

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a General Council held on Wednesday 4th November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall

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

Present: Cllr Connolly - Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Price, Lewendon, Anstey, Hale, Earth, (A) Wilson, Fulford & Paton

In attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Cllr E Heron, Hampshire CC
Cllr R Bellows, New Forest DC
4 Members of the Public

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs (G) Wilson & Perkins and Cllr A Sevier, New Forest DC

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2015 and report any matters arising

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr (A) Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th October 2015 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No. 12 – Replacement Pavilion – Following agreement by the Chair of Amenities, this item was discussed at the Finance & Policy Meeting on 28th October 2015 and a resolution made to progress with the feasibility study.

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

No matters raised.

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

The chairman reported that Inspector Stokes had now left her post and no report had been received from her successor.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported on the following engagements undertaken during October:

1 st	-	Allotment Holders AGM
4 th	-	Lions Club Dedication, Warminster
5 th	-	Youth Meeting
6 th	-	Review meeting Refreshment Kiosk
7 th	-	Harvest Supper, Damerham
14 th	-	Lions Club, Blind & Sight Awareness event
16-19 th	-	Vimoutiers Foire de la Pomme
21 st	-	Fordingbridge Infant & Junior Schools – Judging of the Guy competition
24 th	-	Twinning Jazz evening

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron reminded Members of several important active Hampshire consultations:

- Hampshire Fire & Rescue – advised that the Town Council should look at the proposals for Ringwood & respond with views on the impact for Fordingbridge & surrounding areas

- Draft Library Strategy Consultation – Fordingbridge Tier 3 with Volunteers and 3 days per week opening
- Hampshire Highways Maintenance Consultation – including switching off/dimming street lights, verge cutting frequency (currently 10 times per year in New Forest district, 6 x Hampshire CC & 4 x New Forest DC) & Weed Spraying.

Cllr Heron advised that more funding would be put into Child Protection and Adult Social Care, however it is recognised that most residents will not use this service (Adult Social Care) or funding.

With regards to Library provision, it was acknowledged that at a cost of £120 each person per visit, a mobile library service is not sustainable and other provision should be sought.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows did not have anything to report however, advised the meeting that she has now returned to work following maternity leave.

9. To receive the following Committee meeting Minutes and any recommendations to General Council contained therein:

- Planning Committee – 14th & 21st October 2015 – Received by Cllr Fulford
- Finance & Policy – 28th October 2015 – Received by Cllr Connolly

Cllrs Heron & Bellows left the meeting

10. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Anstey reported that an incident had recently been reported by the Whippet Club regarding loose dogs owned by other recreation ground users, running onto the whippet track during a training sessions when the whippets were racing. Cllr Anstey requested that temporary signs for use by the Whippet Club are considered and that the Whippet Club should be required to include details of this issue in their Risk Assessment (required by all hirers of the recreation ground).

Cllr Anstey advised that wet grass cuttings left on the jetty create a hazard and need to be removed immediately following grass cutting. Town Clerk to advise Groundsman. Cllr Anstey circulated photos of a further hazard caused by the barrier/gate from the car park & leading to the Sports Club, being left open which can then become invisible to drivers approaching from the Sports Club – Town Clerk to request that it is closed immediately after accessing the area.

The situation with fencing and dog control should be addressed in the Memorial Gardens – dogs on leads & dogs prohibited in play area.

11. To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies and meetings attended

Cllr Fulford – Burgate Community Partnership – ongoing work to change, agreement with NFDC objectives.

- Promote engagement between the Town and School – joint ventures, work with the Town Council and develop areas to work together, wish to promote the interest shown by Members during the visit to the school. Would welcome questions.
- School presentation (Peter Pan) – Invites requested but only some Cllrs have received these, Cllr Fulford to chase.
- Increase funding opportunities – not state funded. Use of website to promote.

Other comments regarding the school included, follow up not happened since visit, impact of the school on local residents and projects get lost consideration should be given to young councillors or student advisor sitting on the Council.

Cllr Hale – Victoria Rooms Trustees meeting 15/10/15 – Generally in good position. Future events include Fordingbridge Players performing weekend of 7th-8th November, Pantomime by Westland Downland School and Forest Forge Theatre in January.

12. To discuss the provision of flood lights at the Recreation Ground & associated lease

Following a request from the Rugby Club for permission to erect floodlights on the Rugby Pitch in the Recreation Ground, the Town Clerk and Finance Officer met with members of the Rugby Club, Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Hampshire RFU on the 27th October 2015. Following discussion regarding application, siting and financing (no cost to Town Council save legal expenses for lease preparation), the RFU advised that a condition of funding would be that the Town Council & Fordingbridge RFC entering into a lease agreement for exclusive use of the pitch at specified times. Any lease term would be required to be a minimum of 7 years with consideration of the period being in line with the existing Brownsey's Field lease. Members were requested to consider this request in principle.

Cllr Fulford proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Council agree in principle to entering into a lease agreement with the Rugby Club relating to the exclusive use at specified times of the Rugby Pitch on the Recreation Ground, the lease period to be at least 7 years in duration.

13. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk reported the following correspondence had been received:

Hampshire CC – Advising of draft walking strategy public consultation – comments invited from individuals and organisations. End date 7th December 2015.

Rotary Club – Reminder of Quiz Night 21st November 2015 in aid of Fordingbridge Christmas Lights.

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

The Clerk reported that Information Office staff had recently met with a representative from the Ringwood Food Bank regarding becoming a referral point with ability to issue vouchers – this service will commence next month.

The chairman raised concern over the library consultation and requested that surrounding villages are advised as any cuts or loss of service will also impact on those parishes. It has been a few years since the last cuts and the library provides an outpost as a higher Education Reference Library. Cllr Connolly also considered that the Council should respond to the Fire and Rescue consultation.

15. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 2nd December 2015

The meeting closed at 8.35pm