FAIR OAK & HORTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Council Meeting

held on Monday 16 June 2025 at 6.00 pm

at the Parish Office, 2 Knowle Park Lane, Fair Oak

Present: Cllrs Anderson, Bird, Broomfield, Douglas (Chair), Forfar, Meech, Smith, Stupple, Tennent

Apologies: Cllrs Barrett, Couldrey, Higby, Marsh

Absent: Cllrs Chivuchi, Scott

Officers in attendance: Michelle Leadbitter-Allen, Deputy Executive Officer; Carly Giles, Communications & Events Officer; Joanna Cahill, Finance Officer & Martin Johnson, Operations Manager

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest raised.

24. MINUTES (PAPER A) RESOLVED

(a) That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 April & 25 May 2025 be signed by the Chair as a correct record;

(b) That the delegated planning decisions for week ending 11 & 25 April and 16 & 30 May 2025 be noted.

25. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The newly appointed Executive Officer to the Council, Andy Lowe was present to observe the meeting.

26. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman introduced Andy Lowe the new Executive Officer to the Council who joined the meeting as a special guest observer.

The Chairman advised that a Special meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 23 June at 6pm to discuss the following:

(a) HCC Fair Oak Walking & Cycling Scheme proposed shared path, bench placement & moving of war memorial bench.

(b) Planning Applications: 150 houses Denham Corner, East Horton Heath Golf Course

Members were reminded that the Acting Executive Officer would be on leave from 1 to 21 July. The Operations Manager would cover the office until 4 July, after which former Clerk Cheryl

Gosling would assume responsibilities, including Proper Officer duties, to ensure continuity during the absence.

The Chair asked Members to inform the Acting Executive Officer whether their Register of Interests forms remained unchanged or required updating. The Chair also shared feedback from a recent poll of Members regarding meeting attendance. Of the seven responses received, 71% indicated that Monday was their preferred meeting day, and 100% selected 6:00pm as their preferred start time. As such, Monday at 6:00pm would remain the scheduled meeting time going forward.

27. PLANNING APPLICATION F/25/99466

Address: The George, 492 Fair Oak Road, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, SO50 7AN Description: Retrospective: Installation of a water filling station and change of use of the existing car park to a car park with storage.

After discussion it was;

RESOLVED

That the following comment be submitted to Eastleigh Borough Council as the planning authority:

'Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council object to the installation of a water filling station in the car park of the George Pub on the grounds that its bright blue colour and prominent siting immediately adjacent to a listed building make it visually intrusive and out of character with both the village and its historic setting.

The proposal fails to preserve or enhance the setting of the listed building, contrary to Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and relevant policies in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which require great weight to be given to the conservation of heritage assets. The structure's location detracts from key features such as the memorial and oak trees, and does not respect the need for careful integration within the village environment.

The Council is also concerned about potential impacts on traffic generation, access, and parking, as well as a lack of landscaping or screening to mitigate its visual impact. This objection is based solely on material planning considerations, and for these reasons, the proposal should be refused.'

28. FINANCE REPORT (REPORT B)

The Council considered the report of the Finance Officer.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the contents of the report be noted; and

(b) That the BACs payments be approved.

29. CEMETERY REPAIR REPORT (REPORT C)

Members considered the Cemetery Repair Report, which outlined the available options for remedial works along with the associated financial implications for the Council. The Operations Manager presented the report and recommended Option 3, which involved the

installation of a 165-metre-long, 3.2-metre-wide pathway with a depth of 50–70mm, using 20mm-to-dust crushed limestone, levelled and wet rolled. To reduce costs, the work would be carried out by Parish Council Operations staff.

In response to member comments, the Operations Manager agreed to circulate the address of a local site completed to the same specification to assist members in visualising the proposed works. He confirmed that the previously reported issue of surface residue would be resolved under this specification and advised that the works would be scheduled to take place over one week during the school summer holidays, at a time when no funerals were planned, to minimise disruption.

After discussion it was;

RESOLVED:

a) That the content of the report be noted;

b) That the project outline and timings be noted,

c) That Option 3 be agreed as the preferred option with a cost of £4,500 to come out of Lapstone Farm Earmarked Reserves.

d) That Delegated Authority be given to the Operations Manager in consultation with the Executive Officer and Chair of the Council to oversee the management and completion of the project.

Action: Martin Johnson

30. FINANCE REPORT (REPORT D)

The Council considered the report of the Finance Officer.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the contents of the report be noted; and

(b) That the BACs payments be approved.

31. BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY (REPORT D)

The Council considered the Council's Biodiversity Strategy and formally commended the former Clerk, Mel Stephens, for her work in developing the strategy. The Community Development Officer was also recognised for her continued efforts to enhance biodiversity across Fair Oak and Horton Heath.

The Acting Executive Officer clarified that, although Councillors had previously requested the name of the "Tree and Bee Corridor" be changed to "Tree and Bee Network," this amendment had not been implemented by Eastleigh Borough Council, who are funding the initiative. As a result, the original name would need to be retained for consistency while this remained the case.

RESOLVED:

a) That the Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan be noted; and;

b) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Officer in consultation with the Chair of Council to implement the Action Plan.

32. CORPORATE ACTION PLAN (REPORT E)

The Council considered the Corporate Action Plan of the Council.

Cllr Meech requested an update regarding the proposed installation of solar panels at the Fountain Café. The Acting Executive Officer explained that the current cost of the required anchor fixings alone was circa £35,000. This high cost has made securing external funding difficult, as it significantly extends the projected payback period of the system, making the return on investment appear disproportionately low. Despite this challenge, Council Officers continue to explore opportunities to secure funding for the project.

RESOLVED

a) That the progress made against the current corporate Action Plan (20223-2026) be noted, and;

b) That the proposed process and timeline for developing the new Corporate Plan and Action Plan for 2026-2029 be agreed.

33. WORK PROGRAMME (REPORT E)

The Council reviewed the work programme.

34. RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted.

Signed..... Chair.

Dated: …….

This was all the business, and the meeting closed at 6.35 pm.