

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Fordwich Town Council
held on Wednesday 19 October 2011 at Fordwich Town Hall, Fordwich

The meeting commenced at 7.35pm

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Patrick Heren

102/11 Confirmation of Summons: It was confirmed that all Councillors had received their summons to attend this meeting and that the public notice had been served correctly.

103/11 Attendance and Apologies: Present Cllrs Patrick Heren, Andrea Russo, June Hardcastle, Roger Green and Philip Lewis and also County Cllr. Alan Marsh. Apologies received from City Cllr. Heather Taylor.

104/11 Declaration of Interests:

Cllr Heren declared a personal interest in relation to parking in King Street (item 115 on the Agenda) and a prejudicial interest in relation to proposed works to trees at Bridge House (item 113 on the Agenda) and also declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

Cllr Hardcastle declared a personal interest in property off Well Lane (item 113 on the Agenda) and parking in Stodmarsh Road (item 115 on the Agenda) and also declared her position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

Cllr. Green declared his role with Friends of Fordwich and District in matters relating to the Old School Room (item 110 on the agenda) and Moate Farm (item 113 on the Agenda) and also declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

Cllr. Lewis declared his position as a member of the JCC

105/11 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 28 September were considered. Cllr. Lewis proposed and Cllr. Green seconded a motion that the same be approved with an amendment to item 087/11 to refer to family and friends being invited to Scrooge (the pantomime). Motion carried.

106/11 Matters arising

Cllr. Heren reported that he had been in touch with the Bishop of Dover regarding the Civic Service and that the Bishop had suggested that Canon Rosemary Walters should take the Civic Service this year and also be the visiting preacher. Cllr. Hardcastle commented that the agreement reached with the Rector in 2009 had been that the Rector would take the Civic Service and the Town Council would suggest a visiting preacher for approval by the Rector.

The Clerk was due to liaise with PCSO Jodie Bryan regarding matters relating to the Christchurch sports ground

107/11 Police

PC Robin Macalpine-Downie and PCSO Christian Ward-Davies had apologised for being unable to attend the meeting.

108/11 City and County Councillors reports

County Cllr. Alan Marsh reported that

- maps of Fordwich could be made available. He produced copies of KentView which could be enlarged and also mentioned that highways maps

could be made available. However if the Town Council wanted copies of the Ordnance Survey maps he would be unable to arrange for them to be supplied and it would be up to the Town Council to approach Ordnance Survey. It was noted that the Town Council had to decide for what purpose the maps were required and where they would be displayed; in previous discussions mention had been made of large maps being displayed in the Undercroft.

- Kent Fire & Rescue had put forward proposals for the closure of Sturry fire station (which, if it happened, was likely to result in the land being sold for housing)

- the Boundary Commission had formulated proposals which would mean that Fordwich ceased to be a part of the Canterbury constituency and would move into a new constituency of Herne Bay. The proposals were due to take effect by 2015 although if there were to be an election before then he thought that the proposals were likely to be implemented in time for such an election. The proposals would not, of course, take Fordwich outside the area of the Canterbury City Council.

- Kent County Council had frozen its council tax for the third year

- he had signed off the grant money for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012

- if the concurrent function grant monies received from the City Council were less than the amount applied for then he would look to help on making up the shortfall.

City Cllr. Heather Taylor was not present to give a report.

109/11 Chairman's and Councillors reports

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by a benefactor who wanted to donate some badges for the Freeman and Freewomen of Fordwich and to this end had commissioned a set of medallions. The benefactor, who wished to remain anonymous, would like to present the badges to the Town Council and had expressed a wish that, subject to the badges being available, this should take place before the civic service on 7 November so that the badges could be worn by the Freeman and Freewomen at the civic service.

Cllr. Hardcastle commented that previous discussions on badges had been in relation to past mayors badges and there had been no discussion on the subject of badges for Freeman and Freewomen and expressed concern that the issue of past mayors badges was being overlooked.

Councillors considered the matter and in particular whether, if the badges were ready before the civic service, they should be given to the Freeman and Freewomen so that they could be worn at the civic service – on balance, Councillors (with the exception of Cllr. Hardcastle) were minded to agree to this course of action and to formally accept the gift of the badges at the next Town Council meeting.

Cllr. Green reported that progress was being made on the design of a lift for installation in the Town Hall.

Cllr. Hardcastle mentioned her concern (which was echoed by other Councillors) that the proposed closure of Sturry fire station would put at risk the old buildings in Fordwich and also make dealing with fires outside the centre of Fordwich more difficult .

The meeting was not adjourned for public participation as there were no members of the public present.

110/11 Finance

1) The following items were presented for payment :-

- a. the Clerk's salary for October (less tax): £212.90
- b. Clerk's Invoice no. 5 : £83.29
- c. SLCC (membership): £82.00
- d. EKS (stationery): £19.25
- e. Audit commission (audit fee): £144.00

The Clerk explained the various items on invoice no 5 and Cllr. Lewis proposed and Cllr. Hardcastle seconded a motion that all the above payments be authorised and paid. Motion carried

2) The Clerk reported the balances on the current, reserve and bonus saver accounts and provided reconciliations in respect of the same. The balances were £501.89 on the reserve account, £156.58 on the current account and £8,985.65 on the bonus saver account. Bank statements in respect of all bank accounts were sent to Cllr. Russo (and then passed to the Clerk) and he had not reported anything adverse.

3) In view of the expenditure which had been authorised and forthcoming expenditure Cllr. Heren proposed and Cllr. Green seconded a motion that £500 be transferred from the reserve account to the current account. Motion carried.

4) The Clerk reported that the application for a capital grant in respect of the Old School Room had to be made to the City Council by 14 December. Cllr. Green, in his capacity as chairman of Friends of Fordwich and District, stated that in order to successfully apply for such a grant it was necessary to be able to match fund the amount of the grant and he would therefore look into whether match funding was available and report further at the next Town Council meeting.

111/11 Clerk's Report & Correspondence

The Clerk reported on the following matters:

- the tree adjacent to the sub station at the end of Brooklands Close: he had not heard further from UK Power. Cllr. Russo reported that a local resident was worried about the state of tree and it was agreed that if she were to write to Councillors then her letter would be forwarded to UK Power as they had intimated that if there were objections/complaints about the state of tree, with particular reference to safety issues, then the works might be brought forward. It was agreed to ask Jean Wood (the widow of the late Dr Brian Wood) who had planted bulbs in the area by the notice board at the end of Brooklands Close originally to replant the bulbs. It was noted that a plan for planting the area had to be agreed
- he had attended the Parish Forum meeting on Saturday 8 October and the KALC meeting on 12 October (at which the speaker was Lyndon Gurr on rural broadband)
- the renovation of the notice board by the Town Hall: Cllr. Heren agreed to progress the execution of the repair works .
- Community Payback: despite having been promised that the community payback team would come to Fordwich to carry out the tidying up of the slipway and the area near to the telephone box opposite the George & Dragon they had not appeared and he was awaiting a new date from the City

Council.

- beacon: he was in touch with a company which might be able to assist in relation to the renovation of beacon and they would consider the position further when photographs had been supplied to them.
- Parish Forum meetings: he was awaiting a response as to whether Kent Police were proposing to reinstate them
- proposed closure of Sturry fire station: consultation on the proposals ended on 16 January 2012
- PAT testing of the Christmas tree lights : Cllr. Green agreed to look into finding an electrician to carry out the PAT testing
- litter: SERCO had advised that the manual road sweeper came to Fordwich each week and was due to sweep all roads (not just to Fordwich bridge) and the road sweeping machine came every fortnight. SERCO did not carry out any works to the cycle path beside the River Stour. Cleaning of the roads could be specifically requested – SERCO responded to demands to deal with problems. Kent County Council were responsible for clearing weeds. Councillors commented that they were not happy with the state of the roads and footpaths.

113/11 Planning

- 1) There were no planning applications to consider. Cllr. Heren withdrew from discussion on an application to carry out works to trees at Bridge House, King Street, Fordwich (to fell one acer tree in the rear garden which was stated to be blocking light and growing between overhead cables). Cllr. Hardcastle proposed and Cllr. Green seconded a motion that no objection be raised to the same. Motion carried.
- 2) The Clerk reported that a reply from the enforcement team at the City Council in relation to Sandpit Wood, Well Lane had been promised at the end of August but had still not materialised.
- 3) The Clerk reported on the City Council's Rural Settlement Hierarchy Study and in particular the profile of Fordwich. Councillors noted several inaccuracies in the profile and the Clerk was requested to advise the City Council accordingly.

114/11 Highways and Footpaths

The Clerk reported that the yellow lines adjacent to the Christchurch sports ground had finally been reinstated
Cllr. Green raised the possibility of installing rising bollards in order to prevent vehicles exceeding the permitted width from using Fordwich bridge and offered to present formal proposals in respect of the same at the next Town Council meeting.

115/11 Parking

Councillors agreed to look into the issues and possible solutions and to consider further the matter of public consultation. Cllr. Green agreed to take up with the Allotment Association the possibility of land being taken out of use as allotments.

116/11 Website

Cllr. Heren had circulated a report relating to the website and it was agreed that it would be considered the next Town Council meeting.

117/11 Boundary Commission Proposals

This matter was deferred to the next meeting

118/11 Newsletter

This matter was deferred to the next meeting

119/11 Civic Service & Ceremonial

Cllr. Heren reported on the arrangements for the civic service on Sunday 7 November.

The Clerk reported that he had heard from the Churches Conservation trust that it was now their policy that the civic service collection should not be split between the JCC and the Churches Conservation Trust but paid to the Churches Conservation Trust in its entirety. Councillors expressed concern at the change in policy and Cllr. Hardcastle reported that she recollected that when the church passed into the care of the Churches Conservation Trust one of the matters agreed at the time was that the collection at the civic service should always be split between the JCC and the Churches Conservation Trust. The Clerk was asked to write to the Churches Conservation Trust with Councillors comments.

120/1 Diamond Jubilee

Discussion took place with regard to arrangements for organising the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and it was agreed that Cllr. Russo would consider possible events in connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and co-ordinate the arrangements for events agreed by the Town Council in connection with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

121/11 Notice Boards and History Board

This matter was deferred to the next meeting

122/11 Date of forthcoming meeting

It was agreed that the next ordinary Town Council meeting would be held on Wednesday 30 November in the Undercroft (of the Town Hall) commencing at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm