

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 21st July
2021 at 8:10pm**

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

Present: Cllr Earth – Chair
Cllrs Adams, Earth, Hale and Lewendon

In Attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Cllrs Anstey, Moulard & Paton (Public Gallery)
A representative from the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society
("RFFS")

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies Received from Cllrs Wilson, Perkins and Bellows (NFDC)

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th May 2021 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED:** to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th May 2021 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

The Clerk reported that the NFDC currently own the Stuckton Road cemetery extension (which dates back to 1987) but are looking to transfer title to the Town Council. He is hoping to discuss this further with Claire Upton Brown ("CUB"), Head of Planning (who has taken on responsibility for the proposed transfer at the NFDC) next week.

One of the Council's former clerks advised that to her knowledge the Town Council did not agree to accept the title from the NFDC. She said that the NFDC agreed to hold it in perpetuity with the Town Council having "care and control". This then allowed the Town Council to set their own fees rather than follow what the NFDC were charging in their cemeteries. The Clerk said the cemetery will potentially have run out of space in a few years' time. It is easier to extend an existing cemetery rather than create a new one. If the desire is to extend the cemetery it would make sense for the NFDC to do so both in terms of funding and powers of compulsory purchase. If the NFDC wants to transfer title to the Town Council then the Town Council could try and obtain some reassurance that the NFDC will support the securing of an extension both in terms of funding and using the powers it has available.

The Clerk understood that the bronze age urn found in 2013 at the cemetery is being held at Bournemouth University. He did not believe that there are necessarily any formal reporting requirements by the NFDC but he will make CUB aware of it. An aerial photo of the cemetery showed a circular pattern in the ground which could be a settlement, which he would again make CUB aware of. Cllr Hale thought the Town Council could take on the title to the cemetery extension if the NFDC were to secure more land, however Cllr Adams felt there were too many unknowns and the Council would need more information. The Clerk advised more information had been asked for from the NFDC and this was awaited. Ringwood Town Council owns its

cemetery but that cemetery was never owned by the NFDC. Cllrs discussed the merits of taking on the land to maintain the co-operation of the NFDC and also the merits of extending the cemetery. Cllrs agreed to wait for more information following the Clerk's discussions with the NFDC.

6. Matters relating to the Town Hall

The Clerk reported that the planning application to refurbish the Town Hall had been submitted to the NFDC planning department. The planning application will be on the agenda of the Town Council's planning committee on 18th August 2021. Cllr Hale said that was good news.

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

The Clerk reported that the Information Office was open and back to its normal hours having had to briefly close due to Covid isolation rules.

8. To report any matters concerning footpaths

The representative from the RFFS advised she had met with Cllr Moulard to consider footpaths and cycle ways. Through the NPSG she had been looking at the Avon Valley Path and the Breamore railway line. She had sent the chair of the NPSG a note setting out the difference between definitive paths and other paths, which she would happily share with other Cllrs. The representative advised that styles and gates on paths belonged to the landowners and then talked about permissive paths. **Action: Clerk to send out the information the representative has prepared.** Cllr Earth noted that it was difficult to move footpaths and the representative confirmed this advising that for definitive paths it could be a ten year process. She advised that as this was such a protracted process an alternative was to create attractive permissive paths that were used as a preferable alternative to existing dedicated paths. The representative had met with CUB at Sweatford. It was agreed new seats would be added. She talked about extending the SANG to the north to meet the track that joins Puddleslosh Lane to Rockbourne and then improving those paths.

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 6th August 2021

The representative from the RFFS advised that, whilst it was not a job for the Lengthsman, the NPSG was looking at a circular walk to Bicton. The trees along the A338 towards Bicton prevent clear access along the pavement for pedestrians and Highways have been asked to look at this.

9. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

Cllr Wilson had circulated a proposal regarding the proposed allotments on Augustus Park. She had suggested dividing the proposed 10 plots into 20 half plots which should bring them into line with the existing allotments. She also suggested hard standing tarmac for the car park and that we retained the proposed water supply for emergency use and should pursue a borehole solution for general provision of water. Cllr Lewendon advised that there was lots of hard core on the proposed site and was concerned that a dressing of topsoil would be inadequate. **Action: Clerk to raise with Pennyfarthing.** Cllrs agreed that Cllr Wilson's proposal should be put to Pennyfarthing including a tarmacked car park. Cllr Earth suggested that if tarmac was unacceptable then a plastic membrane could serve as an alternative.

10. To consider a further proposal from Turn Up For Fun ("TUFF")

The Clerk reported that it has been agreed to run three weekly sessions of TUFF during the Summer holidays together with an evening story telling session. The Clerk is liaising with the junior school to finalise the terms of the use of land at the school.

11. To note any items of correspondence

There were no items of correspondence.

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

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No report.

13. To note the date of the next meeting as 15th September 2021

The meeting finished at 8.39pm.