

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 15th July 2015 in the Town Hall

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

Present: Cllr (G) Wilson - Chairman
Cllrs (A) Wilson, Price, Hale, Adams & Anstey

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Ruth Croker, Footpaths Officer
D Gumbrecht

1. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies for absence received.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations of interest received.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2015 and report on any matters arising

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Price and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2015 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute no. 7a – Burial Regulations, Quaker Burials – The Clerk confirmed that details of requirements had been received from the Bournemouth Quaker Group and incorporated in the revised Burial Regulations.

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

St Marys Church Footpath – The Clerk reported on correspondence received from the Church and the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). This gave details of the DAC requirements and included a reminder that the PCC will not be responsible for any costs relating to the replacement of the path. Members did not discuss this item further.

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

- Disabled Ramp – Members discussed the provision of new ramps at both the Town Hall and Information Officer and requested that the Clerk progress this. Cllr Price to provide further details.
- Redecoration CC & Roof Repairs – Meeting with Builder to be scheduled by the Clerk
- Fire Risk Assessment – A draft assessment has been prepared by the Assistant Town Clerk and has been passed to the Health & Safety Officer for review. Assistant Town Clerk & H & S Officer to discuss amendments.

7. To report on any matters concerning the Memorial Bungalow

Inspection - The Clerk reported that following the recent inspection carried out at the Memorial Bungalow, the Clerk & Finance Officer would obtain quotes for any remedial works required in order that these could be prioritised.

Members discussed whether the property benefits from a Gas Safe Certificate and carbon monoxide detector. It was also raised whether the tenant is required to have the chimney swept regularly and if this is being carried out (if open fires are allowed and used). Clerk to check.

8. To report on any matters concerning Footpaths

- Footpath No. 97 – The Footpaths Officer reported that following recent meetings with the Countryside Access Team and Natural England, a proposal had been made to provide a solution to the closure of a section of this path due to badger occupation – this would involve the building of a raised boardwalk over the badger setts. The estimated cost for the works is £7,000 and must be carried out in September – October. Funding options to be investigated by the Clerk including Small Grants or Developer Contribution funds. The use of volunteer labour for the works has been opposed by Natural England although badgers would not be moved.
- Footpath 78b – The Footpaths Officer reported that the path remained closed and no progress had been made on the moving of the fence – the situation is at stalemate as the fence cannot be moved without Planning Permission due to the Article 4 Directive present on the land – the Countryside Access Team have not received a response from New Forest DC. Ms Croker visited the area recently and reported a trip hazard on the section of path leading to the Allenwater Drive area as a board had been placed on the path over a muddy area.
- Exploring Fordingbridge Leaflet - The recent reprint (without amendment) had been rejected by the panel. The Clerk reported that a smaller reprint had been ordered (500 copies) for use during the summer. Applications for small grants close at the end of July, however the Clerk proposed that an application should be postponed until October to ascertain if an application will be made for other projects first.

9. To report on matters concerning Highways

The Chairman reported that the surface water drains in the High Street were blocked and need clearing – Town Clerk to report to Highways.

- Finger Posts – The Clerk reported that discussions were ongoing regarding the replacement of the post on the junction of Provost Street and the High Street and also the supply of new signs indicating the Riverside Walk at Riverside Place and the entrance to the car park at Salisbury Street
- Ashford Road Closure – the Clerk reported that Ashford Road would be closed for a period of up to 6 months from 17th August 2015 to enable maintenance works to be undertaken.

10. To report on any matters concerning allotments

- Review of Allotment Terms & Conditions – Cllr Adams requested that a Pro-rata rate item be included for new tenants whose tenancies commence part way through the year. The need for inclusion of an item allowing termination of the tenancy by either party giving 3 months only (but with no reason) was queried. Following discussion:

Cllr Hale proposed and Cllr (A) Wilson seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED:** that subject to the addition of an item relating to pro-rata payments, the revised Tenancy Agreement be adopted as drafted. 5 voted in favour, Cllr Adams abstained.

- Review of Allotment Fees for 2015/16 - Members discussed the comparison of allotment fees with other Local Councils prepared by the Assistant Clerk. Cllr Perkins, speaking from the Public Gallery, requested details of the cost to the Council of providing the allotments – the Clerk confirmed that the total cost is not available at the meeting. From the public gallery, Cllr Paton queried the cost of Membership of an Allotment Association as it is hoped that the tenants will discuss joining an association. This information is not available at the meeting, however Tenants at a neighbouring Council pay an enhanced fee as they are members of an association. Following further discussion;

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the fee for a Half plot be raised to £15.00 per annum, however the fees would be reviewed again if membership of an association is undertaken by the tenants.

- Table Top Sale – A table top sale held on the during May raised £110 towards the cost of provision of the portable toilet at the Allotments. The Chairman advised that a visit was to be made to a neighbouring Council who operate a composting toilet at their allotments. A query was raised of the suitability of a composting toilet at the Fordingbridge allotments due to the high water table and the effect on drainage. The Chairman stated that this would be investigate and discussed.
- Allotment Judging – The Chairman confirmed that judging of the Allotments would be carried out shortly.

11. To report on any items concerning the Information Office

No items to report. Cllr Perkins, speaking from the public gallery, reported that a member of the public had been informed at the Post Office that Fordingbridge does not have an Information Office.

Cllr Fulford speaking from the public gallery, requested an update on disabled access at the Information Office – the Chairman advised that this was discussed earlier in the Agenda and that the Clerk would be obtaining quotes for the provision of a new ramp.

12. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk reported on a reply received from R Shering regarding weed control in Church Street..

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

Town Clerk – nothing to report & no other business

14. To note the date of the next meeting as 16th September 2015

The meeting closed at 8.25pm