



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL



Notes

Strategy & Finance Working Group

Time and date

9.30 am on Tuesday 15th June, 2021

Place

Council Chamber

Attendees:

Members: Councillors John Neale (Lead Member), David Attfield, Roger Blishen, Carole Cockburn, Alan Earwaker (ex-Officio) and Pat Evans

Officers: Iain McCreedy (Business and Facilities Manager) and Iain Lynch (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

POINTS	ACTION
Apologies were received from Cllr Hesse.	

2. Declarations of interest

POINTS	ACTION
There were no declarations of interest.	

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 20th April

POINTS	ACTION
The notes of the meeting held on 20 th April were agreed.	

4. Finance report

POINTS	ACTION
The Town Clerk introduced the papers at Agenda item 4. 1. The budget comparison to 31 st May was noted. 2. The proposal to move £400k of investments into the Public Sector Deposit Fund was noted. Members agreed it would give a better balance of the investments and a slightly better return. 3. The proposal to recommend a grant of £800 to FADEG for the Big	Town Clerk to progress. Recommendation to Council: A grant of £800 to

<p>Draw project was agreed.</p> <p>4. It was noted that the latest BACS and cheque payments were available to review.</p>	<p>FADEG be approved.</p>
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Reports from Task Groups

5. Assets Task Group

POINTS	ACTION
<p>1. The Notes of the Assets Task Group at Appendix C to the agenda were presented by Cllr Attfield.</p> <p>a) Hale Chapels.</p> <p>Cllr Attfield advised that the meeting had been a joint one with the Cemeteries and Appeals Working Group. Steve Simkins and Ian Walker from West Waddy Architects (who had undertaken a restoration of the Henley chapel) and Ian Walker Associates (who had been involved in the restoration of 16 historic churches) joined the meeting to give a presentation on the work they have undertaken in reviewing options for the Hale Chapels.</p> <p>Steve Simkins gave a detailed explanation on the current state of repair of the Hale Chapels and the work needed to either keep both Chapels and house a columbarium (Option 1), part demolish one of the Chapels and turn it into a landscaped garden and then to restore the other chapel and turn it into a Columbaria (Option 2). There were additional options that could be extrapolated from these two options. Mr Simkins said from a personal perspective as an architect, he felt the concept of demolition of one of the chapels was difficult and the best option was to retain the pair of chapels if possible since the value was not in the individual buildings, but the group value.</p> <p>Ian Walker had informed the Task Group on the estimated costs of each of the two proposals which would be Option 1 £555,900 and Option 2 £415,300 (with the careful reduction of one of the chapels to 1m height and the creation of a garden). The cost of the careful height reduction of one chapel was estimated to be in the region of £63k with preliminary works (13% approx. £8,500), contingencies (15% approx. £10,000) and professional fees 16% (approx. £10,000) on top. A total cost of in the region of £91k for one chapel.</p> <p>The Working Group noted the huge amount of work that had been undertaken over many years with the active involvement of the local community. Funding had twice been sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the conversion into a community building but had been unsuccessful on a cost-benefit analysis. Members were reminded that conversion to a residential property (not possible because of proximity to the Special protection area), school use, workshop use in addition to a community centre use had all been explored in detail but had been unable to progress. Members noted that the Hale Chapels Trust had been created to progress the earlier projects in partnership with the Council and that the</p>	<p>Recommendation to Council:</p> <p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sympathetically reduce the structure of both Chapels to a safe height and create a landscaped garden which could also incorporate columbaria in the future; 2. Give an opportunity (of 6 months) for the Hale Chapels Trust to raise the money with the local community to restore the Chapels rather than covert them into a memorial garden; 3. Allocate up to £200,000 of earmarked reserves to complete the project if external funds cannot be raised; 4. Designate part of the garden as a

Farnham Buildings Preservation Trust had felt that these chapels were too far gone to save back in 2012 and had deteriorated further since then.

The Working Group agreed with the Assets Task Group that enormous effort had been put in over many years to find a solution to save the chapels in conjunction with the local community. However, it was time to resolve the issue of the unsightly dilapidated buildings and improve the cemetery. Members felt it was important to retain the character of the area and the sympathetic reduction of the height of the walls with the creation of a community garden was considered to be the best option. Members agreed with the suggestion that the garden could be a lasting memorial and place of reflection for the whole community to remember those lost to the pandemic. The earlier commitment to have information boards on the history of the area was reaffirmed with an additional suggestion that a time capsule be buried.

It was agreed that if Council resolved to create a memorial garden detailed designs would be drawn up.

The Working Group noted that the Hale Chapels Trust had offered to assist with fundraising to restore the buildings and it was agreed that the Trust should be given the option to raise the difference between the cost of creating a garden and the restoration cost, and if there was clear community support and funds becoming available within 6 months (the time used as a benchmark for raising funds for assets of community value) then the Council could reconsider the restoration project. If not it was suggested the works could be targeted to commence in 2022.

b) West Street Cemetery Gates

Cllr Attfield reported on the presentation made by John Cooksley and Terry Martin to the Task Group having taken away the gates for sandblasting and assessment. The detailed report describing the work required was attached at Appendix C to the agenda. The Working group noted that the gates were Grade 2 listed and as such Farnham Town Council is legally required to look after them to protect the status in the listing (which includes the piers and setting).

Members noted the special features discovered through the sandblasting (the use of mortice and tenon joints, lead fillers and the integrated casting of the lock. They also noted that the size of the wrought iron elements would be difficult to replicate given the thickness of the wrought iron. Restoration would require a number of pattern moulds to be created by a pattern maker for the relevant moulds, and the views of the Historic Building officer sought to ascertain what level of restoration was required and whether a mix of materials could be used. [Subsequent to the meeting this was confirmed as acceptable]

The work would be expensive and giving a specific cost to restore

lasting memorial garden for the Farnham community to remember those who have died from Coronavirus; Authorise the Town Clerk to progress these matters.

5. Authorise the Town Clerk to progress these matters.

Recommendation to Council
It is recommended that **ETC**:

- 1) Meets its obligations to restore the listed gates;
- 2) Seeks the advice of the Waverley Borough Council Historic Buildings Officer on materials and methods which could be used for the restoration of

<p>was difficult as some of the tasks involved in restoration were difficult to price. The Town Clerk advised that if the cost exceeded £25,000 then it would have to go through the Government's national online tendering system. It may be possible for some elements of the work (eg the pattern creation) to be separately tendered. It was noted that the total costs would be in the region of £50k, potentially rising to double this sum if a full heritage grade restoration was required. It was noted that the restoration could take six months or more.</p> <p>Members were advised a visit the forge was possible. It was noted that officers were also investigating potential grant funds that could assist with the costs.</p> <p>c) Central car Park Toilets The Working Group noted that materials for the refurbishment of the Central Car Park Toilets had been chosen by the Task Group and that work to secure contractors for the refurbishment was progressing.</p> <p>d) Other matters The Working Group received an update on other matters including the insurance claim regarding the fire at the nursery and contract reviews. The Working group noted that the drawings were awaited for the proposed café in Gostrey Meadow.</p>	<p>the gates; 3) Seeks external funding to help defray the costs; 4) Earmarks £80,000 for the restoration from the reserves; 5) Authorises the Town Clerk to progress the tendering of the work in the most expedient manner.</p>
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6. Infrastructure Planning Group

POINTS	ACTION
<p>Cllr Neale advised that a meeting with Tom Horwood and officers was scheduled to discuss the concerns raised by Council over Planning matters.</p> <p>Cllr Cockburn advised that the Herald photographer had been commissioned to undertake some photographs for the revised Farnham Design Statement.</p> <p>In response to a question about printed copies of the Farnham Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Clerk undertook to clarify the position.</p> <p>The Working Group discussed the Lower Weybourne appeal which was with the Planning Inspectorate, and the importance of the Waverley Local Plan being progressed. The Leader agreed to raise this with the Borough Council.</p>	

