



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 14 DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.00 PM

Joint Chief Executive

CIVIC OFFICES, HARLINGTON WAY
FLEET, HAMPSHIRE GU51 4AE

AGENDA

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BRAILLE ON REQUEST**

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 30 November 2017.
Paper A

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare disclosable pecuniary, and any other, interests.

4 PRESENTATION – VISION FOR YOUTH

5 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, 8 December 2017.***

6 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, 11 December 2017.

The text of any question under Council Procedure Rule 14.4 must be submitted to the Chief Executive before 10.00 am on Thursday, 14 December 2017.

7 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

8 CABINET MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

9 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

10 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	Page Numbers	For Decision
Overview and Scrutiny	21 November 2017	23-29	

Date of Despatch: 5 December 2017

COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday, 30 November 2017 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Crisp - (Chairman)

Ambler	Crampton	Neighbour
Axam	Crookes	Oliver
Bailey	Dickens	Parker
Billings	Forster	Radley (Jenny)
Blewett	Gorys	Renshaw
Burchfield	Harward	Southern
Butler	Kennett	Wheale
Clarke	Kinnell	
Cockarill	Leeson	

Officers Present:

Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Gill Chapman	Committee Services

53 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The word 'not' had been omitted from Page CL.45, penultimate paragraph, which should read:

Councillor Forster asked for a clarification that there is no schedule for deployment at this moment? Councillor Radley confirmed that at this moment in time Hart does **not** have the ability to do that.

With this correction, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 October 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Collett, Gray, Makepeace-Browne, Morris, Radley (James), Woods and Wright.

55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

56 PRESENTATION BY THE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Sally Plank, Chief Officer of Citizens Advice Hart District (CAB), updated Members on the work of the Citizens Advice on the introduction Universal Credit and delivering it locally to Hart residents. The CAB has helped just under 3,000 residents so far, looking for advice in a variety of ways - face to face, phone, email and webchat. Universal Credit is six means tested benefits being rolled into one payment, with the claims being made and managed online. The aim is to help people to go from dependency to self sufficiency, there will be a full service rollout next year to encompass every claimant, with CAB helping with issues such as difficulty in reading and writing and form filling, digital exclusion and chaotic lives.

Members congratulated the CAB on the very valuable work that was being done by the CAB in Hart. Discussion ranged around the impact of closure of local banks, basic bank accounts, involvement of parishes and the renewal of the core service level agreement in March.

57 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Prior to questions, the Chairman took the opportunity to remind Members of the custom and practice around Questions and Points of Order as detailed in the Constitution.

A question had been received from Mr David Turver, details of which are set out in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

58 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

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

59 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

4 November	Gibraltar Barracks – Regiment Guest Night
11 November	Remembrance Day, War Memorial, Gurkha Square
12 November	Remembrance Sunday Civic Service
13 November	Opening of Bramshot Farm SANG
21 November	Mayor of Winchester Civic Day, Winchester
21 November	Mayor Bracknell Charity Dinner, Bracknell
28 November	The Never Such Innocence event at RAF Odiham

The Vice Chairman had attended the following events on behalf of the Council:

27 October	Odiham Art Group Exhibition, Robert May's School, Odiham
28 October	Pelly Concert Orchestra at Church on the Heath, Elvetham Heath
3 November	Cancer Fundraising event, Rural Fringe Hair Salon, Hartley Wintney
12 November	Remembrance Service, Christ Church, Church Crookham

60 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, **Councillor Neighbour**, announced:

I am please to confirm that Hart district Council has been shortlisted in the national Local Government chronicle (LGC) Awards for the Best Service Delivery Model category. Our entry, titled 'The new collaborative Council', focusses around the key themes of building blocks for success, including being more entrepreneurial, innovating and transforming how services are provided through collaboration and most importantly planning for the long-term financial resilience.

Our vision for Hart is clear, it is about investing in our communities to improve quality of life. Our ambition for the district is to make it a great place to live, work, enjoy and contribute and be part of a strong community. We know that working in isolation is no longer an option to delivering the high quality services our residents expect and deserve. We now start with a n ethos of not, what can do, but how can we work together collaboratively. Our collaborations have been successful which is recognised by being shortlisted in the national award. Our judging day will be on Monday, 15 January.

