

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 24th May
2023 at 7:30 pm.**

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

Present: Cllr Hinton – Chair
Cllrs Cameron, Lewendon, Millar, White and Wilson

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk
Cllrs Bailey, Jackson, Paton, Perkins and Shering (Public gallery)

1. To elect a chair

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED:** to elect Cllr Hinton as Chair. All in favour.

2. To elect a vice chair

Cllr Wilson proposed Cllr Hale as Vice Chair and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon. This item was deferred until the next meeting due to Cllr Hale not being present.

3. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Hale.

4. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations of interest.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th March 2023 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th March 2023 be signed as a true record. 3 in favour, 3 abstentions.

Matters arising.

Agenda item 10 – **Action: Clerk to confirm the Turn Up For Fun (TUFF) session dates**

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

• **To consider taking title to the cemetery**

Having taken advice from the Council's solicitor and from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management, the Clerk reported that if FTC do not hold the freehold or a long leasehold then they should not be selling Exclusive Rights of Burial to the cemetery. He recommended FTC take title to the cemetery.

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore **RESOLVED:** to take on title to the cemetery. All in favour.

• **To consider a war graves sign at the cemetery**

There are 12 Commonwealth War Graves at the cemetery. Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED:** to install a war graves sign at the cemetery. All in favour.

- **To consider a wild meadow area to the rear of the cemetery**

Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore **RESOLVED:** to grow a wild meadow area to the rear of the cemetery. All in favour. Cllr Millar asked for a wild meadow area sign to be erected.

Councillors asked that a press release be issued regarding the war graves sign and the wild meadow area.

8. Matters relating to the Town Hall

The Clerk reported that planning permission has been granted for the window boxes at the Town Hall, application 22/11367. The window boxes should be constructed of steel with steel inserts. Cllr Wilson has received a quote of £511 for the made-to-measure pair, including the insert.

[Cllr Perkins entered the meeting.]

The Clerk reported that the application to fit the Tower Clock with an automatic winder (Application for Listed Building Consent) was still in progress (planning application 22/11403). The Conservation Officer had requested additional information and Smith of Derby Clockmakers responded. The Conservation Officer has now asked for further technical information about the location of the fixings inside the clock tower. Smith of Derby Clockmakers have provided a quote to FTC for responding to NFDC.

Action: Clerk to take photographs of the inside of the clock tower and Cllr Hinton to write a response to NFDC.

The Clerk summarised the recent history of the Town Hall for the benefit of the new Councillors. In 2019 significant work was done to repair the clock tower and refurbish the Council Chamber (planning application 19/10038). It was envisaged that internal changes to the layout of the Town Hall would take place at the same time to relocate the Information Office to the Town Hall. Separate plans were submitted in 2021 due to architect delays (planning applications 21/10980 & 21/10981). Due to insufficient space at the front of the building for both the Information Office and a lift, the application included the removal of a bay from the main hall. Once costed, the Council decided that the scheme would be too expensive, however the advice was still to proceed with the application. FTC engaged another architect who proposed installing a stairlift, but this would require more room at the top of the stairs. The clock winder application (22/11403) would also allow the boxing to be removed from the landing and so create space for a stair lift. This in turn would free up space for a downstairs design, should the Council decide, as a lift would no longer be required.

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

Nothing to report.

10. To report any matters concerning footpaths

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 5th June 2023

Cllr Paton reported from the public gallery that the footpath behind the junior school is overgrown and needs cutting back.

11. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

Cllr Wilson reported that NFDC have still not arranged for the transfer of the Augustus Park allotments to FTC. She suggested that FTC deal directly with Penny Farthing Homes for the land transfer instead.

12. To consider the use of Playscheme equipment

The Clerk reported that FTC used to run a playscheme but due to the retirement of the Playscheme leader and the school no longer being available as a venue, FTC instead fund outdoor Turn Up For Fun (TUFF) sessions. The old playscheme equipment is currently stored in the cellar under the Town Hall and in the shed. Cllr Cameron has links with children's organisations and offered to approach them. Cllr Wilson proposed and Cllr White seconded and therefore RESOLVED: to establish what equipment there is and if of quality, donate to local worthy causes. All in favour.

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 19th July 2023

The meeting finished at 8.05pm.