7. Younger People's Task Group

POINTS	ACTION
<p>Cllr Neale provided an update on the work being progressed by Cllr Mirylees and the Task Group. He advised that the shelter in Borelli Walk was progressing but awaiting clarification from Waverley BC over whether it required planning permission. The Town Clerk confirmed that FTC had made some grant applications for funding (results awaited).</p>	

<p>A meeting had been held with Trustees of 40Degreez over the future of support for young people and an invitation had been sent to the Surrey Executive Member to clarify Surrey's future strategic approach and levels of support for organisations supporting young people.</p> <p>The Working Group noted that the Lottery application by the Hale Community Centre for funded youth support was progressing. Cllr Earwaker advised that the post of Churches Youth Worker was also being reinstated.</p> <p>The Working Group noted that the number of initiatives progressing to support young people was encouraging and underlined the need for co-ordination.</p> <p>It was agreed that an update note sent to the Task Group would be circulated to all councillors.</p>	<p>Lara Miller to circulate note to councillors.</p>
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8. Other Task Group updates

POINTS	ACTION
<p>In terms of other Task Groups the following was noted:</p> <p>Culture Task Group Bonner Keenleyside were being appointed as consultants to undertake the Scoping Study.</p> <p>Wellbeing The Mayor (as former Lead for Wellbeing) was currently the representative on the Tackling Loneliness Task Group co-ordinated by the Farnham Maltings. It was agreed that Cllr Cockburn would be the representative moving forward.</p>	<p>Town Clerk to advise Task Group</p>

9. Farnham Infrastructure Programme

POINTS	ACTION
<p>Cllr Neale provided an update on the work of the Infrastructure Programme. Since the last Strategy & Finance meeting there had been a all councillor briefing on the work undertaken by PJA Associates and a meeting of the Farnham Board.</p> <p>At the Board meeting, it was announced that some of the covid distancing measures would be being removed. Although these were not necessarily the cause of recent congestion it was felt that the measures in the Borough had slowed the flow of traffic.</p> <p>In terms of quick wins, the HGV ban would be implemented by September and the 20MPH zone was progressing. The wayfinding signage (initially a Brightwells Section 106 project that had been considered by both FCAMP and the Farnham visitors Forum) was being progressed to be implemented from September. It was noted that these would be a mix of finger posts (as per existing) and map-based signs. It was agreed a copy of the latest</p>	<p>Jenny de Quervain to circulate.</p>

<p>proposed sites would be circulated. The road reclassification project was also underway.</p> <p>Cllr Neale was hopeful that a link between North Farnham and the Hart Car Park would emerge in the proposals coming forward.</p> <p>There was a detailed and open exchange on the next meeting of the Board on September with the Working Group stressing the need for advance sight of the matters that would be put for the Board to sign off as it was noted that the Hickleys Corner submission was timetabled for submission to the Department for Transport in September. Cllr Neale assumed it was an indicative submission but the Working Group asked to review the proposals ahead of Board sign off. The Town Clerk advised that a special Council meeting could be called if required.</p> <p>Members remained concerned that the opportunity for debate at the Infrastructure Programme Board was limited and detailed papers were not available to the Town Council for discussion.</p> <p>Cllr Neale undertook to distribute background data that was available to the Board.</p> <p>Cllr Neale advised that Jeremy Hunt had suggested that a referendum should be held on the emerging proposals to clarify the extent of public support for what was proposed. It was noted that encouraging less use of the car in future was going to be an essential component of the climate change challenge.</p> <p>Cllr Cockburn left at this point.</p>	<p>Cllr Neale to distribute relevant documents.</p>
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10. Consultations

POINTS	ACTION
The Working Group noted the Boundary Commission review of Parliamentary boundaries. The Review was expected to report by July 2023 with the current proposal that Bordon be added to the South West Surrey constituency.	

11. Date of next meeting

POINTS	ACTION
The date of the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday July 20 at 9.30am	

The meeting ended at 1pm

Notes written by town.clerk@farnham.gov.uk