The Leader would circulate details of winners at the recent Inspire Business Awards.

The Cabinet Member for Partnerships, **Councillor Ambler**, had no announcements.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, **Councillor Bailey**, reported:

In view of the cold weather we are experiencing at the moment we have applied our Severe Weather Emergency Protocol. This means that we will arrange overnight accommodation for anybody sleeping rough! Please help keep rough sleepers safe by reporting it to our Engagement & Support Team! Get in touch on 01252 774420 or email housing@hart.gov.uk.

Along with Hart Voluntary Action we are holding a ONE YOU Wellbeing Day on Friday, 19 January in Hart Shopping Centre between 10am and 3pm. We have had a really good level of interest from local service providers who are keen to reach out to Hart residents including both physical and mental health services.

In partnership with Hart Voluntary Action and Energise Me (County sports partnership) we held a successful networking and development event for local sports clubs and physical activity providers. At the event we shared local insight on physical inactivity levels and discussed marketing techniques to encourage and support clubs to think about how they could help to get more people more active in Hart. Further events will be held in 2018.

Members asked questions on the Severe Weather Protocol and the rough sleeper event being organised by Fleet Phoenix.

The Cabinet Member for Planning, **Councillor Cockarill**, announced:

We submitted our formal response to the Government's consultation on the proposed new housing methodology last month, in line with the discussions and suggestions made at Cabinet.

Members might have heard of Sajid Javid's speech last month in Bristol on the Government's plans to increase housing provision across England. In the speech, he urged local councils who have to adopt a new Local Plan to get on with it. On the same day, a letter was sent to the 15 councils deemed by the Department for Communities & Local Government to be the worst performers, giving them a deadline of January to submit their Plans or have the decision-making powers removed and handed over to County councils. I'm pleased to announce that, to some surprise, Hart was not one of the 15. This is almost certainly due to the positive engagement of our Planning Officers with officials from the Department for Communities & Local Government on issues such as the new housing methodology consultation, as well as the united focus and drive of this Administration in completing the Local Plan.

Members might also have picked up from the Budget Speech last week that the Chancellor wants to see 300,000 more homes per year built across England. This represents a 13% uplift on the 266,000 set out in the consultation Planning for Housing. We think it is likely, in view of a new national building delivery target being announced, that the Standard Approach to calculating OAN will be rebased to ensure that collectively LPAs are planning to deliver 300,000 homes per annum. If the 13% uplift is applied to the current uncapped OAN figures, the OAN would be about 1,059 for the Hart/Rushmoor/Surrey Heath Housing Area. This equates to an increase in Hart's proposed OAN from 293 to 330 dwellings per annum. However, because of the consistent line this Administration has taken on our housing target, this potential uplift in the consultation will not materially affect Hart's Local Plan.

Finally, a date for Members' diaries. There will be an all-Members Briefing on the Local Plan on Tuesday, 19 December, at 7pm in the Council Chamber. This will be an opportunity to get an update on the Plan's progress, where we are now and the future steps, including a timetable.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside Services, **Councillor Kinnell**, reported:

Bramshot Country Park is now open to the public providing 91 acres of open meadows and woodlands and plentiful space for dog walking and other outdoor pursuits. The new Country Park was recognised by an official ribbon cutting ceremony on 13 November, to which all Councillors were invited and a number of you here attended. This is only Stage 1 and the site will continue to develop over the years ahead. Additional projects are to be carried out to further enhance the site including notice boards, an entrance feature sign, a dog wash, pic benches and additional planting. The phase 2 feasibility study on the site will be commissioned by the new financial year with the business plan being submitted to the Project Board when complete. I'm sure you will all join me in congratulating our Countryside Team for their hard work over the past 6 months developing this amazing high quality green space.

The new Gelvert stream upper bridge has been installed at Fleet Pond Nature Reserve. The bridge it replaces was sinking into the stream channel causing a dam at high water times and had lost its hand rails. This bridge is of a galvanised steel, engineered frame on concrete foundations and should last a considerable amount of time. It is a vital link for circular walks around Fleet Pond and key to moving the maintenance tractor and trailer around the site. I'm delighted to report that positive comments have been received from volunteers on the site and members of the public.

