



SUMMONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A MEETING OF THE HART DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY, FLEET ON THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2013 AT 7.00 PM

Geoff Bonner
Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

AGENDA

**COPIES OF THIS AGENDA ARE AVAILABLE IN LARGE PRINT AND
BRAILLE ON REQUEST**

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 November 2013.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare disclosable pecuniary, and any other, interests.

4 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD PRESENTATION

5 PRESENTATION

Presentation from Michael Butcher, Fleet Future.

6 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

To receive any questions from members of the public submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.

*Note: The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 12 must be given to the Chief Executive not later than **Noon on Friday, 6 December 2013.***

7 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

To receive any questions from Members submitted pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.

*Note: The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.3 must be given to the Chief Executive not later than **5.00 pm on Monday, 9 December 2013.***

*The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.4 must be submitted to the Chief Executive before **10.00 am on Thursday, 12 December 2013.***

8 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

9 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

10 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

11 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the following Committees, which met on the dates shown, are submitted.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1, Members are allowed to put questions at Council without Notice in respect of any matters in the Minutes to the Leader of the Council or any Chairman of the relevant meeting at the time those Minutes are received by Council.

Meeting	Date	Minute Numbers	For Decision
Overview and Scrutiny	19 November		
Cabinet	5 December	To follow - Minutes not yet available	

Date of Despatch: 3 December 2013

COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday, 12 December 2013 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Gorys - (Chairman)

Ambler	Collett	Lit
Axam	Crampton	Morris
Bailey	Crookes	Neighbour
Barrell	Evans	Oliver
Bennison	Gani	Parker
Blewett	Glen	Radley JR
Burchfield	Harward	Radley JE
Butler	Ive (7.20 pm)	Simmons (7.30 pm)
Clarke	Kennett (7.10 pm)	Southern
Cockarill	Kinnell	Wheale

Officers Present:

Geoff Bonner	Chief Executive
Gill Chapman	Business Support - Committee Services

75 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2013 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Appleton, Billings, Lewis and Murphy.

77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

78 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD PRESENTATION

The Chairman deferred his December awards until the January meeting.

79 PRESENTATION BY MICHAEL BUTCHER, FLEET FUTURE

Michael Butcher, Chairman of Fleet Future, gave a presentation on the progress of Fleet Future. Since it was launched in January 2013 residents had been consulted and

a town plan had been produced, available at www.fleetfuture.com . The town plan looks at how Fleet is marketed, encouraging people to use the town, parking, transport, events, activities, major projects etc. Action teams were being set up to start to bring the ideas to life, and more volunteers were needed to help make it happen.

Councillor Crookes thanked Mr Butcher for the work and perseverance of the group in progressing the initiative. He added that Fleet Future had the Council's full support

Councillors Ive, Kennett and Simmons entered the meeting during this item.

80 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None received.

81 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Questions put by Councillors are detailed in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

82 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had attended the following events on behalf of the Council.

30 November	Christmas Market and Dinner at Ice Rink in Winchester
1 December	Hampshire Constabulary Carol Concert Aldershot
2 December	Visit to Royal Mail Delivery Office, Waterfront Business Park, Fleet
3 December	Fleet Knitting Club Charity Evening
5 December	Four Seasons Hotel Evening Reception
6 December	Mayor of Rushmoor - 'To Russia With Love' at FIVE in Farnborough
8 December	Hampshire North Townswomen's Guild Christmas Carol Concert, Hook
10 December	Open Sight Xmas Party and Lunch at Hedge Croft, Yateley

The Chairman announced that the very successful Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal had raised over £37,000 across the district. He also reported that the gym in the Civic Offices was now open and ready for use by staff and Councillors.

83 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, **Councillor Crookes**, announced

In the Chancellor's Autumn Statement we learnt that the proposal to "top slice" the New Homes Bonus from 2015/16 in order to fund the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) has been dropped. This is good news for Hart's medium term financial outlook. We expect to receive details of our financial settlement from the Government in the next few days and shall then be in a good position to proceed with the budget preparation for 2014/15.

