

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 7th May 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

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

In attendance:

NFDC Cllr Sevier & Cllr Bellows

HCC Cllr Heron

PCSO Daisy Towers

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk

1. To elect the Town Mayor for the forthcoming year

It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Price and **RESOLVED**: that Cllr Connolly be elected as Town Mayor for the forthcoming year. All in favour.

2. To elect the Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year

Two nominations were received for Deputy Mayor:

Cllr Price was proposed by Cllr Perkins and seconded by Cllr Lewendon and

Cllr G Wilson was proposed by Cllr Hale and seconded by Cllr A Wilson

Following a secret ballot, Cllr Wilson received 4 votes, Cllr Price received 6 votes (Cllr Connolly abstained) and it was **RESOLVED**: that Cllr Price be elected Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year

3. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Anstey.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adams declared an interest in the Payment of Accounts

5. To receive any Matters raised by the Public

No matters raised by the Public

6. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2014 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr G Wilson and seconded by Cllr Hale and **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2014 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 3 – Cllr Perkins reported that a meeting had taken place with the Environment Agency regarding remedial works required to the river bank at the Recreation Ground and advice had been given together with a list of Contractors specialising in this work.

Minute No. 8 – Cllr Perkins reported that he had ascertained from a resident of Timbermill Court that the planters had been positioned in Church Street by the residents of Timbermill Court with the permission of the landowner, Mr Shering. This was to prevent vehicles being parked on the visibility splay serving the access road to the development.

Minute No. 10 – The Town Clerk reported that the Play Equipment has been cleaned following the flooding and the sand in the sandpit at the recreation has been replaced.

7. Review of delegation arrangements to committees, sub committees, employees and other local authorities.

It was AGREED that the delegation arrangements would remain unchanged.

8. To elect membership of the following Committees

- Amenities Committee (5 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Finance & Policy Committee (Full Council - All Members)
- General Purposes Committee (5 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Planning Committee (Full Council – All Members)
- Staff & Remuneration Committee (3 + Chairman & Vice Chairman)
- Transport Committee (up to 5 members)
- Disability Access Committee (up to 5 members)

It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Lewendon and it was **RESOLVED**: that Committee Membership would remain the same for the forthcoming year except for the Disability Access Committee which would be merged with the General Purposes Committee. All voted in favour.

9. To confirm representatives of the following outside bodies and agree arrangements for reporting back

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| - Avonway Executive | Cllr A Wilson resigned as representative and was replaced by Cllr R Fulford |
| - Citizens Advice Bureau | Cllr G Wilson |
| - Burgate School Community Management | Cllr R Fulford |
| - Footpath Officer | Ruth Croker |
| - Fordingbridge Hospital Stakeholder Group | Cllr A Lewendon |
| - Fordingbridge Sports Club | Cllr P Anstey |
| - Fordingbridge Tourism Group | Cllr M Adams |
| - Friends of Fordingbridge Hospital | Cllr A Wilson |
| - FCAVG | Cllr E Hale |
| - NFATPC | Cllr M Connolly & Cllr R Fulford |
| - N F Consultative Panel | Cllr M Connolly & Cllr R Fulford |
| - NPA Quadrant meetings | Cllr M Connolly |
| - Passenger Transport | Cllr A Lewendon & Cllr D Price |
| - Twinning Association | Cllr G Wilson |
| - Victoria Rooms Committee | Cllr E Hale |
| - Youth Action Group | Cllr D Paton & Cllr M Connolly |

10. Review of inventory of land and assets including buildings and office equipment

The Finance Officer reported that the inventory had been prepared in line with guidance from the Auditor, with the full value of items listed as replacement value for insurance. The list was distributed to Members for perusal and it was AGREED that this item would be discussed at the Finance and Policy Committee at its meeting in May. The ownership of the Youth Shelter in the Car Park was raised and it was AGREED to report this item to the Amenities Committee.

11. Review and confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks.

The Finance Officer reported that a Risk Register was being prepared and would identify the Risk Insurance required for Financial Loss. This item to be reported to Finance and Policy Committee

12. To review the Council's membership of other bodies

Members noted that the Council is a member of the Hampshire Association of Town & Parish Councils (HALC), the New Forest Association of Town & Parish Councils (NFATPC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). It was AGREED to continue the membership.

13. To set the dates, times and place of ordinary meetings of the Council for the year ahead.

It was AGREED that ordinary Council meetings, Finance & Policy, Planning, Amenities & General Purposes Committees would be held on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall.

The Transport, and Staff & Remuneration Committees would meet as required at a date, time and place set by the respective committees.

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

PCSO Daisy Towers reported that the police are aware of recent problems, particularly in the recreation ground and believe that one group of youths are responsible. It was acknowledged that while efforts are being made to resolve these issues, it is difficult to build up evidence without witnesses coming forward, however the Safer Neighbourhood team would continue working on a resolution.

15. To receive a report from the Town Mayor.

The Mayor reported on attendance at the Twinning Association AGM on the 24th April 2014 at which he had presented awards to the winners of the WW1 Schools competition. The Mayor then advised members of the Calendar of events for the Association for the forthcoming year.

16. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

No report received

17. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows reported on the Burgate Transport Plan and the concerns over parking issues, in particular in Burgate Fields. Alternative options are planned including the provision of more spaces within the school car park.

Cllr G Wilson and Geoff Kimmings, The Fordingbridge Society raised concerns that the problems with on-street parking experienced at the Junior School when the Car Park was closed off, would be worsened by the Burgate School Plans. Cllr Fulford reported that although the Transport plan for Schools identified the need, no funding is available to help.

Cllr Sevier reported on the ongoing situation at Marl Lane/Puddleslosh Lane. She advised that there is no right of access to this land apart from the Right of Way which crosses the land. New Forest District Council are investigating the erection of a fence adjacent to the footpath.

With regard to recent Planning Applications at Sequoia Farm, Cllr Sevier advised the meeting that this would not be heard at the NFDC Planning meeting on 14th May 2014 as further information was awaited.

18. To report on any Health & Safety issues

No report received

19. To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies

Cllr G Wilson – Twinning Association AGM 24/04/14 – as reported in Mayor's report

Cllr E Hale – Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteers Management Meeting 01/04/14

Current Membership 14 Members – The Mayor requested that Members promote membership. The group now has an A Frame board to display at worksites. Bishops Pond, Bug Hunt to be undertaken in May prior to clearing of the pond. The Town Council is requested to make improvements to the fence and gate at the northern end and options have been discussed. Whitsbury Road – concern over flood damage with many plants washed away. Concern also over dumping of garden waste – FCVAG to investigate source. Himalayan Balsam – reduction not yet recognised following last year's pull – FCVAG to help again in July and August.

20. To discuss The Burgate School Transport Scheme Consultation

As discussed in District Councillors report – concern that this had not been discussed by the Town Council at an earlier stage.

21. To note any items of correspondence

Simon Bowen – Thanks to the Council regarding planting of Memorial Tree at the Recreation Ground, and gratitude to Andy Lane for his kindness and consideration.

Fordingbridge & District Community Association – clarification of statement made in the Minutes of the General Council held on 5th February 2014. The following statement is made as clarification of Minute No. 12 Report by Cllr A Wilson

“The Community First minibus is not based at Avonway. Since 2001, Avonway has owned and run a community minibus providing wheelchair accessible transport for the Day Centres and Stroke Club together with offering transport for frail and disabled members of the wider community”.

22. To receive a report form the Clerk or any other relevant business

Concession Building – The Chairman advised the meeting that the first invoice had been received. Cllr Adams proposed and Cllr Lewendon seconded and it was **RESOLVED**: that the invoice should be paid. The Management of the Concession Building is to be discussed at the next Amenities Committee on 21st May 2014 and clarification and legal advice is required regarding the VAT implications as raised by the Auditor.

Flooding Repairs – Cllr Perkins reported that following the meeting with the Environment Agency regarding works required following flood damage, The Environment Agency would contact NFDC regarding overhanging and damaged trees at Sweatsford Water and would also investigate the positioning of bridges across the waterway with a view to taking enforcement action.

Replacement Street Lighting

Bishops Pond – As part of the lighting replacement scheme, the light at the Bishops Pond has been replaced with a heritage light. However an overhanging tree requires pruning in order for the light to be effective – Town Council to action.

Members agreed that SSE Contracting had done a wonderful job in the carrying out of this work – clarification was requested of the Plan of works for Fordingbridge – Town Clerk to action.

23. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday, 4th June 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.