

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 7:30 pm.

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

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

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Cllrs Anstey, Jackson and Paton in the public gallery

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Perkins.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th January 2023 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Goldsmith proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th January 2023 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 consider taking on title to the cemetery

The Clerk reported that NFDC have asked FTC to take title to the cemetery and he was awaiting the reasoning for this from Simon Hanney, Open Spaces Officer. The Clerk recommended postponing this decision to the next meeting.

6. Matters relating to the Town Hall

• To consider quotes for a deep clean of the Town Hall

No quotes have yet been received for a deep clean of the Town Hall.

All requested paperwork for the applications for the Automatic Clock Winder and Flower troughs have been submitted to the NFDC. Regarding the clock winder, Cllr Wilson suggested if the application is turned down then the Town Council should appeal.

Application 21/10981 had been approved and Sheerin Bettle advised that they would be happy to be re-engaged to look at a smaller scheme, citing their experience and knowledge of the building. They felt that there was more to the project than producing plans. Cllr Hale felt that if the Town Council was looking at a smaller scheme it should remain with Fields of Architecture. He felt the Town council should wait and see what happens with the clock winder mechanism application and then, if approved, go ahead with the smaller scheme.

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

• To consider the terms of a new lease

The clerk reported that the lease is up for renewal on 1st May. He suggested asking for a new two year lease with an 18 month break clause. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED**: to request a two year lease with an 18

month break clause on the same terms as currently agreed. All in favour. Cllr Anstey suggested an option of extending the lease for a further year but Cllr Hale felt that now two years should be sufficient to get a scheme approved and the staff re-located to the Town Hall.

8. To report any matters concerning footpaths

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 3rd April 2023

Cllr Lewendon reported that there was a briar rose growing out from the bushes at face level and other growth from the hedge that needs cutting along Whitsbury Road.

9. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

- **To consider taking title to the Augustus Park allotments**

Cllr Wilson confirmed that the electricity box has been moved. She reported that the surface soil was poor but felt that the Town Council needed to take title to the allotments. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore RESOLVED: to take title to the Augustus Park allotments.

10. To consider the provision of summer Children's Activities.

The clerk reported that there is a budget of £1,500 for summer activities (£1,00 for wages and £500 for equipment). Last year the Town Council paid £720 for TUFF. The cost was £120 a session (average attendance 12) and £200 for story telling (attendance circa 40). Cllr Wilson felt it was a good thing to do albeit it is weather dependent. Cllr Hale proposed and Cllr Millar seconded and therefore RESOLVED: to run TUFF summer activities in 2023. All in favour. Cllr Paton suggested that some extra sessions could be requested this year.

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 17th May 2023

The meeting finished at 8.04pm.