I attended a meeting of Local Government leaders in the area of the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) where we agreed to proceed with the setting up of a Joint Leaders' Board. This will improve the engagement of Local Authorities in the governance of the LEP.

January's Cabinet will take place on January 9th not January 2nd as set out in the calendar of meetings.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, **Councillor Parker**, reported

I met with the Chairman of Berkeleys a couple of weeks ago, along with Councillor Radley and officers, at which Berkeleys presented their views on their prospective development of Grove Farm. We received their comments and made no substantive comment in return.

The Cabinet Member for Housing & Health, **Councillor Crampton**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure & Recreation, **Councillor Kinnell** had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, **Councillor Glen** announced:

The Refuse Department have been apologising to residents as unfortunately one of the glass collection vehicles had broken down. We are doing our best to catch up.

I attended a meeting of the Blackwater Valley Committee for Public Transport where one of the items was the closure of Fleet and Farnborough station car parks. This council was given scant warning of the work to be done at Fleet station, meaning that the car park would be closed for a considerable length of time, and the effect on residents around the station and those using the station. SW Trains attended the meeting and were asked in no uncertain terms to improve their communications with the public and the local authorities.

Small Business Saturday – our car parks were full with people taking full advantage of the free parking to come into Fleet.

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety, **Councillor Kennett**, announced:

On Tuesday I went to a conference on anti social behaviour at Bramshill, a kind of ASBO fest. There was a strong police presence, from the local commander downwards, and they all seemed agreed that the combination of the three councils' Community Safety Teams into Safer Northants is working well.

There was also information on a program led by Hampshire Police, whereby a range of accredited agencies in fields from drug avoidance to domestic violence counsellors can both access and input information directly into a database. This sharing of details, which had previously been held in separate files with different agencies, is greatly helping counsellors understand the overall circumstances of clients. For example in one house there might be four children with different names since they have different fathers and it is now much easier to see that they are all one family.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, **Councillor Burchfield**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Fleet Town Centre, **Councillor Evans**, announced that, though there had not yet been any confirmation from retailers in the town, there had been queues to get into and out of the Fleet car parks on 7 December, Small Business Saturday, which implied that the initiative had been a success.

84 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executives report is attached as Appendix B to these Minutes.

85 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Meeting

Date

Overview and Scrutiny

19 November

No questions asked.

Cabinet

5 December

Minute No 89 - Proposed Adoption of new Corporate Plan

RESOLVED

That the Draft Corporate Plan for the period 2014-16 be adopted.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Oliver asked:

Residents in the Church Road area have raised a concern with me that they believed they had been given assurances by the Council Leader and members of his Cabinet in local meetings that the redevelopment of the Church Road Car Park envisaged in the original 'Fleet Town Vision' had been removed from the HDC Local Plan and was therefore not being actively considered by this Council. In recent meetings on 'Pay on Exit' car parking trials it was minuted that Church Road Car Park was not a suitable site because of the likely early redevelopment of the site and the resultant waste of money on engineering works to put a 'Pay on Exit' system in place.

Could the Portfolio Holder for Planning please confirm that there are no special restrictions on any redevelopment scheme for the Church Road Car Park site and that the council intend to include it in any future HDC Local Plan, whatever his colleagues may say in private?

Councillor Parker responded:

From memory the minutes to which Councillor Oliver refers spoke of possible redevelopment rather than Councillor Oliver's spin of "likely redevelopment", but I will let that pass.

Following the now defunct Fleet Vision of a few years ago, members will recall that the Church Road Car Park was considered as a development opportunity in drafts of the emerging Core Strategy when Councillor Oliver's group colleague Councillor Appleton was Cabinet Member for Planning. Last year however, the Portfolio Holder for Fleet, at a Local Plan Steering Group meeting, asked that Church Road car park should not be explicitly referred to as a development site in the Core Strategy, since no-one had agreed that it should be specifically promoted for development. Members agreed and reference to it was removed from the relevant text.

Whilst not being promoted for development by this Council, it remains a site in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, albeit noted as "Not currently developable" and with some constraints. None of this will stop a developer pursuing the possibility of development although this council will retain some control as it owns the land. Accordingly it is prudent to avoid capital expenditure on engineering works in Church Road car park until this is all settled by a new Local Plan.

