

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a General Council Meeting held on 1st August 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Fulford, Hale, Lewendon, Paton & (G) Wilson & (A) Wilson & Perkins

In attendance:

Miss D Vine, Asst Clerk

HCC Cllr Heron

NFDC Cllrs R Bellows & A Sevier

Mr G Kimmings, Fordingbridge Society

1 Member of the Public

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Price & Shering.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2012 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr (G) Wilson that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2012 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive a report on any matters under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder

No police were present.

Cllr Perkins entered the room

5. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor attended the following events.

9th July Burgate School to present medals/awards at the mini Olympics.

18th July Accompanied MP for Salisbury, John Glen on a visit to Corintech in Fordingbridge.

19th July Accompanied Cllr (G) Wilson to a Twinning Meeting

21st July Attended the Fordingbridge Festival and started the Duck Race.

30th July Attended the Scouts Quiz Night. An invitation has been extended to Members of the Council to attend a Meeting for the Scouts to give a presentation of their activities.

6. To receive a Report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron confirmed that a Temporary Road Closure order for footpath work to be carried out on Green Lane had been issued with effect from the 28th August 2012 with closure expected to last approx 6 weeks.

Cllr Heron advised that there was grant money available for him to allocate to a deserving cause in Fordingbridge and he was minded to use this money to assist older residents. Cllr Fulford suggested that St Mary's Church would benefit as they were looking to level the path through the Churchyard to make access easier from Church Street through to the town where there was no pavement. Cllr Heron advised that there may also be access grants available for this and that he had received an increase from £8,000 to £10,000 in County Council grant funding from which there was a small highways pot which could possibly be used. Members AGREED to consider other causes and report back to Cllr Heron by the end of September 2012.

There were no questions.

7. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllrs Sevier and Bellows had nothing to report. Cllr Bellows commented that she and her daughter had had an enjoyable day at the Fordingbridge Festival.

There were no questions.

8. To receive the following Committee Meeting Minutes and any recommendations contained therein.

Planning Committee minutes held on 11th July 2012. - It was RESOLVED that these minutes be received.

Amenities Committee Minutes held on the 18th July 2012 – It was RESOLVED that these minutes be received.

General Purpose Committee Minutes held on the 18th July 2012 – It was resolved that these minutes be received.

Cllr (G) Wilson reported that she had obtained further information with regard to other Councils' policies on grave adornments and would report at the next meeting.

Cllr (G) Wilson confirmed that a request had been made to the Cleaner to regularly clean the outside of the Town Hall (ground floor level).

Finance & Policy Committee held on 25th July 2012 - It was RESOLVED that these minutes be received subject to amendment. The Finance Officer had advised that the wording in relation to the Memorial Bungalow maintenance budget and proposal was incorrect. The AMENDMENT under Item 6 Memorial Bungalow maintenance budget to read "*The General Purposes Committee request that money be released from the reserves and placed in the Memorial Bungalow maintenance budget to allow the necessary repairs to be carried out.*"

AMENDMENT TO PROPOSAL – It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Connolly that the wording be amended as above and that money be released from the reserves to enable the work to be carried out. All in favour, Carried.

9. To report on any Health & Safety Issues

Cllr Anstey confirmed that inspection sheets for all play equipment in play areas had been drawn up by the Clerk who would be liaising with the Ground Staff to ensure that regular checks were made and recorded. Following inspections ROSPA had identified a play area

on the Recreation Ground which they advised provided insufficient protective surfacing. All areas had only recently been refurbished, therefore the Asst Clerk would be contacting Playgrounds UK to ask for their comments.

Andy Lane had now identified all benches under Town Council responsibility and produced a written report on the condition of each bench. No bench would be removed until the report has been discussed by the General Purposes Committee.

It was agreed to maintain and replace as necessary the lifebuoys along the river.

07.50pm – Meeting adjourned for Pubic Session

Mr A White, a resident of Roundhills spoke in relation to anti social behaviour issues that he had been subjected to, relating to noise and drinking. Discussion had taken place with the Police and suggestions had been made of removing the seating and/or turning off the lights. Mr White asked if lighting could be provided at the Recreation Ground so that it would give youngsters somewhere to congregate away from the residential area. It was confirmed that the Planning Application for lighting had been submitted and was currently under consideration by NFDC and it was hoped this would be agreed and installation carried out in the autumn. Cllr Fulford queried whether better use could be made of cameras which had been purchased for the Police and whilst they would not pick up sound, could identify those causing a nuisance. Cllr Connolly said that he was disappointed to hear of these problems as it had been the first complaint in over a year, the Council had considered removal of seating before, however would not be in favour of this as it was an amenity for all. Cllr Connolly asked that Mr White reported each incident to the Police on 101 as this would be recorded and any upturn in anti- social behaviour figures should lead to greater Police action. Cllr Bellows advised that two new youth projects were due to commence soon aimed at 15-17 years olds and it was hoped that these would help engage some of those causing a nuisance. Cllr Connolly assured Mr White that he would also be speaking to the Police and would be happy to discuss the matter further outside the Meeting.

Mr White also believed that the area of Roundhills looked “tired” and offered suggestions and his time to smarten the up the area. Cllr Heron advised that he was always happy to accept suggestions and help and would speak to Mr White outside the meeting.

08.00pm - Meeting re-convened

10. To discuss ownership of the Obelisk monument outside the Town Hall

Cllr Connolly asked Cllr Heron whether he had been able to ascertain any further details in relation to ownership of the Obelisk following a letter from the Fordingbridge Society. Cllr Heron advised that he was still trying to establish ownership. He confirmed that HCC would have given permission for the erection of the Obelisk as it was on their land, and one could assume that ownership came with the land but there had been no formal agreement in relation to this. Mr Kimmings from the Fordingbridge Society advised that the Society would be happy for either the Town Council or HCC to assume take ownership and it was noted that Fordingbridge Town Council had offered to do this and include it in their public liability insurance. Cllr Heron agreed to report his findings as soon as possible.

Mr White, Cllrs Heron, Sevier and Bellows left the Meeting.

11. To Receive Reports from representatives of Outside Bodies and Meeting attended

Cllr Fulford – Nothing to report.

Cllr (G) Wilson - Attended the Twinning AGM who are seeking a new Chairman.

Cllr (A) Wilson - Visited Avonway to look at the refurbishment.

Cllr Hale – 19th July – Attended the Victoria Rooms Trustee Meeting.

The Meeting of the Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteer Action Group had been postponed.

Cllr Anstey – 30th July Attended a meeting of the Rugby Club.

Cllr Paton – Nothing to report.

Cllr Lewendon - 16th July Attended a Meeting of the Steering Group for Fordingbridge Hospital. The X Ray Dept would be opening in the Arch Clinic. The Mental Health Team had moved out on the 16th July. The Estates Group were trying to establish boundaries in relation to the old building and it was anticipated that this would go on sale in January 2013.

18th July – Attended New Forest transport Forum. Discussed community transport. Community First Minibuses operate within the New Forest for hire by community or volunteer groups.

Cllr Adams – Nothing to report.

12. To note any items of correspondence

Ashford Road, Fordingbridge – Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Members discussed an e mail received in respect of the above from NFDC asking for comments to be submitted. It was agreed that something needed to be done but consideration should be given to where vehicles may seek to wait or park as there was concern that this would be in residential roads nearby. The Asst Clerk to send an appropriate response.

Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document - Members discussed the draft document and made a number of observations in relation to transport links, current car park layout and costs and proposed maximum spaces allocated for essential and leisure use. The rural nature of Fordingbridge, accessibility for all and the need to ensure the town could make the best use of commercial properties with living accommodation was emphasised. Cllr Fulford agreed to formulate response on behalf of the Council to be sent by Asst Clerk.

13. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business

Nothing to report.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 5th September 2012.

The Meeting closed at 08.40 pm