

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Wednesday, 22nd April 2010 in the Town Hall, Fordingbridge

Present:

Cllr. Connolly (Town Mayor)

Councillors Adams, Coley, Dennis, Fulford, Lewendon, Paton, Perkins, Price, Willis & Wilson

In attendance:

K. Mason, Town Clerk

Deborah Gordon, Finance Officer

HCC Cllr. Edward Heron

Mr B Foley, Chief Executive of New Forest National Park Authority

18 members of the public

The meeting was opened by a presentation from Mr Barrie Foley, Interim Chief Executive of the New Forest National Park Authority.

Mr Foley explained the two purposes of the National Park; to conserve and enhance and to promote opportunities, understanding and enjoyment. Following a consultation, which included residents, organisations and businesses, a Management Plan was written and adopted which provides a vision for the next 20 years. The key factors are working together with other organisations and championing the Forest and Coast. The Core Strategy is also another key document which has been produced and contains planning policies to guide and influence new development fit for a National Park. The Recreation Plan co-ordinates and supports recreational activities within the National Park.

The following forums have been formed: New Forest Dog, Equine Forum, Recreation Forum and a High Level Stewardship Scheme with the Verderers worth £20m established.

The cost of the NF National Park worked out at 9p per person per year in 2009/10 which was considered good value for money!

Questions were then received from the floor.

The Mayor thanked Barrie Foley for attending the meeting and giving such an interesting and thought provoking presentation.

1. To receive apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. To confirm the minutes of the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly on 22nd April 2011.

It was proposed by Cllr Willis and seconded by Cllr Lewendon that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

3. TO REPORT ANY MATTERS ARISING:-

There were no matters arising

4. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

It was with extreme trepidation that I began my year as Town Mayor. Following a very experienced Councillor and popular Town Mayor in Cllr Jean Willis was daunting enough but to add to this was the retirement after 34 years of our Town Clerk, Helen Tague. My fears on both counts were very much allayed. Jean has been and continues to be a great source of help and advice for which I am very grateful. Kate Mason our "new" Town Clerk, whom I feel sure had similar feelings to my own, has seamlessly slotted into her new role and has conducted Council business in an

exemplary fashion. She has been of help and assistance to all councillors and to myself enormous help and at times very motivational – thank you Kate.

My Deputy Mayor, Cllr David Price, I have called on very little. The honour of being Town Mayor is something I wanted to fulfil by doing most things myself. If re-elected I will endeavour to let go a little! I would like at this stage to thank all the Councillors of Fordingbridge Town Council for the hours of work they put in during my mayoral year. Everyone of them has been willing to help me when called upon. Our Committee Chairman have worked tirelessly during this term; Cllr Rosemary Fulford on Planning, Cllr Diane Paton on Amenities, Cllr Val Coley on General Purposes and Cllr Malcolm Adams on Finance & Policy. Despite leading busy private lives they have led their community faultlessly during my term. I thank you all for your dedication.

My aims for my year as Mayor really centred around increasing co-operation between the Town organisations and groups. I would like to think that in general the areas of communication are better although not everything in the garden is rosy but we are getting there.

The forthcoming year is likely to be a bust year for the Town. This Saturday is the first, of many I hope, of our Flower Show. The Clock Tower, missed by so many residents will be repaired and replaced. We are again entering Fordingbridge 'In Bloom' and this year going for gold. May 2011 sees Town & Parish elections and we will be taking steps to encourage new councillors to take up the vacancies of those Councillors who have intimated they will retire. In all cases they will be missed.

I would like to complement the Town Council's employees who tend our assets: the Town Hall, the Recreation Ground and Play Areas, all in such fine condition and indicative of the dedication shown by these employees.

Another of my objectives this year was to increase our adherence to the laws concerning Health & Safety. Almost every day you read about age old events being cancelled because they have no Health & Safety rules or risk assessment in place. One Council even had to cancel their Remembrance Day Parade! Councillor Paul Anstey, who tonight is away working, took on the role of Health & Safety Officer and he really has done a wonderful job. I would like to record my thanks for his hard work and diligence.

Lastly, I would like to thank my wife, Marie, for her support during my year as Mayor.

5. TO REPORT ON FINANCES FOR 2009/2010 (un-audited accounts)

Deborah Gordon, Finance Officer, presented the un-audited accounts and invited those in attendance to view them at the end of the meeting.

6. TO RECEIVE ANY MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no matters raised.

7. TO RECEIVE ANY OTHER RELEVANT PARISH BUSINESS

There was no relevant parish business

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.