

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2013.

Present: Councillors Patrick Heren (chair), Andrea Russo, June Hardcastle, Roger Green, Philip Lewis. Guy Foster (clerk). In attendance: Jo White (PCSO), Alan Marsh (KCC) and one member of the public.

29/13. Apologies

None.

30/13 Minutes of the previous meeting

These were agreed subject to a change requested by Cllr Hardcastle to record the reluctance of residents to put their names to public complaints of a planning nature.

31/13 Matters arising

Cllr Lewis conveyed the thanks of the Churches Conservation Trust for FTC's donation.

32/13 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, due to its location, an interest in planning application CA/13/00398/FUL.
Cllr. Lewis declared his position as a member of the JCC.

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

It was noted that a large lorry had tried to negotiate Fordwich. This was apparently a Brett's lorry. It was also noted that there was some unsightly debris associated with ditch clearance by Bretts. It was agreed to write to Bretts on these issues.

The web-site appeared not to be completely up to date. Cllr Heren agreed to have a look at this.

33/13 To receive reports from CCC and KCC representatives.

No CCC representative was present. For KCC, Mr Marsh reported:

There was a proposal by CCC for yellow lines towards the Sturry end of Fordwich Rd. Mr Marsh solicited FTC's views on this. FTC members agreed have a look at the area so that a response could be forwarded to Mr Marsh.

The traffic experiment at Westgate Towers was to be abandoned, pending the consideration of alternatives.

34/13 To receive reports from police representatives.

PCSO Jo White reported no particular issues in Fordwich but a general increase in thefts of metal (including bikes) and diesel fuel. Residents were advised to be vigilant.

Cllr Hardcastle noted a recent burglary at Trenley Park Liveries.

35/13 To consider arrangements for the annual Town Meeting.

The date of May 2nd was agreed. Cllr Heren had arranged for noted constitutional historian Peter Hennessy (more formally known as Lord Nympsfield) to speak. Cllr Heren suggested the Chairman's Allowance budget could be used to pay for refreshments. Cllr Russo had already started inviting various people and had around twelve acceptances to date. With a capacity of only forty, admission by invitation/ticket only would have to be considered.

36/13 To receive councillors' reports

Cllr Russo suggested that incidents of over-sized lorries in the town should be reported to the Clerk. In this connection it was suggested that the Clerk write to Alan Marsh of KCC to see if a sign directing lorries to Brett's site could be erected.

Cllr Hardcastle noted the recent announcement by KCC of investment in improved internet connections and hoped that this would benefit her household. She also reported an involvement in an "A257 group" who were lobbying for lorry reductions on this road. She hoped there might be some benefit for Fordwich here.

Cllr Hardcastle passed on concerns from residents at the number of dwellings at Moate Farm and the size and use of a building at Romany Green Acres. The Clerk was asked to convey these concerns to CCC.

37/13 Finance

The cash book balances were reported as:

Current account: £4,449.98

Bonus saver account: £3,885.99

The current account bank balance was £50 higher, being the unrepresented Churches Conservation Trust cheque.

The following payments were approved: Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for March £241.19; HMRC (PAYE for Jan/Feb/March) £152.46; Ede and Ravenscroft (Mayoral robe) £2,040.00 (inc VAT)

It was noted that Cllr Heren had generously agreed to donate £950 towards the cost of the robe, which had arrived and which Cllr Heren displayed to general approval. It was noted that the insurance register should be updated to include the robe.

The Clerk reported that Fordwich was entitled to £248 of "open space" funding. It was agreed to designate this as being in respect of the Old School House garden, as well as the trees and planters purchased at the time of the jubilee celebrations. Clerk to invoice CCC accordingly.

Further to discussions at a previous meeting, it was resolved to amend the hours in the Clerks' contract to 27, with effect from April 1st.

38/13 Clerk's report and correspondence

This had all been dealt with under other agenda items.

39/13 Planning

Applications:

CA//13/00398/FUL (Little Acorns): no objections.

Noted:

The refusal of CA/13/00120/LB (George and Dragon). It was felt that FTC should write to CCC supporting the preservation of the riverside building. Cllr Heren agreed to draft a letter.

40/13 Highways and footpaths

It was noted that FTC was due a report from the KCC undergrowth clearance team and that blocked drains still needed to be cleared. The need to clear the drifting verge at the bottom end of Moat Lane was also noted and the Clerk was asked to write to Alan Marsh about these matters.

41/13 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on April 24th at 7.30 pm in the town hall.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

April 3rd 2013.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____