

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in the Town Hall**

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

**Present:** Cllr Earth – Chairman  
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Fulford & Hale

**In Attendance:** Mrs P. Goddard, Town Clerk  
Cllrs Lewendon, Moulard & Paton (Public Gallery)  
A representative of the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Wilson

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

No declarations were made.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No.7 – Cllrs and the representative of the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society discussed the condition of footpaths within the parish, the approved cutting list and the role of the Lengthsman maintaining footpaths.

**Action point: Town Clerk to circulate approved cutting list**

Minute No. 10 – Cllrs discussed the proposed 2019 Play Scheme and the constraints on funding. Cllr Fulford informed the meeting that she had looked into potential funding of the Play Scheme and had discussed with the Play Scheme Manager potential budgetary savings given the projected shortfall in funding. Cllrs discussed using volunteers from local schools and agreed the status of using volunteers should be confirmed and that a separate meeting should be held to consider the 2019 Play Scheme.

**Action point: Town Clerk to investigate status of volunteers for the Play Scheme**

**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**

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Fulford and therefore **RESOLVED**: to agree the RFO's proposed charges for the financial year 2019/2020. All in favour.

Cllrs considered the maintenance of benches at the Cemetery and the cost of maintenance.

**6. Matters relating to the Town Hall**

Cllrs discussed the proposed charges relating to the Town Hall for 2019/2020.

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: to agree the RFO's proposed charges for the financial year 2019/2020. Cllr Adams abstained due his involvement with the Entertainment Society that hires the Town Hall. All others in favour.

The Town Clerk reported that a letter of intent had been issued to the Town Council's preferred contractor so that initial work in relation to the remedial works on the Town Hall could

commence. The Town Clerk reported that the Building Manager and the Town Council's instructed party wall surveyor had commenced the process of securing the necessary party wall agreements.

**7. To report any matters concerning footpaths**

The representative of the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society raised the issue of the footpath at Riverside and access by members of the public. Cllr Earth informed the meeting that the New Forest District Council had commenced the process of taking ownership of the land around the Augustus John statue. Cllrs considered the future maintenance of the land and the future access by the public along the footpath.

The representative of the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society raised the muddy condition of the path along the disused railway line from Breamore to Burgate. Members discussed the use of the path and its status.

**8. Matters concerning Highways**

The Town Clerk advised that the proposed work by Wessex Water at Whitsbury Road would commence on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

Cllr Adams confirmed that work had commenced by New Forest District Council on the town car park.

**9. Matters concerning Allotments**

Cllr Earth reported the offer of a digger to build up the bank on the edge of the allotment by Sweatford Meadows and to widen the path accessing the allotments. Cllrs discussed the Town Council's requirements for the proposed use of the digger and the nature of the work to be undertaken. Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: the offer of the digger to work on the bank of the allotment should in principle be accepted.

Cllr Earth reported on the proposed planting of wild flower seeds and the suggestion that these should be put on the communal plot at the allotments.

The Town Clerk reported that the allotment cups had been located and were being stored at the Visitor Information Centre.

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

There were no items of correspondence.

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

Nothing further to report.

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

The meeting finished at 8.12pm