

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on Wednesday, 21st March 2012 at 7.30 pm in The Town Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr. G. Wilson (Chairman)
Cllrs. Adams, Connolly, Hale, Shering & (A) Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllrs Lewendon & Paton
Ms K Mason, Town Clerk

1. To receive apologies for absence

There were apologies from Cllr Price.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To report on any matters from the previous meeting 11th January 2012

Pavement Gritting – the Clerk to liaise with HCC & NFDC to request that pavement gritting arrangements are in place for next winter.

Stuckton Road Cemetery Skip – the notice is erected advising CCTV is in place.

Council Chamber Refurbishment – only one quote has been received from M Castle builders despite four other companies being approached for quotes. It was AGREED that the work should be awarded to M Castle Builders.

Town Hall Noticeboard – the new Noticeboard is on order and should be delivered after Easter.

Godshill to Fordingbridge footpath – the Clerk to chase HCC for news on the feasibility study.

Allotments – The tyres left on a vacant plot have now been removed.

Cllr Shering entered the meeting.

4. To report on Matters concerning St. Mary's Closed Churchyard and Stuckton Road, Cemetery

Nothing to report.

5. To report on matters relating to the Town Hall

Clock Tower access - Since the last meeting it had been brought to members attention that the tower room required a new ceiling and stairs up to the Clock Tower. Currently a ladder is being used which is unsafe. A quote had been received from M Castle Builders. Again, other companies approached had failed to quote. It proposed by Cllr Connolly and seconded by Cllr Hale to award the work to M Castle Builders, to be done as soon as was possible because of the current safety risks involved going up to the Clock Tower. All in favour, Carried.

Bird Free pigeon deterrent – the company had sent extra deterrent for the balcony as some dishes had been damaged during the erection of Christmas lights and trees.

Main Hall Floor – the Caretaker had advised the Clerk that the varnish on the Main Hall floor was lifting in places. Cllr Adams agreed to contact the contractor who had repaired the floor to come and advise on the best course of action.

Guttering – Cllr Connolly expressed concern at the state of the gutters on the Town Hall. Although they had been cleared last year when the clock tower repair was taking place, the down pipes at the back of the Hall were blocked. Holes had been cut in the bottom of the pipes and water was pouring in the Hall foundations as the soakaway appeared to be blocked as well.

It was AGREED to get quotes for a possible new soakaway and downpipes and have the brickwork assessed for damage and repair if necessary.

Cllr Adams suggested that traps needed to be placed in the guttering top prevent build up of leaves in the future.

Cleaning of Hall frontage – members commented that the brickwork at the front of the Hall was very dirty. Jet washing would damage the brickwork so other methods of cleaning needed to be researched. It was suggested that the paintwork be renewed. The Clerk to get quotes.

6. To report on any matters concerning footpaths

Nothing to report.

7. To report on matters concerning Highways

Roundhills sign – a new fingerpost sign is being placed at Roundhills indicating the VIC, Museum and toilets.

New Forest Access Report – A report from New Forest Access for All was sent to members following a visit to Fordingbridge by the Group. Cllr Connolly suggested that a Sub-Committee be formed by members and interested residents to look into problems of access for the elderly, disabled and mobility impaired. It was AGREED that a committee be formed, with terms of reference.

SIDs – a letter from Ampfield Traffic Consultants was read out by the Chairman offering to provide a service setting up and maintaining SID devices. The Chairman suggested that Fordingbridge TC might like to link with another parish to share the costs. Members decided that the devices were needed on roads outside the parish more than roads inside the parish.

Disabled parking spaces – a response had been received from NFDC regarding the lack of disabled parking spaces in the long stay car park behind the Crown. They advised that spaces were provided in the short stay part of the car park for shoppers. Signage indicating the spaces was not provided in any NFDC car park to avoid any confusion. Members requested that the Clerk enquire why it was considered that long stay parking did not apply to the disabled or whether the disabled spaces were both long and short stay.

8. To report on matters concerning Allotments

The toilet was being ordered to be in place by Easter.

9. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public

No members of the public present.

10. To note any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to report.

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

Nothing to report.

12. To note that the date of the next meeting is 16th May 2012.

The meeting finished at 8.00 pm.