

# **FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013.**

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

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### **112/13. Apologies**

None received.

### **113/13 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on August 5<sup>th</sup> were approved as tabled. Likewise the revised minutes of the meeting held on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **114/13 Matters arising**

None.

### **115/13 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 Lewis declared his position as a member of the JCC.

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

One of the "no lorry" signs had been twisted round. It was hoped it was a simple matter of twisting it back again.

KCC was praised for a prompt response to the drain clearance issue.

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### **116/13 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.**

No one from KCC or CCC was present.

**117/13 To consider reports from police representatives.**

No police representatives were present.

**120/13 To consider the matter of the forthcoming FTC election.**

Cllr Heren reported that as only one candidate, Mrs Valerie Clark, had been nominated, she had been elected unopposed. Being present, she was therefore welcomed to the meeting although as she had not been summonsed she was not eligible to vote at this meeting.

Cllr Heren asked Cllr Hardcastle whether, as the election petition had been presented by her neighbour Mrs Lewis and the requisite number of signatures gathered by her gardener Mr Epsom, she was able to throw any light on the circumstances of the calling of the election. Cllr Hardcastle said she knew nothing of the matter.

**118/13 Civic service: to consider arrangements**

Cllr Heren reported that Canon Rosemary Walters would lead the service and the Sheriff of Canterbury would read a lesson.

Quotes of £225 for tea at the Fordwich Arms and £90 for flowers by Fiona Cadwallader were approved, with Cllr Hardcastle voting against the flowers item.

Cllr Hardcastle said that there were a number of errors on the guest list. After discussion, it was agreed that it was really too late in the day to consider the matter and correct any such errors for the service to be held in four days time but that the list should be reviewed well in time for next year's service.

**119/13 Canoe Wild operations: to consider any FTC actions**

There was general agreement that the location being used by Canoe Wild was not ideal. Cllr Green undertook to speak to the Canoe Wild proprietor.

**121/13 To review the version of the Code of Conduct adopted by FTC.**

Cllr Heren reminded the meeting that the NALC version had been adopted. Cllr Heren felt this version superior to the Kent version as it was shorter and seemed more appropriate for a small authority. After discussion, Cllr Heren agreed to speak to Ray Evison at KALC and the matter would be reviewed again at a subsequent meeting.

**122/13 To receive the Chairman's and Councillors' reports.**

Cllr Heren

- He congratulated Cllr Clark on her election.
- The owners of Westfield have offered to donate a small piece of land for use as a car park for two cars. The detail of this would be looked into when the owners returned from abroad.
- One of the jubilee trees has now been replaced.
- A meeting has been held with various parties concerning the installation of a lift at the town hall. Feedback is awaited from English Heritage.

Cllr Green reported that Viridor had visited the Old School House and the town hall in their capacity as granters of funding and declared themselves happy. More funding was potentially available from this source.

Cllr Green congratulated KCC on the repairs to the Sturry Road surface and it was agreed to communicate this to Alan Marsh of KCC.

Cllr Lewis noted that KCC had undertaken to clear the ditch by the George and Dragon car park as well as the footpath at the top of the High Street towards the Plantation but this had yet to be done.

Cllr Lewis reported on a successful Twinning Association bridge match.

Cllr Hardcastle reported that the Twinning Association has been very quiet recently. It was agreed to examine FTC's input into the Twinning Association at the next FTC meeting.

Cllr Hardcastle noted that the dog mess situation was worsening. More bins might help.

Cllr Hardcastle reported residents' concerns over the number of mobile homes at Moate Farm but Cllr Green noted that a recent Google satellite photograph had confirmed numbers as being in line with planning permission.

Cllr Hardcastle noted the problem of speeding traffic in Moat Lane. The matter needed raising again with KCC.

### **123/13 Finance**

The Clerk reported the cash book and bank balances as:

Current account: £7,621.35  
 Bonus saver account: £3,916.58

The following items were approved for payment:

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| • Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for July | £335.49 |
| • Fordwich Arms – civic service tea                 | £225.00 |

The clerk confirmed that he would make arrangements to revise the bank mandate to reflect the recent changes in FTC membership.

Cllr Hardcastle raised the matter of internal control over finance. Cllr Heren said he would talk to Andre Russo to refresh his memory as to the issues. The clerk suggested the simplest added control measure was for him to bring bank statements to meetings so they could be checked.

**124/13 Clerk's report and correspondence**

There was nothing of substance to report which was not covered elsewhere in the meeting.

**125/13 Planning**

The approval of application CA//13/01579/CAC was noted.

There were no objections to the proposed tree works at the George and Dragon and at Willow End. In respect of the former, the clerk was asked to write to the pub suggesting the planting of indigenous trees, perhaps willows.

**126/13 Highways and footpaths**

There was no further discussion of this topic.

**127/13 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm in the town hall. This is a change from the original timetable.

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The meeting concluded at 9.12 p.m.

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Fordwich Town Council*

November 5<sup>th</sup> 2013.

Signed as a true record \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_