Waverley and yet in Waverley 80% of the land is protected and 31% is wooded. Cllr Steel asked where the houses would be built.

Resolved: That Members would email their views to the Town Clerk within the next 10 days and the Town Clerk would send a response to the Waverley Borough Council consultation on Local Housing Target for the Waverley Borough LDF Core Strategy.

C 080/10

CONSULTATIONS FROM SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL ON TRAFFIC ISSUES

Members considered 4 consultations from Surrey County Council:

1. Congestion Strategy
2. Parking Strategy
3. Passenger Transport Strategy: Part I – Local Bus
4. Air Quality Strategy

Members noted that the consultations closed on 9 November 2010.

Members were asked to consider developing a wider policy stance for traffic issues relating to Farnham.

Cllr Cockburn suggested that a Task Group be set up to consider the consultations and provide a response on behalf of the Town Council.

Cllr Le Gal suggested that the Farnham Traffic Task Group could respond to the consultations on behalf of the Town Council.

Cllr Lovell suggested that the response to the consultation was not an issue for the Farnham Traffic Task Group. The Farnham Town Councillors should respond to the consultation as traffic was a major issue for Farnham. The proposed Traffic Plan would run from 2011 – 2016 which was twice as long as the previous plans.

Cllr O'Grady agreed that the Town Council needed to put forward a response to the consultation.

The Town Mayor commented that it would not be appropriate for a Surrey County Council Task Group to comment on a Surrey produced consultation. The Town Mayor requested volunteers for a Task Group to respond to the consultation.

Cllr Cockburn agreed that the Town Council should have a policy and coherent view on the traffic and transport issues.

It was proposed by Cllr Cockburn and seconded by Cllr Steel that a Task Group be set up to form a response to the consultations from Surrey County Council.

Resolved: That Cllr Steel, Cllr Lovell and Cllr Hill would form a Task Group to respond to the Surrey County Council consultations on traffic and transport issues on behalf of the Town Council.

Part 2 – Items Noted

C 081/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members received the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Consultative Group held on the 19 August, 2 September and 8 September 2010

RESOLVED: That the observations made by the Planning Consultative Group held on, 19 August, 2 September and 8 September 2010 and dealt with in accordance with delegated authority, be noted.

C 082/10 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in view of the confidential nature of business to be transacted at Agenda Item 9, Staffing Review, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw at Item 8.

Part 3 – Confidential Items

C 083/10 STAFFING REVIEW

Members considered a report from Mr Steve Vale, an independent consultant, on the Review of Staffing for the Town Council.

Members considered the recommendations of the Corporate Development and Audit Working Group, with regard to the above report.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Date

Chairman