

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.56pm on
Wednesday 22nd January 2020 in the Town Hall.**

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

Present: Cllr Wilson – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Goldsmith and Jackson

In Attendance: Mr P Goddard, Town Clerk
Mrs R Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllr Bellows (NFDC)
Cllr Paton (Public Gallery)

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Earth, Cllr Hale and Ruth Crocker (Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society).

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations were made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th November 2019 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Jackson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore **RESOLVED:** to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th November 2019 as a true record. All in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute 3 – The ash tree on the bank of the allotments still needs work done.

Minute 3 – Cllr Wilson reported that an application for a grant to fund a community plot at the allotments would be submitted to the Co-op when the scheme opens in the Spring.

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 tree works raised by Ian Newman have now been completed by NFDC.

6. Matters relating to the Town Hall

The downpipe and the guttering on the right side of the Town Hall is blocked. Previous blockages have been caused by pigeon fouling, however measures to combat fouling have since been put in place, which may or may not be effective. Avon Valley Property Services and the architect will investigate. The Conservation Officer is reluctant to allow further anti-pigeon measures, although the Town Clerk reported that it may be possible to hang anti-pigeon netting above the balcony. The pigeons currently sit amongst the anti-pigeon spikes on the Town Hall balcony. Cllr Jackson asked whether the drainpipes are clear at the bottom. The left downpipe feeds into a gully, contractors put bricks in the gully to level it off for safety reasons, this has been reported to Hampshire County Council. Cllr Wilson enquired whether the neighbours feed the pigeons and asked that they be reminded not to.

Regarding the move back to the Town Hall, the Clerk reported that a sub-committee was appointed in November 2017 to consider the Town Hall interior works. Plans include disabled access to upstairs, a kitchen with access onto the main hall to make catering events easier, information office relocated to the old kitchen space, building a modern and fit-for-purpose

disabled toilet, glass doors inside and set back from the main entrance. The projector will still be able to be used.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting for 5th February to move this project forwards

Cllr Jackson reported that he cannot hear the meetings well. Cllr Adams reported that there is a hearing system but it needs a microphone and amplifier.

Action: Clerk to investigate hearing loop

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

Nothing to report

8. To report any matters concerning footpaths

- a) To consider quotes for a new sign for the Avon Valley Path
Cllr Jackson proposed and Cllr Adams seconded and it was therefore RESOLVED to purchase the Blissford sign with Clo design artwork at a cost of £335 + £240. All in favour

The church will need to approve the final design as the Avon Valley Path mapboard will be on their land.

Cllr Wilson reported that the route from Falconwood Close to the railway bridge at Marl Lane is very muddy and cannot be cycled. A lot of people use this path including children on their way to and from school. This land is owned by NFDC and was part of the section 106 agreement with Lindon Homes. It is not officially recognised as a footpath but as open space.

Cllr Paton reported that NFDC agreed a walk and cycleway to get to school from Falconwood Close and that a grant was given to link up with Avon Meade. A 1988 legal agreement (part of the original planning agreement when permission was given for new homes at Falconwood Close) named this route as a cycle way / footpath and therefore it should be maintained as such by NFDC.

Cllr Wilson would like the path's surface dug up and more suitable surface laid instead. She said that if NFDC really are committed to encouraging people to walk and cycle, rather than driving, then the path needs to be maintained.

Action: Cllr Bellows (NFDC) to investigate and report back to FTC

- b) Lengthsman

Cllrs had no additional jobs to be added to the lengthsman worksheet.

9. Matters concerning Highways

Potholes outside the Co-op have been reported to Hampshire County Council.

10. Matters concerning Allotments

The allotments recently flooded due to a log stuck under the bridge impeding river flow. The green bank will be moved back however there is no room for more allotments on this site.

The new allotments on the Penny Farthing Homes housing development at Whitsbury Road will be available soon. Cllr Wilson reported that there are limited facilities on these allotments - a metered water supply, fences and parking. Fordingbridge Town Council will request that the allotments are marked out as half plots rather than full plots. Cllr Jackson suggested that a borehole might be a good source of water however this will need to be drilled and will cost

money. Any issues need to be resolved before responsibility is handed over to Fordingbridge Town Council.

Action: Town Clerk to continue to talk to David Higgins, Penny Farthing Homes

Action: Town Clerk to forward Cllr Jackson exchange of emails

11. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence received.

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

No matters to report.

13. To note the date of the next meeting as 18th March 2020

The meeting finished at 8.37pm