Permission has been sought from the Secretary of State for a grazing enclosure on Hazeley Heath SSSI as a result of the 10 year study on the site. I've been advised by Adam Green that "this is an exciting time for the Countryside Team and a first in the Countryside world. If consent is given, it will be like winning an Olympic Gold Medal!". We have some queries to respond to from the SOS but we hope to have a decision early in the New Year.

Everyone Active has won the "Facility Operator of the Year" at the Swim England National Awards. The new leisure centre had over 3,300 extra swimmers through its doors compared with the same period (1 April to 31 October) at the old leisure centre. The new leisure centre is also up for the "New Centre of the Year Award" at the Annual National Fitness Awards. The winner will be announced tomorrow and I will ensure that I let members know the outcome.

As members are aware, customer feedback surveys were run at both leisure centres from 16 July through to 14 November. We still need to go through the feedback in detail, but on the whole the results were very good. The centres' overall scores were brought down, as expected, by the outstanding snagging and defect issues, so I would expect the next survey results, in about 9 months time, to show a big improvement. We will shortly be going through the results with the management at Everyone Active and then advertising the results to our customers, with the actions that will be put in place to further improve the customer experience.

And finally, Patricia Hughes is meeting with Steve Clow from HCC on 4 December to agree or the go ahead with the new sports hall for Calthorpe Park School. If agreement is reached, the contract will be signed on 5 December, with mobilisation starting on 6 December. Work will then commence on site on 215 January with a completion date of 30 July 2018. The project is currently on budget, with some minor savings to be agreed on, which will only improve the bottom line. Demolition of the former Hart Leisure Centre will commence once the new sports hall has been finished or Calthorpe Park School no longer require the use of it. Demolition is expected to take about ten weeks and this programme of work is still being finalised.

Members asked questions on other SANG projects (Hawley Park, Watery Lane and NE Hook), the internal project board, and the position with regard to the negotiations with HCC over the construction of the new sports hall and parking provision at the sports hall site.

Councillor Wheale updated members on the successful Fleet Christmas Festival held on 30 November and thanked the District for its support.

The Cabinet Member for Contracts, **Councillor Oliver**, had no announcements.

61 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT

The Joint Chief Executives' report is attached as Appendix C to these Minutes.

62 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	17 October 2017
No questions asked.	
Cabinet (draft Minutes)	2 November 2017
No questions asked.	
Planning Committee (draft minutes)	8 November 2017
No questions asked.	

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr David Turver asked:

The school places plan also shows continuing pressure on Fleet schools. Given that there is significant development proposed at Sun Park and Hartland Village, have you considered siting a new secondary school, if required, at Hartland Village or using part of the Bramshot Farm SANG?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

Setting aside that it will be for Hampshire County Council to determine how the educational needs of Hart children will be met, the answer to the first question is Yes. There were some early thoughts about assessing if the development at Hartland Village might be able to offer a site for a secondary school. However, it was soon discounted for good reasons. With a land take of 9.5ha which amounts to just under 20% of the main Hartland Village site area it was clear that it was neither desirable, practicable (it was in the wrong place to create a suitable catchment - remember one needs a catchment of 5,000 homes or more) not viable to deliver such a solution (it would have resulted in the loss of 300 dwellings with no additional funding created). The applicant, with Hampshire County Council's agreement, therefore followed the offsite solution and made a £7.2m contribution towards secondary education provision instead.

There was never any intention to consider a new secondary school at Bramshot Farm so the answer to the question is No. The Council secured a £5.6m loan from the LEP to deliver a SANG to meet the needs of the housing market area. It is in the wrong place for a secondary school and to set aside a 9.5ha area of land would reduce the SANG capacity by 30% and also reduce the size of Bramshot's catchment to only 4km. With the loss of carrying capacity of over 500 dwellings such as an option would have made it unaffordable for the Council to have funded the purchase of the land and it would have undermined the intention to ensure that wider housing market needs were met. Our bid for the LEP loan would not as a result have been supported by Rushmoor or Surrey Heath.

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14

QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Crookes asked:

Given the appalling situation with trucks parked on the highway at Potbridge, what steps are the Council now taking to recruit more Civil Enforcement officers?

Councillor Radley responded:

The question raises two important points, the short staffing that we have within the Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) team and the long standing issues at Potbridge. Although there is some overlap between the two they are distinctly different issues.

The approved staff structure for the parking service provides 5 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) CEOs, when fully resourced these are covered with 4 full time posts and two part posts. Currently 3.5 posts are filled, although 1.5 FTEs have been seconded to provide office support. Hopefully by the end of next week we shall be in a position to advertise to fill the vacant 1.5 FTE CEO positions; we have been waiting on confirmation of the outsourcing agreement, which is now close to resolution.

A full review of the staffing levels required within the CEO team will be undertaken once it is clear if HCC will be taking the on street parking function back in house or not.

Regarding the situation at Potbridge, enforcement action would need to be against the registered owner of the vehicles, which may not be the operator of the scrap yard itself. However, Hart will try this route. A more productive approach is for Hart to pursue enforcement of a court injunction against the owner of the scrap yard for encroachment on Hart land. This matter (committal proceedings for failing to comply with the injunction) has been provisionally set down for half a day on either Wednesday 14 March, Thursday 15 March or Friday 16 March.

Councillor Crookes asked a supplementary question:

We are aware of, and welcome, the injunction taken out some time ago and have noted the dates for the court hearing. We are also aware of the situation of the potential transition of the CEO team. My understanding is that there are only two CEOs on the streets enforcing. We need more on the street, not only for Potbridge, but to to enforce all our street and parking regulations, including for safety near schools.

In Councillor Radley's absence, Councillor Neighbour would ask Councillor Radley to respond in writing.

Councillor Forster asked:

An FOI request has revealed Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) intend to construct a 6 mile fence intending to enclose 900 acres of Long Valley. Section 2 of Aldershot and District Military Lands Byelaws (1976) states:

...the public are permitted to use all parts of Military Land not specially enclosed...for the purposes of open air recreation at all times when the Military Lands are not being used for Military purposes...

We are concerned about restricting public access so can Hart District Council urgently request to:

1. Meet formally with DIO and ascertain the level of impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of local residents and how this has been taken into consideration when planning such a fence;
2. Obtain, in writing, details of whether/when the Long Valley proposed area will remain open for public use/recreation
3. Include in this meeting representation from key stakeholders including the active local community of recreational users. (Cyclists, runners and walkers).

Councillor Neighbour read out **Councillor Radley's** response:

I am sorry that I am not available in person to answer Cllr. Forster's question as this is a matter that is very close to my heart. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the administration to this question as I have an existing relationship with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) in respect to their management and use of Longmoor Camp for military training.

This past weekend I both rode my mountain bike and enjoyed an exhilarating walk with my wife and our dog Paddy through the area which would be effected. I should emphasise that when on my bike I always keep to the designated footpaths and avoid any training when I see it. I am aware of the disruption that inconsiderate riders cause by literally riding through encampments and even over soldiers in their fox holes!!! I am also very much conscious of the dangers posed by the Eelmoor HSTT (High Speed Test Track) and Long Valley off road driver training areas.

It is because of repeated 'near misses' by people trespassing on these areas that the army have been forced to take action. An early precaution having been the closure of the Bourley Road car park; a closure in response to which I first approached DIO.

Unfortunately, from the army's perspective, to subdivide the area by fencing off just the High Speed Test Track would subdivide the area and result in an area too small for effective training. Therefore they have informed me upon enquiry this week that they intend to fence in all of the training land north of the Bourley Road, but not including the Tweseldown race course nor the adjacent Rushmoor SANG. There is no intention to fence off the area south of Bourley Road and hence as long as they are abiding by the by-laws people can still enjoy the staggering view from the top of Caesar's Camp.

In regards to the area north of Bourley Road, it is the intention of the army to allow public access to this area when it is not being used for training.

For clarity, the MoD are well aware that as the proposed fence is 1.4m high, on their own land and not abutting the highway that it is permitted development and so do not need to obtain planning permission from Hart or Rushmoor.

Hart open spaces team have reached out to DIO to start liaison meetings. The DIO are particularly keen to point out that the MoD have already given up over 700 acres of prime training estate to SANGS in recent years, I am sure that the promotion of these sites for alternative recreational use will be on the agenda. The important matter of how readily the promise of allowing public access when the training lands are not in use is granted will also be a subject for monitoring and on-going discussion. Once established such meetings may be able to offer opportunities for particular interest groups to raise and discuss their concerns.

On a personal note, I and my family have enjoyed the use of these lands for over 25 years and we will be as devastated as anyone else to see them fenced in and public access restricted. However, it has to be recognised that this is a consequence of the army consolidating their resources in this part of the country as they withdraw from a wider presence in Europe. Therefore I am very relieved to see that it is the army's intent to continue to allow the public to enjoy this area whenever it is safe to do so.

Councillor Forster asked a supplementary question:

Would the District Council support the registration of these areas as assets of community value, ensuring they are not fenced off and sold for future development – is that feasible?

In Councillor Radley's absence, Councillor Neighbour would ask Councillor Radley to respond in writing.

Joint Chief Executives' Report

Mr Phillips reported:

I have attended two important meetings in the last month. The first was representing the Council at the House of Lords review committee into the workings of the countryside act, and secondly a meeting with Alok Sharma, the Housing and Planning Minister. The Minister confirmed that the proposed new methodology for calculating housing need was only the start point in the assessment, and that Local Authorities were expected to look at uplifts to reflect local needs. Any figures therefore should not be seen as a minima. At this point it was confirmed that the new methodology could not be relied on at the moment and this is reflected in the change in housing numbers promoted through the government's recent budget statement where the government is now looking for 300,000 new homes per annum to be built in England, rather than the previous figure of 266,000.

With regard to Calthorpe Park sports hall, discussions are going well with the County Council and are currently centring on any price differentials. It is not anticipated that there will be a problem.

Councillor Parker supported the comment about the numbers and the new methodology, and the expectation was that we should be planning to deliver more houses per annum than the starting point suggested in the illustrative new methodology figures.

COUNCIL

Date and Time: Thursday, 14 December 2017 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS –

Crisp - (Chairman)

Ambler	Dickens	Neighbour
Axam	Forster	Oliver
Billings	Gray	Parker
Butler	Gorys	Radley (James)
Clarke	Kennett	Radley (Jenny)
Cockarill	Kinnell	Renshaw
Crampton	Makepeace-Browne	Wheale
Crookes	Morris	

Officers Present:

Patricia Hughes	Joint Chief Executive
Daryl Phillips	Joint Chief Executive
Gill Chapman	Committee Services

63 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cabinet Members' Announcements (Pg 52, para 5) - Councillor Parker questioned a point regarding the decision by HCC to proceed with the new sports hall. For the purposes of accuracy the minute has been amended to read:

“Patricia Hughes is meeting with Steve Clow from HCC on 4th December, to confirm a ”go/no go” decision to be made by the County Council as to whether HCC will proceed with the new sports hall for Calthorpe Park School....”

Councillor Radley gave answers to supplementary questions asked in the Members Questions section (Pgs 55-57).

- 1 He agreed with Councillor Crookes comments that more CEOs were needed on the streets.
- 2 In response to Councillor Forster’s suggestions on assets of community value, he reported that the issue of putting a community asset designation on land owned by the MOD was very complex, which could make it impossible to resolve. It was an area of great value to our community but unfortunately not open to us.

With these amendments the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 November 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Bailey, Blewett, Burchfield, Collett, Harward, Leeson, Southern, Woods and Wright

65 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman announced that he was a Trustee of Vision for Youth.

66 PRESENTATION BY VISION 4 YOUTH

Abby Roper informed Members of the work of Vision 4 Youth in providing youth clubs and services to young people in Yateley, Darby Green, Blackwater and Eversley, run by volunteers. Growing attendance at the Friday night club in Yateley had precipitated plans to change the Tythings accommodation, detached youth work included pairs of staff sometimes patrolling the streets for a couple of hours. Vision 4 Youth were looking to build on their success and open their doors to young people give nights per week and during holidays, as well as further support the community.

Members congratulated Abby on the hard work of the volunteers and their ambitious plans.

67 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12 – QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

A question was received from Ms Christine Strudwick, details of which are set out in Appendix A attached to these Minutes.

