

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18th May
2022 at 7:30 pm.**

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

Present: Cllr Earth – Chair
Cllrs Goldsmith, Lewendon, Perkins and Hale

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Cllrs Jackson and Anstey
A representative from the Salisbury Journal

1. To elect a chair

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: to elect Cllr Wilson as chair of the General Purposes committee. All in favour.

2. To elect a vice chair

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: to elect Cllr Earth as vice chair of the General Purposes committee. All in favour.

3. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Adams and Wilson

4. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations of interest.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th March 2022 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th March 2022 be signed as a true record. All in favour.
No matters arising.

6. To receive any matters raised by members of the public

No matters raised.

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

The Clerk reported that there was a proposal for a wild flower area at St Marys. The Clerk also reported that the cost of hiring a tipper truck to remove earth from the Stuckton Road cemetery would cost approximately £100 and would only be needed once or twice a year.

8. Matters relating to the Town Hall

The Clerk reported that Sheerin Bettle were asked to continue with the current application but it was noted that this would need to be reviewed again in the event that significant additional costs needed to be incurred. The Clerk has chased Fields of Architecture regarding the timing for drawings of a new scheme. The Buildings Manager is liaising with the roofing contractor regarding the extent of the work required on the roof. Avon Valley Property Services will take pictures of the roof slates and the damaged lightning conductor when they next clean the gutters. Cllr Hale asked for an update regarding the cleaning of the gutters and the issue of pigeons. The Clerk advised that Avon Valley Property Services would continue to clean the gutters on the basis that pigeon spikes would not be clipped to the guttering. The decision not to fit pigeon spikes had been reported to the owners of the adjacent buildings and the

freeholder had agreed to regularly clean the alley and stairs. The Clerk also reported that purple uprights have been placed on the balcony for the Jubilee.

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

The Clerk advised that the Information Office had gone back to opening five days a week for the summer as previously agreed. A meeting has been arranged with the NFDC next week to review the existing service level agreement with the Town Council. Cllr Hale noted that the Town Council was currently mid-way through its two year lease on the Information Office and said that it would be good if a scheme at the Town Hall could be implemented before the end of the lease. Cllr Earth raised a concern that the Town Council may be required to commit to a further long lease on the Information Office in a year's time. The Clerk advised that the landlord had been flexible in the past in terms of the length of any lease.

10. To consider the provision of summer activities

The Clerk advised that there was no obligation for the Town Council to provide summer activities for children but there was a budget of £3k. The costs of the children's entertainer booked for the Jubilee party could be met from this budget if required. Cllr Wilson had agreed to investigate schemes running locally.

11. To report any matters concerning footpaths

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 6th June 2022

It was noted that there had been complaints about overgrown hedges on Witts Way. The ownership of the hedges was discussed by Cllrs. It was agreed that in the short term the Lengthsman should be asked to tidy up the hedges but Cllr Lewendon suggested that longer term, ownership of the hedges should be established. Cllr Perkins suggested that the Lengthsman could look at the hedge running from Flaxfields up Station Road as it needed some attention.

12. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

The Clerk advised that the work to level and decompact the soil at the Augustus Park allotments was ongoing and that the community plot at the Pickets Close allotments is progressing. Cllrs queried when the allotments at Augustus Park should be handed over and Cllr Hale noted that it was probably too late to grow on them this year. Cllrs discussed the general poor condition of the green spaces on Augustus Park and concerns that the developer would not remedy them. The Clerk advised that pictures of these areas had been sent to the NFDC to make them aware of the condition.

13. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence.

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 20th July 2022

The meeting finished at 7.47pm.