

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Fordwich Town Council
held on Wednesday 28 September 2011 at Fordwich Town Hall, Fordwich

The meeting commenced at 7.35pm

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Patrick Heren

081/11 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.

082/11 Attendance and Apologies: Present Cllrs Patrick Heren, June Hardcastle, Roger Green and Philip Lewis and County Cllr. Alan Marsh and City Cllr. Heather Taylor. Apologies received from Cllr. Andrea Russo.

083/11 Declaration of Interests:

Cllr Heren declared a personal interest in relation to parking in King Street (item 94 on the Agenda) and a prejudicial interest in relation to proposed works to trees at Watergate House (item 91 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 91 on the Agenda) and parking in Stodmarsh Road (item 94 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 89 on the Agenda) and Moate Farm (item 91 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

084/1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 4 August were considered. Cllr. Green proposed and Cllr. Heren seconded a motion that the same be approved with the amendment of a typographical error in relation to item 61/11. Motion carried.

085/11 Matters arising

There were no matters arising

086/11 Police

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

Cllr. Hardcastle reported that she had witnessed a car travelling the wrong way down the top section of well Lane (which was one way) and would give the registration number to the Clerk so that he could pass it on to PC Robin McAlpine-Downie (but for information purposes only). Cllr. Hardcastle asked for details of the PCSO with special responsibility for Christchurch.

Cllr. Lewis reported that two calls had been made to the Police over the preceding weekend in relation to a party held at a property in the centre of Fordwich but there had been no response from the Police.

087/11 City and County Councillors reports

County Cllr. Alan Marsh reported that

- the funding for the proposed new signage in relation to the width of vehicles using Fordwich bridge had been signed off and that the signage was now in the highways programme

– he had allocated £600 for Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Fordwich. This money was to be used to fund part of the cost of celebrations organised by the Town Council and the grant application pack should be received by the Clerk shortly

– a production of Scrooge (the pantomime) was taking place in Broadstairs before Christmas and free tickets were available. Councillors were asked to ascertain if any Fordwich residents (including family and friends) would be interested in attending.

County Cllr Alan Marsh asked to be advised if there were to be a shortfall in the concurrent function grant funding.

City Cllr Taylor reported that she had been chasing the City Council to reinstate the yellow lines in Stodmarsh Road adjacent to the Christchurch sports ground. City Cllr Taylor gave details of the event to commemorate the Sturry Bombing 70th anniversary and stated that she would request Sturry PC to send an invitation to attend the celebrations. Councillors asked her to press Kent Highways for installation of the proposed signage in relation to the width of vehicles using Fordwich bridge as soon as possible.

088/11 Chairman's and Councillors reports

The Chairman reported that he had arranged for the meeting to be held in the Undercroft (of the Town Hall) as he was confined to a wheelchair following a recent operation but hoped to be able to move around without using a wheelchair after 1 November.

Cllr. Green reported that lead had been stolen from the roof at the back of the Town Hall. The theft had revealed that some of the timbers were rotten and the extent of the necessary repairs had to be investigated. The matter would be further considered by Fordwich United Charities at its meeting on 12 October when they would also consider a request by the Harbourmaster at Sandwich to park a boat on the public quay at Fordwich.

Cllr. Hardcastle reported that the slipway adjacent to the bridge was in a dangerous state and that there had been concern over the extent of the reeds in the river; Cllr Lewis reported that a cut of the reeds had just taken place

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation

The Chairman reconvened the meeting

089/11 Finance

1) The following items were presented for payment :-

- a. the Clerk's salary for September (less tax): £212.90
- b. Clerk's Invoice no. 4 : £46.10
- c. HMRC (PAYE) : £159.67
- d. KALC (Finance course – 7 October) : £72.00

Cllr. Heren proposed and Cllr. Green 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 £1001.89 on the reserve account, £75.25 on the current account and £8,959.69 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 he had been advised by Cllr. Green (on behalf of Friends of Fordwich & District) that the amount to be included in the concurrent function grant application for 2012/2013 in respect of the Old School Room for the inspection/maintenance of the fire alarm and fire extinguishers should be £60. Accordingly the concurrent function grant application had been completed including this amount and the other amounts authorised at the meeting on 4 August and submitted to the City Council. Cllr. Heren proposed and Cllr. Hardcastle seconded a motion ratifying the concurrent function grant as submitted; Cllr. Green withdrew from discussion on this matter. Motion carried.

090/11 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 been in touch with UK Power who had inspected the tree and an estimate for works to the tree had been submitted but due to financial constraints the work might be deferred until after 1 April 2012. However, if the tree became dangerous or there were objections/complaints about the state of tree, with particular reference to safety issues, then the works might be brought forward. Cllr. Lewis commented that he did not feel that the tree was currently dangerous but would monitor the position.

It was noted that the bulbs had to be replanted and a planting plan of the area by the notice board at the end of Brooklands Close had to be agreed

- he would attend the Parish Forum meeting on Saturday 8 October and the KALC meeting on 12 October (at which the speaker would be 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: the community payback team had not come to Fordwich to carry out the tidying up of the slipway and the area near to the telephone box opposite the George & Dragon but he understood that the work should now be carried out over the forthcoming weekend

- beacon: he was in touch with a company which might be able to assist in relation to the renovation of beacon and was currently awaiting a response from them. He had received a communication indicating that the Lord Lieutenant was looking to organise lighting of the beacons in Kent in connection with the diamond jubilee celebrations next year

- maps of Fordwich: County Cllr. Alan Marsh indicated that he might be able to obtain some large maps (measuring 6' by 3') and discussion ensued as to where they could be placed – one possible location was the Undercroft. The alternative was to purchase large scale ordnance survey maps but these were likely to be expensive.

091/11 Planning

1) There were no planning applications to consider. Cllr. Heren withdrew from discussion on an application to carry out works to trees at Watergate House,

King Street, Fordwich as set out in a letter from Canterbury City Council dated 1 September. Cllr. Hardcastle proposed and Cllr. Lewis 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 not materialised.

3) Cllr. Hardcastle reported that it was not clear what had replaced the caravan at Moate Farm which had been burnt out earlier in the year and that she would endeavour to ascertain the position.

4) The Clerk also reported that planning permission and listed building consent had been granted in relation to the use of the garage at Walnut Tree Cottage, King Street, Fordwich as a studio/annexe. Conditions had been imposed that it should only be used as additional living accommodation within the existing dwelling unit and not be used as a separate unit of accommodation and also that it should only be used for private use by the occupiers of Walnut Tree Cottage.

092/11 Highways and Footpaths

The Clerk reported that he had also been chasing the City Council regarding the reinstatement of the yellow lines adjacent to the Christchurch sports ground and been advised by the City Council that the yellow lines should be reinstated on 4 October

Cllr. Lewis reported that the two-way sign at the bottom of Well Lane and also the Well Lane name sign on the left-hand side of the bottom Well Lane had been damaged by a lorry.

Cllr. Hardcastle reported that the 30 mph speed sign on the left hand side at the top of Moat Lane had been knocked down.

093/11 Litter

Councillors discussed the position with regard to the clearing of litter and street cleaning generally in Fordwich and noted, in particular, that Well Lane and the cycle track by the river (and the adjoining area) were in need of cleaning and tidying. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the City Council and SERCO with regard to such matters

094/11 Parking

The parking problems in Fordwich, in particular the area in the centre of Fordwich and the area close to the Christchurch sports ground in Stodmarsh Road were considered by Councillors.

A draft letter to the Principal of Christchurch was agreed subject to the inclusion of a request for a fixture list and mention of obstruction of the footpath crossing the sports ground but the letter was not to be sent until the yellow lines in Stodmarsh Road adjacent to the sports field had been reinstated. Cllr. Hardcastle withdrew from discussion on this matter.

Various options with a view to improving the car parking position in the centre of Fordwich were considered and it was agreed that a draft agenda for a possible public meeting on the subject would be prepared and considered at the next Town Council meeting.

095/11 Newsletter

There was general discussion concerning this matter and how to keep local residents informed. City Cllr. Taylor had suggested including matters of note in the column in the local paper and Cllr. Green mentioned that at Petham

there was a magazine which included parish council matters. Cllr. Heren agreed to consider the options.

096/11 Website

Cllr. Heren agreed to look into progressing the development of the website.

097/11 Civic Service & Ceremonial

Cllr. Heren reported that he was waiting to hear from the Bishop of Dover with regard to the person who would conduct the Civic service. The Clerk was asked to circulate Councillors with copies of the agreement reached in 2009 between the Rector and the Town Council with regard to the Civic service and to check whether the Rector had stated that he would be available to conduct the Civic service.

098/11 Diamond Jubilee

Cllr. Hardcastle offered to co-ordinate the arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

099/11 Sturry Bombing 70th Anniversary

This matter was dealt with by City Cllr. Taylor in her report

0100/11 Notice Boards and History Board

This matter was deferred for consideration at a future meeting

0101/11 Date of forthcoming meeting

It was agreed that the next ordinary Town Council meeting would be held on Wednesday 19 October in the Undercroft (of the Town Hall) commencing at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm