

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16th March 2022 at 8:15pm (Minutes draft until approved at the following meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Wilson – Chair
Cllrs Earth, Goldsmith and Hale

In Attendance: Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
A representative from the Salisbury Journal

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Adams, Lewendon and Perkins. Also, from Cllr Bellows (NFDC).

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th January 2022 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th January 2022 be signed as a true record.

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 Burial Charges from 1st April 2022**

A formal review of cemetery income and expenditure will be conducted with a report to members in May. Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that, a new administration fee of £20 be introduced to transfer the Exclusive Rights of Burial for a grave and, awaiting the formal report, all other Burial Charges remain unchanged. All in favour.

The spoil from the cemetery is no longer to be deposited at the Recreation Ground. Ringwood and Fordingbridge Skip Hire suggested that rather than hiring a skip, a small tipper trailer is hired periodically instead to load up waste spoil and take it directly to Ringwood and Fordingbridge Skip Hire for disposal. Members asked the cost of hiring a tipper trailer and whether a waste carrier licence would be needed. Cllr Hale thought the spoil should be taken away by a registered contractor to comply with regulations. Cllr Wilson asked how much a skip would cost to hire instead.

Action: Clerk to find out more information

6. Matters relating to the Town Hall

Roof

The Buildings' Manager had suggested that the Council ask the roofing company that did the work on the Town Hall for their views on the extent of the work required and the approximate likely cost, as they will have seen the condition of the roof. The Clerk is awaiting the roofing company's details from the Buildings' Manager.

Reduced scheme for internal work

The Clerk had spoken to the architect about the history of the proposed internal work at the Town Hall and the current suggestion of a reduced scheme, perhaps using the Council Chamber as offices, with the Information Office on the ground floor and the existing toilets and kitchen reconfigured (perhaps also providing better accessibility to the first floor), without losing any of the main hall. The architect wants to meet at the Town Hall and the Clerk is in the process of arranging a date to meet.

Members asked that all office staff be involved in this meeting and recommended that it take place before the Information Office revert to their summer opening hours on 1st April. Cllr Hale said he would like to attend this meeting.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting

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

The Information Office will revert to summer opening hours on 1st April – Monday to Friday, 10am until 4pm.

8. To report any matters concerning footpaths

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 8th April 2022

No jobs identified. The contracts for the Lengthsman scheme have been renewed for the coming year.

Cllr Wilson reported that the Avon Valley Path adjacent to the Augustus Park development (footpath 83 and 84) is a mess. NFDC will meet with the developers shortly to discuss remediation of the path and other issues which require attention. Cllr Wilson reported that large trees have been placed on the path (footpath 83) making it difficult to walk this stretch.

9. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

Augustus Park Allotments

Cllr Wilson reported that the new allotments have still not yet been handed over to FTC despite 90% occupancy having been reached. She reported that a membrane has been put in, a hedge planted within the fenced area and the water tanks installed.

Action: Asst Clerk to ask NFDC for an update on the new allotments

Community Garden

Cllr Wilson reported that work on the new community garden will commence week beginning 4th April. Milestone Infrastructure will be doing a lot of the work, with Fordingbridge Town Council providing the shed. Volunteers from Fordingbridge Greener Living will tidy up the site on the weekend of 9th and 10th April. Allotment holders have been notified of this work.

Community Orchard

I N Newman Funeral Directors have lent a digger to explore the site of the new community orchard. Tree planting will take place in November. A nature survey is being done in the meantime.

10. To consider the running of the Playscheme and TUFF

Members discussed local summer activities for children. It was noted that playschemes are due to take place at Fordingbridge School Federation and Breamore School, also that Avonway Community Centre has new trustees who may wish to run activities this year. Cllr Earth reported that Forest Forge Theatre Company also run schemes for children. Cllr Hale suggested FTC make a contribution towards an existing activity.

Action: Cllr Wilson to investigate schemes running locally

11. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence.

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

Nothing further to report.

13. To note the date of the next meeting as 18th May 2022

The meeting finished at 8.41pm.