68 COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 14 – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No questions had been received.

69 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

9 December Chairman New Forest Christmas House Party, Beaulieu

The Chairman announced that the Hart Lottery had gone live for ticket sales in June 2017 with the first draw on 8th July 2017, and had been very successful. With 47 approved good causes, 460 players buying an average of 1.9 tickets per person, just over £10,000 has been raised for good causes to date, and predicted to be over £27,000 over the first year. Of this, the Hart good causes fund had raised £3,990 – which would be shared amongst eligible Chairman's charities as agreed previously by Cabinet, predicting a fund of just over £11,000 by the end of the first year.

70 CABINET MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS

In his absence, Councillor Neighbour gave the announcements for the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and Community Safety, **Councillor Collett:**

The Strategic Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Partnership, which covers Hart, Rushmoor and Basingstoke, met on 28 November. At that meeting it was agreed that a representative of the Army be added to the membership of the partnership, and Lieutenant Colonel Mac MacGregor was duly accepted in that role. I was concerned that we have an important RAF presence in Hart, as well as the Army, and I am pleased to report that it has been agreed that Lt Col MacGregor will liaise regularly with RAF Odiham to ensure that the interests of both services are fully represented.

Later that day it was my pleasure to accompany our Dog Warden, Ayesha Saifie, when she collected the RSPCA's Gold Stray Dog Footprint Award for animal welfare at the RICS in Parliament Square. As previously reported this award recognises and celebrates the high standards of animal welfare being achieved by our Dog Warden service in the work they do with stray dogs.

A Councillor announced that a recording of the meeting may be made in order to and stream the meeting for the public's information. To enable members of the public to see to members of the council at work.

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside Services, **Councillor Kinnell,** reported:

Members may recall that at the last full Council I informed members that the new Leisure Centre was put forward for the New Centre of the Year award at the Annual National Fitness awards. I can now advise that it got into the last six. Luke Charlton, the Manager of the Centre, has asked for feedback as they will be eligible and invited to enter again next year.

There were no further Cabinet Member announcements.

**During this item Councillor Forster interrupted the meeting to announce that he would be filming the meeting. Some councillors expressed concern at this change in the law.*

71 JOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVES' REPORT

The Joint Chief Executives reported that the Calthorpe Park Sports Hall had been agreed, with work scheduled to start in the New Year.

72 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Meeting

Date

Overview and Scrutiny

21 November 2017

Item 69- Councillor Parker congratulated officers on bringing the proposal to become a founding member of a local government mutual insurance scheme to the Council. The Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny endorsed the recommendation and reported that it would be going forward to Cabinet for consideration.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Ms Christine Strudwick asked:

On November 29th Fleet News and Mail's opinion column featured MP Ranil Jayawardena's article 'a need to build homes in the right places' where he stated:

"It is clear to see that Fleet, Yateley and Hook are all in real need of revitalisation and regeneration" He states that a masterplan and vision is required and that he has spoken with local councillors and would be delighted to work with them.

How does the council plan to follow NPPF guidelines regarding regeneration of town centres with mixed development and higher density to provide affordable housing for the younger generation?

Councillor Cockarill responded:

We are always interested in the views of our local MPs and of course we would be happy to work with anyone who seeks to invest in our town and village centres. I'm not sure one can attribute the quote "higher density to provide affordable housing for the younger generation" directly to the NPPF. What the Chancellor actually said was that there will be a consultation on "introducing minimum densities for development in cities around transport hubs", which in the Hart context is not quite the same thing as suggested in the question.

Whatever the position, we believe that the promotion of town centre and village centre development opportunities would be supported at local level. Through the Neighbourhood Plan process there is every opportunity for local communities themselves to frame how they see the future of their respective town and village centres. In this regard the preparation of ambitious Neighbourhood Plans are already well underway for both Fleet and Hook, and Yateley will soon be joining them.

I would point out that new town centre opportunities are not the only way to deliver much needed affordable homes. We also support the NPPF guidance that the supply of new and affordable homes can sometimes be best achieved through planning for larger scale development, such as new settlements that follow the principles of Garden Villages. This is something that we are actively looking at through our own Local Plan.

Ms Strudwick asked a supplementary question that was answered by Councillor Cockarill.