

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16th
November 2022 at 7:30 pm.**

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

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

In Attendance: Cllrs Anstey, Jackson, Paton and White (in the public gallery)
Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Martine Coatham, RFO
A representative from the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society
("R&FFS")

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Adams.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th July 2022 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Goldsmith and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th July 2022 be signed 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

- To review the tree works schedule and agree the works

Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED**: to agree the proposed tree works. All in favour.

- To consider cemetery charges for 2023/2024

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: to agree the proposed charges for 2023/2024. All in favour.

6. Matters relating to the Town Hall

- To consider Town Hall hire charges for 2023/2024

Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore **RESOLVED**: to agree the proposed charges for 2023/2024. All in favour.

- To consider the quote for a conference microphone system

Cllrs discussed the quote for a microphone conference system and agreed that further investigation should be undertaken into a lower cost solution.

- To consider the quote for an automatic clock winding mechanism

Cllrs discussed the quote from Smith of Derby for £5,694 plus VAT and that given the specialist nature of the work it would be difficult to obtain three quotes for the work.

The RFO advised that it would need to be referred to the Finance & Policy Committee. Cllr Goldsmith proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve the quote for an automatic clock winding mechanism.

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

- To approve the Christmas opening hours.

The Clerk read out the proposed Christmas opening hours. Cllr Earth proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore RESOLVED: to approve the Information Office Christmas opening hours. All in favour.

8. To report any matters concerning footpaths

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 2nd December 2022

Cllr Lewendon reported on the closure of the footpath for up to three months at the A338 past the Avon Valley Path with no prior notification. Cllr Wilson thought Metis Homes was tasked to improve it and believed it was part of the s106 agreement. The representative of the R&FFS advised that diversion signs should have been put up for users of the path. She also reported regarding the Avon Valley Path that an island was being installed on the A338, which she felt was a good thing. Cllr Lewendon reported on surfacing work at Parsonage Park.

9. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

To consider boreholes at the Augustus Park allotments.

Cllr Wilson reported that a list of concerns regarding the allotments had been sent to the NFDC but no response has yet been received. Cllr Lewendon reported that there were lumps of hard core on the allotments. Cllr Wilson suggested chasing the NFDC and writing to Pennyfarthing regarding boreholes.

10. To consider the provision of summer activities (TUFF)

Cllrs considered the report on the TUFF activities. Cllr Wilson felt for the money it was good and should be considered again for next year. Cllr Millar felt the numbers attending were reasonable.

11. To discuss budget proposals for 2023/2024 financial year and make a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee meeting on the 23rd November 2022

The RFO advised of the adjustments to the budget to reflect the national pay award and advised that there was a larger impact in terms of the Information Office staff due to staff cover and overtime. The SLA with the NFDC only requires the office to be open three days a week. Cllrs discussed tourism and the Information Office. Cllrs discussed other elements of the proposed budget and agreed a recommendation to the Finance & Policy committee of £46,412 to be funded from the precept.

12. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence.

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

Nothing further to report.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as 18th January 2023

The meeting finished at 8.16pm.