

## **FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 8:28 pm.**

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

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

**In Attendance:** Rachel Edwards, Asst Town Clerk  
Cllrs Bailey, Jackson, Paton, Shering and White (Public gallery)  
Cllr Phil Woods (NFDC)

**1. To elect a vice chair**

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

**2. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Millar.

**3. To receive any declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest.

**4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and report on any matters arising.**

Cllr White proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Cameron and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 be signed as a true record.

Matters arising.

Agenda item 5 – The Turn Up For Fun (TUFF) session dates funded by Fordingbridge Town Council have been confirmed as Wednesdays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August from 10am – 12 noon at Whitsbury Road Play area in Fordingbridge. This is free, open access play for children over 8 (under 8's can come too if they bring a grown-up with them). In addition, there is a free storytelling session for adults and over 10's with Ben Haggarty on 11 August from 7pm in Fordingbridge (Venue TBC).

**5. To receive any matters raised by members of the public**

No matters raised.

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

• **Taking title to the cemetery**

Fordingbridge Town Council has taken title to the cemetery.

• **War graves sign at the cemetery**

The war graves sign will be installed at the cemetery within the next 12 months. There are 12 Commonwealth War Graves at the cemetery.

• **Wild meadow area to the rear of the cemetery**

An area to the rear of the cemetery is now being left to grow into a wild meadow area.

• **Noticeboard**

The glass door of the cemetery noticeboard has been smashed; it will be replaced with Perspex.

## **7. Matters relating to the Town Hall**

The application to fit the Tower Clock with an automatic winder has been granted (planning application 22/11403).

A screening of the Last Night of the Proms will be held in memory of Cllr Malcolm Adams on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September. This event is being organised by the Fordingbridge Entertainments Society which Cllr Adams founded. Tickets are £12.50 and include a 2-course meal. All welcome.

## **8. To report on any matters relating to the Information Office**

Members discussed what leaflets the Information Office could give to tourists to promote Fordingbridge. The museum is claiming copyright of the Fordingbridge Town Trail map. Cllrs Hinton and Shering will investigate.

## **9. To report any matters concerning footpaths**

Members discussed the proposed application for a footpath diversion at Midgham Farm and the reasons for moving the footpath. The proposed changes are unlikely to improve the path for users but could pave the way for using the site for mineral extraction instead. Members did not wish to comment at this stage but would await a formal application.

- **Jobs for Lengthsman – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

Cllr Lewendon reported that Footpath 84 at Tinkers Cross is overgrown but thought this is still the responsibility of Pennyfarthing Homes. Cllr Wilson asked if the lengthsman could do some work at the allotments.

## **10. To report on any matters concerning Allotments**

Cllrs Hinton and Wilson inspected the allotments two weeks ago and reported that the plots are mostly fine, although some action is needed. The Information Officer will write to the tenants concerned.

Cllr Hinton reported that an incident occurred at the allotments today when a tenant was confrontational and threatening towards the Deputy Mayor, the Information Officer, and the Groundsman. He said the situation was so serious that the tenant should be given notice to quit. Cllr Bailey advised those involved not to return or put themselves at risk. Cllr Wilson reported that this tenant's plot is covered with items not allowed under the allotment rules, and the Council will likely need to hire a skip after the plot is vacated. Cllr Hinton emphasised the need for regular inspections and will discuss with the Clerk how to best progress this matter. The tenant accused the Council of neglecting a tree; the tree is due to be inspected.

## **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 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

The meeting finished at 8.48pm.