

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.30pm on  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in the Victoria Rooms.**

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

**Present:** Cllr Wilson – Chairman  
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Earth, Hale and Jackson

**In Attendance:** Mr P. Goddard, Town Clerk  
Mrs R. Edwards, Assistant Town Clerk  
Cllrs Lewendon, Moulard, Paton and Perkins (Public Gallery)  
Ruth Croker (Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society)

**1. To receive any apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Goldsmith.

**2. To receive any declarations of interest**

No declarations were made.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and report on any matters arising.**

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Adams and therefore **RESOLVED**: to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute 9 – The Town Council is responsible for replacing the broken pane of glass in the Information Office.

**4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and report on any matters arising.**

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Jackson and therefore **RESOLVED**: to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 as a true record. All in favour

No matters arising

**5. To receive any matters raised by members of the public.**

No matters raised.

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

The Town Clerk reported a water leak on the cemetery side of the meter. There are four standpipes, three near the car park and one by the old gates. The Clerk has turned the water off at the external meter however, at the stand pipe at the old gates (on the church's land) there is still the sound of running water. This suggests to the Clerk a separate supply with its own leak. The Clerk is liaising with Bournemouth Water about this issue and thinks the church could be responsible for fixing the leak.

Separately, Fordingbridge Town Council pay for the whole of the water supply even though the cemetery is part owned by the church. FTC also pay to have the church element of the cemetery strimmed. As the churchyard is not closed, he queried why FTC is paying for the grass cutting and water supply rather than the church and whether there was a historical commitment. It was decided to ask the church for a contribution.

**Action: Clerk to speak to church about a possible financial contribution to the costs of water and grass cutting.**

## **7. Matters relating to the Town Hall**

The Town Clerk met with the Buildings Manager, Sheerin Bettle Architecture and K & B Builders on site at the Town Hall today. The clock tower has been lowered back into position over new lead trays. Structural repairs to the roof have been completed and insulation put in. The retiling and new leadwork to the roof is part completed. In the Council Chamber the truss has been repaired and the panelling replaced where needed. All external joinery has been overhauled ready for decoration.

Due to repairs required and the decision to insulate, it is likely that the contractor will ask for an extension of around a week.

Cllr Hale asked if the Council would be liable for the extra cost of the scaffolding. The Clerk confirmed that the Council would be liable if the scaffolding is needed for longer. However, there is talk of taking the scaffolding down within the next week. The main cost of scaffolding is the cost of putting it up and taking it down; these costs will remain unchanged.

## **8. To report on any matters relating to the Information Office**

Nothing to report

## **9. To report any matters concerning footpaths**

- To consider the Proposed Diversion of Fordingbridge Footpath No. 68

Ruth Crocker (RFFS) reported that the Footpath Society didn't object to the diversion of this path but that the Society wants reassurance there would be no new fencing. If fencing is put up then it becomes more difficult to cut the grass. There are already problems with grass not being cut along paths.

Members agreed that the path could be diverted and asked that there be no fencing on the new path.

## **10. Matters concerning Highways**

Nothing to report.

## **11. Matters concerning Allotments**

Cllr Wilson reported an old ash tree growing on the green bank of the allotments was dying (although not of ash dieback). She asked if someone could look at it.

**Action: Clerk to ask a tree surgeon to assess the tree.**

The Clerk reported that the tree survey is due imminently. It will be done when the trees are still in leaf.

## **12. To consider the Forward Plan**

### **Town Hall**

The committee discussed changes to the layout of the Town Hall layout. Various ideas include:

- Convert part of the Town Hall building into an Information Office and all office staff work together in the Town Hall.
- Improve access to the upstairs Council Chamber to make better use of it
- Move and enlarge the kitchen
- Move the toilets
- Build an extension at the back of the Town Hall

It was agreed that the Town Hall should be a separate project with a dedicated sub-committee.

**13. To note any items of correspondence**

A local resident emailed to ask if wild flowers could be allowed to grow on the verges, instead of grass which needed cutting. She reported that a hedgehog had been killed at the end of June by someone cutting the grass verges at Padstow Place.

There have been requests from residents for extra dog waste bins at Victoria Gardens. Cllr Paton thought that as dog waste can go in either a dog waste bin or an ordinary bin, an ordinary bin would be better. Cllr Wilson will put up a dog poo poster in this area.

Ruth Croker (RFFS) reported that HCC and NFDC have received complaints about overgrown hedges. She advised the Town Council to write letters to the owners asking them to cut their hedges.

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

Nothing further to report.

**15. To note the date of the next meeting as 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

The meeting finished at 8.05pm