

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st September 2016 in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present:

Cllr Wilson – Vice Chairman (Chairing meeting)
Cllrs Bailey, Adams & Anstey

In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Ruth Croker, Footpath Officer
Cllrs Price, Paton & Lewendon & Perkins for part of the meeting

1 Member of the Public (Mr Woolcott)

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Earth, Hale & Connolly

2. To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr Adams declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 6, Upgrade to audio & visual facilities as he is a member of Fordingbridge Entertainment Society.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2016 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Adams proposed and Cllr Wilson seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2016 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 10 – Cllr Wilson confirmed that the 2nd round of judging at the Allotments had taken place.

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

Cllr Price, speaking from the Public Gallery, raised the following matters:

- Weed Growth in the Pavements within the Town – Clerk to raise with NFDC/HCC
- Recent meeting at Totton (NFDC) regarding Disability – could minutes be obtained
- Water extraction at Allotments – does this need an extraction licence? The Chair advised that this proposal would be discussed under Agenda Item 10.

5. To report on matters concerning St Mary's Closed churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery

The Clerk reported that it was anticipated that works to replace the damaged gatepost at the cemetery would be completed this week.

6. To report on any matters relating to the Town Hall

- Replacement smoke detectors – The clerk reported that 2 quotes had been obtained for the replacement of 10 Smoke detectors, in the sums of £400 +VAT & £650 +VAT, however the lower quote would incur unknown additional cost to hire access equipment for the detectors located on high ceilings.

Following discussion, Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED:** to accept the quote of **£650.00 + VAT** from Hampshire Fire Protection Ltd as the full cost is known and the company service the equipment.

All in favour

- Upgrade to audio & visual facilities – FES – the Chair asked Cllr Adams, as a Member of FES, to explain the request to upgrade the current facilities for which a proposal and quote had been received in the sum of £753.38 + VAT from Pro Live Limited. Cllr Adams explained that this upgrade was urgently required as recent problems had occurred during film presentations (problems have also been experienced at Town Council meetings). Cllr Adams confirmed that this would be funded by the Entertainment Society, however the equipment would become an asset of the Council. He advised that a WiFi upgrade/extension was also required in the hall.

Cllr Adams then remained in the room but withdrew from discussion and did not vote.

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Bailey and therefore **RESOLVED:** to accept the proposal put forward by the Fordingbridge Entertainment Society to upgrade the Audio & Visual Equipment in the Town Hall as detailed in the Proposal by Pro Live Limited dated 17th July 2016 in the sum of **£753.38 + VAT**. All in favour

Cllr Lewendon entered the meeting & sat in the public gallery

7. To report on any matters relating to the Information Office

The Clerk reported that following a request to the Landlord to seek more competitive (building) insurance quotes (following a high premium last year) this year's premium had been secured at £471 (originally £704) for which the Council would be invoiced a half.

8. To report on any matter relating to Footpaths

The Footpath Officer reported that a new member of staff had joined the Countryside Access Team. The Avon Valley Path (AVP) Bridge repairs at Harbridge were currently being undertaken and should be completed soon.

- AVP – Mapboard – Ms Croker reported that the AVP noticeboard situated in the grounds of St Mary's Church was in poor condition and required replacement. The new notice should include a map of the AVP (map should be available from Countryside Access Team) Following discussion with the Assistant Clerk and Cllr A Sevier (NFDC) it was agreed that a Small Grant

would be applied for from the Countryside Access Team (50% funding) with a possible further 25% from NPA. Cllr Sevier had pledged a further sum (subject to the grant). The Assistant Clerk was in the process of obtaining an approximate cost and applying for the grant and Ruth agreed to speak with both Cllr Sevier and Natalie Hands (HCC).

Cllr Anstey queried the condition of the path to the north of Fordingbridge to Breamore – a fallen tree was blocking the path and vegetation needed cutting back. Ms Croker explained that the path was not a permissive path identified on the definitive map, although deemed of importance. The Clerk advised that clearance of the path may already have been undertaken by the Lengthsman.

Cllr Perkins entered the meeting and sat in the public gallery

9. To report on any matters concerning Highways

The clerk reported that several phone calls had been received in connection with the roadworks and associated re-direction of the buses in Salisbury Street – works have now commenced.

10. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

- **AGM** – The Clerk confirmed that the Allotment AGM would be held on Thursday 6th October 2016
- **Water Extraction Application** – The Chair asked Mr Woolcott to explain his request to provide a solar water extraction system on his allotment. This would involve the following works:
 - Excavate & provide plastic pipe
 - Provide and suspend 12 volt submersible pump with outlet pipe to discharge into existing water trough
 - Supply & fit 12 volt sealed battery (in shed)
 - Supply & fit photo voltaic panel to roof & connect
 - Mount pump operating switch on shed

Members AGREED that the project could go ahead subject to clarification regarding the need for an extraction licence.

11. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence.

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

The Clerk reported that the Town Hall roof (clock tower) had once again leaked and that it is now urgent that this issue is resolved.

13. To note the date of the next meeting as 16th November 2016 (budgets)

The meeting closed at 8.06pm