However, I can confirm that there are no special restrictions on the car park except our ownership of the site. I am happy to confirm that the site will be covered by the next iteration of the Local Plan, but as the Conservative group is able to focus on the issues which really matter to the communities which we represent without getting distracted by wider political issues, avoids taking decisions on political expediency rather than on community benefit and is independent from the influence and motivations of national

political parties I cannot give any assurance regarding what will be decided on any particular site. Different members of all groups will have their own views. This is illustrated by the Leader of Council never having ruled out development on this site, the Cabinet Member for Fleet getting it deleted from the Core Strategy and my suggesting development on stilts leaving an undercroft car park; however I suspect that when we take account of all members' views as well as the residents of the district, the basis of the inclusion of this site in the next Core Strategy may well be as a car park.

Councillor Oliver asked a supplementary question:

Does Cllr Parker agree with me that, subject to commercial confidentiality restrictions, that private actions of this council should always match the public presentation of issues around planning and development (due to their emotive nature) by both officers and councillors ? This transparency being essential for residents to have confidence in this council's integrity.

Councillor Parker responded:

Absolutely. I have demonstrated this by ensuring that any discussions with any parties are shared with members.

Councillor Oliver asked:

In the recent Cabinet Meeting (5/12/13) a transfer of amenity land at Lea Green (Netherhouse Moor) to Crookham Village Parish Council was discussed and a resolution passed in support. I firmly endorse this transfer of land to provide green space and a new play area for residents of both Fleet West and Crookham Village wards. I would also fully support a restriction within the lease that the land could not be used for any other purpose and hence protect the land from speculative development without its return to HDC (ie protecting our asset).

Can the Cabinet Holder of the Environment Portfolio explain why it was deemed necessary to include a break clause in the lease agreement to Crookham Village parish council for return of the land on 6 months notice to allow HDC in partnership with Berkeley Homes to construct an access route via Netherhouse Moor and further housing units within the speculative Grove Farm development (SHLA40) contrary to all public statements that this Council has made that it does not support development in this area and will not include it in any future Local Plan?

Councillor Glen responded:

This question is based upon a wholly wrong premises. It incorrectly implies that the Council is working in partnership with Berkeley Homes when there have been no such discussions whatsoever. Furthermore, comments about access roads to Netherhouse Moor and further housing units within the Grove Farm development are without foundation. As such the question is framed in such a way that makes uninformed speculation appear as fact when there is no basis for it.

Councillor Oliver asked a supplementary question:

As we all know, this council is being deluged with speculative housing proposals across the district. Those refused will need to be defended both at Inspection and Judicial Review.

Has Councillor Glen taken legal advice on how such a transfer of land under the proposed conditions will undermine any such process relating to a Grove Farm development? As it clearly demonstrates that we are planning for such a development and would be a beneficial partner - undermining our defence.

Councillor Glen responded:

Unfortunately I am not in a position to talk about legal matters, that will have to be taken up with the Planning and legal department.

I will reiterate however

- A. The Council is not promoting this land for development.
- B. There are no proposals to build roads through the site to Netherhouse Moor and none have been discussed
- C. The terms of the lease have been agreed with the Parish Council.
- D. The Parish has no difficulty with either the lease or the 6 month break clause as it protects their interest.
- E. The 6 month break clause is intended to protect the Council's interest. It simply gives the Council the opportunity to react to any potential development opportunity should one arise. That is not to say however, that the Council would seek to exploit any development opportunity. It could simply at that point choose to do nothing.

**COUNCIL MEETING – 12 DECEMBER 2013
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

1. Closure of Civic Offices over Christmas

The Council's offices will be closed from 4pm on Tuesday 24 December until 8.30am on Thursday 2 January. The normal stand-by and emergency numbers will continue to operate during this time.

2. January Cabinet Meeting

The Leader has decided to move the January Cabinet meeting from Thursday 2 January to Thursday 9 January.

Geoff Bonner
Chief Executive
12 January 2013