

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1st March 2017 in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllr Adams, Price, Lewendon, Paton, Anstey, Perkins, Fulford, Wilson, Earth & Hale

In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards – Town Clerk

Mrs M Coatham – Finance Officer

Cllr Heron, Hampshire CC

Katy Griffin, Salisbury Journal

M Penton, Chairman & Melanie Gill, Welfare Officer, Turks FC

Philippa Duckworth & 1 other, Fordingbridge Museum

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Sevier, New Forest DC

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations of interest made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2017 and report any matters arising

Cllr Anstey requested an amendment to the Minutes at minute no. 11.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Perkins and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2017 be signed as a true record subject to the following amendment:

Minute No. 11 - Cllr Anstey's report

Insert "*Cllr Connolly*" before "All schools and other organisations....."

All in favour.

Cllr Paton entered the meeting

The Chairman then brought forward item no. 5, in order that representatives from the Turks FC could leave to attend Fire Service training.

5. To receive a proposal from the Turks FC for improvements to facilities at the Recreation Ground

Mike Penton, Chairman of the Turks FC introduced himself & Melanie Gill, Welfare Officer who then gave a presentation to the meeting regarding the clubs history, a profile of the club at present and it's aspirations for the future - information given included:

- Club is 1 of the 10 oldest in the England – 150th anniversary in 2018
- Have a 5 year development plan

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- All ages and abilities are encouraged
- Wish to raise profile of the club
- 20 teams at present including ladies team
- 5 year plan to increase number of teams to include girls teams, veterans and walking football
- 35 volunteers provide 700 hours per month (all volunteers are vetted) some have been volunteering for over 10 years
- Wish to increase training opportunities for coaches/trainers
- 268 children playing – increase life skills 60% live in Fordingbridge
- Adults – attract players from outside area
- 154 teams have visited Fordingbridge this season
- £s paid to Burgate School for facilities
- Sponsorship from local businesses
- Would like to raise relationship with the community – hosting match as part of the Vimoutiers twinning 35th Anniversary in May 2017

The Recreation Ground is home of the Turks and the club would like to stay there however changing facilities are not up to standard for club to progress, want to help with refurbishment which will raise the profile of the Town and benefit all sports clubs. Appreciate finances stretched for Town Council, offer by Turks FC to carry out works to changing facilities with no cost to Council. Working towards the 150th anniversary celebrations, when big events are being planned.

The chairman thanked the Turks FC for their presentation and advised that Members could not answer points raised at the meeting, but it had already been discussed that the originally designed new pavilion was not feasible due to the cost.

Cllr Anstey advised that re-assurance had been received from the Council's insurer that volunteer labour can be used to carry out works and he agreed to contact the clubs secretary.

Cllr Heron advised that grant funding is available.

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

Philippa Duckworth, Fordingbridge Museum addressed the meeting to highlight the importance of the Information Office to the Museum. Its location in Kings Yard is crucial to attract visitors to the Museum and also for the use of storage facilities. The museum was opened in 2000, primarily created to house a private collection belonging to the Shering family. Premises were found and the venture was jointly funded by Fordingbridge Town Council, New Forest DC and Hampshire County Council. The Museum is run by volunteers and has seen some 90,000 visitors since opening.

Mike Penton left the meeting

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

No report received.

7. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported that he had attended an event at Burgate School following receipt of a travel plan award received from Hampshire County Council for works with local residents in Penny's Lane and Burgate Fields to alleviate parking and traffic issues around the school.

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron reported on the Council Tax increase (Hampshire CC element 4.99%) and in particular the allocation towards Adult Social Care.

With regard to highway matters, Cllr Heron advised that discussions were ongoing regarding the replacement of the brick pavements in Bridge Street with tarmac, as an issue had arisen regarding the impact on the stability of the bridge. The Chairman raised the issue of potholes (generally on roads in the Parish) and also that the Town Centre car park was being used as a rat run with drivers avoiding roadworks currently on Shaftesbury Street.

Cllr Heron (speaking as a District Councillor) advised that this car park is the last in the District to be refurbished with discussions currently taking place regarding improvements.

Cllr Perkins enquired if the current contractor would continue as highways contractor – result of tendering not yet known. Cllr Hale queried whether a change in contractor would impact on the continuation of works in Salisbury Street – Cllr Heron confirmed that these are additional works and a separate project to those originally planned and carried out last year.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillors

District Councillors not present.

10. To receive the following Committee meeting minutes and any recommendations to General Council contained therein

- Planning committee – 8th February 2017 – Received Cllr Fulford
- Finance & Policy Meeting 22nd February 2017 – transfer of Fordingbridge Information office operation to Town Hall

Recommendation – *“**recommend** to General Council on 1st March 2017 to relocate the Information Office and staff to the Town Hall and not to renew the lease of the building in Kings Yard – transfer to Town Hall to be completed by the end of April 2017.”*

Members discussed whether due process had been followed for this item and which Committee is responsible for decisions regarding accommodation. Some Members also raised concerns over confusion at the Finance & Policy meeting regarding the proposals and voting options.

Proposal 1 – Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Fulford to accept the recommendation made by the Finance & Policy Committee on 22nd February 2017.

Proposal 2 – Cllr Anstey proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams to reject the recommendation made by the Finance & Policy Committee on 22nd February 2017.

Voting on 2nd proposal – 7 voted in favour and 3 voted against, 1 abstention

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the recommendation of the Finance & Policy Committee on 22nd February 2017 to relocate the Information Office and staff to the Town Hall and not to renew the lease of the building in Kings Yard – transfer to Town Hall to be completed by the end of April 2017 is rejected.

Members asked that the Clerk investigate whether a shorter term for the lease of the Information Office could be negotiated.

11. To report on any health & safety issues

Cllr Anstey reported on attendance (with the Clerk) at an event run by Zurich Insurance. It was also reported that a further lifebuoy had gone missing at the Recreation Ground but had later been found (in the river) and replaced in its housing.

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

Cllr Anstey – reported attendance at the Zurich Insurance event and regular weekend attendance at sports matches/training at the recreation ground.

13. To approve the amended Risk Register

The Finance Officer advised that the Risk Register had been amended as recommended by Internal Audit.

Cllr Lewendon proposed and Cllr Paton seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED:** to approve the Risk Register. All in favour.

14. To note any items of correspondence

UK Cycling Events – details of event to be held on 8th & 9th April routed through Fordingbridge Town Centre.

Rotary Club – Seeking nominations for Fordingbridge & District Citizen of the year 2017.

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

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

Whitsbury Road Planning Application - The Chair advised members of the Whitsbury Road Planning application received. Due to the size of the application with many documents, he had agreed with the chair of planning to assess the application in 3 groups concerning Design & Layout (Cllr Fulford lead), SANGS (Cllr Hale lead) & Traffic & Roads (Cllr Connolly lead). Members were advised which group they were allocated to and a briefing session would be held for members only on 16th March prior to an additional planning committee meeting to be held on 22nd March 2017 to determine the council's response.

The Clerk advised that no paper copies are available, save 1 copy of the layout plans. Cllr Fulford requested that members view details online ahead of discussion and bring tablet/laptops with them to Members briefing.

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Cllr Heron advised that Policy Ford1 (allocation of site in Local Plan) should be considered.

Youth Shelter in Car Park – Cllr Perkins advised that this is in a dangerous condition – clerk to follow up removal with New Forest DC and Police.

16. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 5th April 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm