

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on Wednesday 15th
November 2023 at 8:35 pm.**

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

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

In Attendance: Paul Goddard, Town Clerk
Martine Coatham, RFO
Cllrs Bailey & Woods (NFDC) (Public gallery)

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr White.

2. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th September 2023 and report on any matters arising.

Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th September 2023 be signed as a true record. All in favour bar Cllr Cameron who was not present at that meeting. No matters arising.

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

None

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

- To review the tree works schedule and agree works

There were no tree works required this year.

- To consider cemetery charges for 2024/2025

The RFO had provided proposed charges to Cllrs showing a 3% increase. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore **RESOLVED**: to adopt the charges in the RFO's proposal. All in favour.

6. Matters relating to the use of the Town Hall

- To consider Town Hall hire charges for 2024/2025

The RFO had provided proposed charges to Cllrs showing a 3% increase. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Millar and therefore **RESOLVED**: to adopt the charges in the RFO's proposal. All in favour.

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

- To report on the revised SLA under discussion with NFDC

The RFO reported that a new SLA was being finalised by the NFDC following a meeting of the Town Council and NFDC officers.

- To approve the Christmas opening hours

The RFO reported that the Information Office would be closed on 25th and 27th December but open on 29th December in line with the NFDC's Christmas hours. Cllr Lewendon proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: to approve the proposed Christmas opening hours. All in favour.

8. To report any matters concerning footpaths

- Jobs for Lengthsman – 4th December 2023

No jobs identified.

- To reconsider the Proposed Diversion of Part of Fordingbridge Footpath 7

It was agreed that Cllr Hinton would draft correspondence to HCC seeking clarification of the current position and until this is obtained the Town Council's position remains the same.

9. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

- To consider allowing the Men's Shed to use the community plot

Cllrs were supportive of finding a location for the Avon Valley Shed. Cllr Millar proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Cameron and therefore RESOLVED: to make a recommendation to General Council to allow the Avon Valley Shed to use the community plot subject to checking the shed size and land title. All in favour

10. To discuss budget proposals for 2024/25 financial year and make a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee Meeting on the 29th November 2023

The RFO had circulated budget proposals to Cllrs. Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lewendon and therefore RESOLVED: to recommend the RFO's budget to the Finance & Policy Committee on 29th November subject to checking allowed the costs to put in new gates. All in favour.

11. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence.

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

Cllrs discussed moving the bus stop and accessibility to the existing bus stop and agreed Cllr Hinton would consider what planning permissions might be needed.

13. To note the date of the next meeting as 17th January 2024

The meeting finished at 9:29pm.