

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 7:30pm

held remotely using appropriate technology in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crimes Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") which came into force on 4th April 2020.

(Minutes draft until approved at the following meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Wilson – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Earth, Goldsmith, Hale, Jackson & Lewendon

In Attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Cllrs Anstey, Moulard, Paton, Perkins & White (Public Gallery)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th May 2020 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th May 2020 as a true record. All in favour.

No matters arising

4. To receive any matters raised by members of the public.

No matters raised.

5. To report on any matters concerning St Marys Closed Churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery

- To review the Burial Regulations (following site inspection)

Cllr Wilson reported that items were being left on plots that made mowing difficult. The Clerk reported that he, the assistant Clerk and Cllr Wilson had attended the Stuckton Road Cemetery and there were a number of plots that did not conform with the Town Council's Burial Regulations. Cllrs considered amending the regulations, removing the items, writing to plot owners and putting up signs to remind those visiting the cemetery of the regulations. The Clerk advised that items made mowing and strimming more difficult so a letter could be sent to those plot holders pointing out that the items contravened the regulations and that they should be aware that the items may get damaged when mowing takes place. Cllr Wilson added that it would be helpful if items could be moved on to the plinth by the headstone, but it might not be possible to get in contact with the individuals leaving the items. Cllr Hale suggested that the rules should be followed but the council should not be seen to be heavy handed. It was agreed that a notice should be put in the first instance reminding people what was permitted under the Burial Regulations.

Action: Clerk to put a notice up at the Stuckton Road Cemetery.

[Cllr White joined the meeting in the Public Gallery]

6. Matters relating to the Town Hall

The Clerk provided an update regarding the conversations and meetings that had taken place amongst the Town Council staff and with the architects, Sheerin Bettle. Sheerin Bettle have undertaken to come back early next week with two proposals, the first to meet the initial remit provided by the Town Council which may involve an extension at the rear of the hall and the

second being a scaled back proposal without the need to extend. Cllrs were keen to progress the project and asked the Clerk to continue to liaise with Sheerin Bettle to ensure revised proposals were received during the course of next week. Cllrs also considered the position with regard to the lease at Kings Yard. Cllr Wilson suggested that the urgency was to move the staff back to the Town Hall and that any work internally could be phased with the second phase being undertaken when the rear of the roof is repaired.

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

The Clerk reported that the Information Office had re-opened to the public with measures in place for the safety of staff and users based upon coronavirus guidance. The Information Office is operating well since re-opening and is being well used with a high level of tourist enquiries.

8. To report any matters concerning footpaths

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 7th August 2020

Cllr Goldsmith commented on the condition of the planters outside the Co-Operative. The Clerk advised that these were the responsibility of the NFDC, that Cllr Bellows had reported the issue and a works order had been raised by the NFDC.

Cllr Wilson reported that the assistant Clerk had raised the issue of the condition of the footpaths around the schools to Cllr Heron. Cllr Heron had passed the concerns on to the NFDC planning department, but nothing has happened to date. Cllr Wilson suggested that the schools would be re-opening and that it might be possible to negotiate with the developers for them to address the footpath issue in mitigation of their CIL contributions.

Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Heron for an update.

The Clerk had spoken again to Cllr Sevier regarding the path between Marl Lane and Downwood Close being added to the definitive list. Cllr Sevier had advised it was a lengthy and complicated process but it could be expedited by the consent of the landowner (the landowner being the NFDC). Cllr Sevier suggested writing to the NFDC planning department asking for their consent. Cllr Wilson said it was important that it is recognised as a footpath.

Action: Clerk to contact the NFDC as landowner

9. Matters concerning Highways

The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted HCC regarding the speed limit on Whitsbury Road and also the fact the speed signs were damaged and overgrown. The Clerk had also contacted HCC regarding the proposed access to Site 16 to advise that the Town Council would be notifying HCC regarding concerns about access.

10. Matters concerning Allotments

Cllr Wilson advised that a spare water pump had been purchased but the Council may need to look at alternative pumps in the future. Cllr Wilson also reported on new plot markers. Cllr Wilson had obtained a quote for the manufacture of plot markers but there were concerns regarding the cost (£860 for 65) and also the cost of obtaining individual replacements in the event any got damaged. Cllr Wilson suggested that she would prepare an alternative proposal using scaffold poles which she thought would cost in the region of £150.

Cllr Wilson suggested that the Town Council should consider not accepting the new allotments at Augustus Park under the terms of the current s106 agreement and suggested this might prompt a renegotiation of the agreement on less onerous terms to the Town Council. Cllr Wilson's concerns were regarding the water supply and the proposed surface of the car parking spaces. Cllr Adams agreed that a metered water supply was not appropriate. Cllr Wilson said she had tried to negotiate the positioning of boreholes on the site with the developer. Cllr Jackson advised that the developer was looking into it and said he would follow this up with them. Any issues would need to be resolved before next July when the allotments are due to be handed over.

11. To consider funding additional TUFF sessions in August 2020

The Clerk and RFO had met with the individual that runs TUFF and she has since come up with a proposal to run TUFF sessions at the Recreation Ground in August in lieu of the Playscheme, which cannot take place this year. The proposal had been circulated and the Clerk went through the details. The Clerk advised that there was Playscheme budget of £3,500 which could be utilised to fund the proposed sessions. Cllrs considered the number of children that could attend based upon the current government guidance and restrictions regarding gatherings. Cllrs felt that due to the restrictions on numbers that it did not represent good use of funds. Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore RESOLVED: that the Town Council does not proceed with the proposal for TUFF sessions in August 2020 and that the funds allocated this year for the Playscheme are rolled into the following year's budget. All in favour.

12. To note any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence.

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

Nothing to report.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as 16th September 2020

The meeting finished at 8.05pm.