

**FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 8.40pm on**  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in the Town Hall**

**(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)**

**Present:** Cllr Earth – Vice Chairman  
Cllrs (A) Wilson, Hale, Connolly, Anstey & Adams

**In Attendance:** Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk  
Mrs M Coatham, Finance Officer

**1. To receive any apologies for absence**

No apologies received

**2. To receive any declarations of interest**

No declarations made

**3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and report on any matters arising**

Cllr Hale proposed and Cllr Wilson seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute no. 5 – Grounds Maintenance – Meeting held with NFDC to discuss ownership and responsibility for maintenance. NFDC to ascertain responsibilities with a view to forming proposal for ongoing maintenance programme, costings and any payments.

Minute No. 6 – Town Hall – fixed Water Boiler installed and operational.

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

No matters raised by Members of the Public.

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

- Review of Burial Charges

Following discussion Cllr Hale proposed and Cllr Wilson seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED:** to accept the Finance Officer's recommendation to retain the existing burial charges for the Financial Year 2016-17 and to reduce the Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial period of title from 75 years to 30 years.

**6. To report on any matter relating to the Town Hall**

- Review of Hire charges

Following discussion Cllr Connolly proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED:** to accept the recommendation of the Finance Officer to retain the existing Hall Hire charges for the Finance Year 2016-17.

5 in favour - Cllr Adams abstained from voting as a Member of the Fordingbridge Entertainment Society who regularly hire the hall.

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

The Town Clerk reported that the Casual Cover vacancy had been advertised.

**8. To report on matters concerning Footpaths**

The Town Clerk reported that an anonymous complaint had been received regarding dog fouling and other waste on the Witts Way footpath. Members also reported that this is also a problem on footpaths near to the schools – Town Clerk to contact NFDC Dog Warden.

Cllr Wilson reported on the positioning of barbed wire adjacent to footpath no. 78b at Puddleslosh Lane and was investigating the legality of the wire on the path side of the fence posts. Hampshire CC guidance requires wire to be placed on the field side of the fence.

Members also discussed the condition of the (surface of) path leading from Downwood Close to Marl Lane – the path becomes very muddy in the winter which prevents use by school children. Town Clerk to write to New Forest DC (owners of the path) regarding improvements/resurfacing as this provides a safe route to school.

The finger post at the end of Normandy Way (Station Road end) had still not been replaced.

**9. To report on matters concerning Highways**

Cllr Connolly reported that the road surface had sunk at Burnham Road – Clerk to report to highways.

**10. To report on any matters concerning allotments**

The Clerk reported on a recent theft of a crop at the Allotments. Members discussed responsibility for reporting incidents/crimes at the allotments and AGREED that the Allotment Regulations should incorporate a clause stating that responsibility for the reporting of offences to the police rests with individual plot holders unless agreed by the Town Clerk.

**11. Forward Plan**

The Finance Officer distributed the Forward Plan produced with the Town Clerk & Assistant Town Clerk which details works which are required within the following 2 years. This will be linked to the proposed Business or Strategic Plan from which Annual Action Plans will be prepared for each Committee. This will inform Members when budget setting and also allow work programmes and priorities to be set.

**12. To note any items of correspondence**

No items of correspondence

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

The Town Clerk reported that following the recent remedial works carried out to the Clock Tower, further leaks had been experienced (from a separate location).

Cllr Wilson warned of dogs being walked in the Marl Lane area which are believed to be dangerous.

**14. To note the date of the next meeting as 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm