

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2013.

Present: Councillors Patrick Heren (chair), Philip Lewis, Roger Green, June Hardcastle, Val Clark. Guy Foster (clerk). In attendance: four members of the public.

128/13. Apologies

Alan Marsh of KCC had sent apologies.

129/13 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on October 30th were approved as tabled.

130/13 Matters arising

Cllr Lewis queried whether we would be sending a donation to Canon Rosemary Waters in respect of the civic service. This was considered later in the meeting.

131/13 Declarations of interest

Cllr Heren declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

Cllr Green declared his role with Friends of Fordwich and District and also declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.

Cllr Hardcastle declared her position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities and as a member of the Littlebourne and Stodmarsh Road Community Association.

Cllr Clark declared her position as a custodian of the town hall.

At this juncture the meeting was adjourned to allow comments from members of the public. The following matters were raised:

- An HGV had collided with the Manor House and caused significant damage. This highlighted once again the problems associated with large vehicles in the town. More substantial bollards were needed. The clerk agreed to write to CCC and KCC and raise this issue as a matter of urgency, suggesting a meeting.
- A drain in King Street is blocked. It was suggested that the most effective way of dealing with this sort of thing is for residents to report the matter directly to KCC.
- A resident's car has been vandalised. An extension to the town hall CCTV system was suggested but the resident is installing their own CCTV arrangement.

- It was reported that posting of minutes on the web-site was not up to date. This will be mentioned to the person who handles the updating. It was also queried whether agendas should be posted but the clerk pointed out that the short period between publication of agendas and meeting dates meant this was probably not practical.

132/13 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.

No one from KCC or CCC was present.

133/13 To consider reports from police representatives.

No police representatives were present.

138/13 To receive the chairman and councillors' reports.

Cllr Heren reported the passing of Mr Terry Pickford. It was agreed to write a letter of condolence to his widow (Cllr Heren to draft, clerk to send).

Thanks were recorded for Canon Walters' handling of the civic service. It was resolved that Cllr Heren would send her a gift token to be funded out of the chairman's allowance budget.

134/13 Canoe Wild operations: to consider any FTC actions

Cllr Green reported that he has met the Canoe Wild proprietor who is talking to Brett's about using a location within their site and also to the George and Dragon with a view to using their car park, both of which proposals would be positive from FTC's point of view.

135/13 To review the version of the Code of Conduct adopted by FTC.

Cllr Heren reported that he had spoken to a KALC representative who had confirmed that, contrary to previous indications, using the NALC version was not a problem. The meeting expressed no desire to adopt a different version and Cllr Heren undertook to feed this back to KALC and to draw a line under the matter.

136/13 To review FTC's role in the Fordwich Twinning Association.

Cllr Lewis reported that a new chair and secretary had been appointed at the recent AGM. He felt this might lead to an increase in twinning activity. A Twinning Association page on the web-site was suggested and Cllr Heren said he would talk to

the IT contractor. The possibility of an FTC donation to the Twinning Association was also raised.

137/13 To consider arrangements for future civic services

Cllr Heren had circulated a paper on this topic. Various points were raised by members and it was agreed these should be fed back directly to Cllr Heren who would review them and produce a revised draft.

138/13 To receive the chairman and councillors' reports.

Cllr Green reported that Grenville Hancox has offered Fordwich December 22nd as a date for a Christmas concert by the Canterbury Cantata choir. Discussion ensued as to the problem of heating the church.

Cllr Lewis reported that the path to the river by the church, which had been deliberately blocked, had been cleared by person or persons unknown.

Cllr Clark raised the matter of an FTC newsletter. Cllr Green said he was happy to help with deliveries; Cllr Clark said she also had other volunteers for this and it was agreed that delivery by email would be a good idea, where possible. It was agreed to work towards producing something by the end of January.

Cllr Hardcastle reported continuing concerns as to possible breaches of planning permission at Moate Farm. The clerk undertook to try check planning details on-line.

139/13 Finance

The Clerk reported the cash book balances as:

Current account: £7,060.87
Bonus saver account: £3,916.58

The bank statement had yet to be received.

The following items were approved for payment:

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| • Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for November | £323.69 |
| • Fiona Cadwalleder (civic service flowers) | £90.00 |
| • Broad Oak Colour (order of civic service printing) | £85.00 |
| • CCC (election costs) | £51.03 |
| • Clerk's salary (net of tax) and estimated expenses for December (cheque post-dated to 31 st December) | £289.89 |

Changes to bank mandate

It was resolved that, for all accounts, the signing rules in the current mandate remain unchanged and that the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for all accounts, be changed in accordance with Section 5 of the Natwest form, the effect being to remove Mr Andrea Russo and to add Mrs Valerie Clark.

Christmas tree purchase

It was resolved to set a limit of £120 for this but that Cllr Clark would try to source a tree at a lower price if possible. It was noted that the lights should ideally be PAT tested; an appropriate local contractor was identified and it was resolved to ask him to do this testing. Cllr Lewis agreed to be responsible for the lights.

2014/15 budget and precept

The clerk had circulated a draft budget with a recommendation that the funding requirement for next year be maintained at the same level as the current year (i.e. £6,785). It was resolved to accept this recommendation.

There was some discussion about sandbags and the clerk undertook to contact the relevant authority about this.

140/13 Clerk's report and correspondence

The only correspondence of note was from the water authorities about future plans and National Grid with an update on their Richborough Connection project. The latter confirmed the northern corridor, which does not affect Fordwich, as their favoured route.

141/13 Planning

Application CA//13/01912/FUL (Willow End, the Drove): no objections.

142/13 Highways and footpaths

Cllr Clark thought that the roads and pavements in the town could do with a good sweep. The clerk undertook to contact the appropriate parties.

The Clerk was also asked to contact the owners of Walnut Court to ask them to cut back their prickly hedge which was obstructing the pavement.

143/13 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as January 29th 2014.

The meeting concluded at 9.48 p.m.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

November 25th 2013.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____