

# **FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014.**

Present: Councillors Patrick Heren (chair), Philip Lewis, Roger Green, June Hardcastle. Guy Foster (clerk). In attendance: PCSO Jo White, Alan Marsh (KCC), Heather Taylor (CCC) and seven members of the public.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **68/14. Apologies**

Cllr Val Clark had sent apologies.

### **69/14 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on May 21<sup>st</sup> were approved and signed with one amendment requested by Cllr Hardcastle which was to qualify her declared interest in respect of item 65/14 as a “perceived pecuniary” interest.

### **70/14 Matters arising**

Cllr Hardcastle commented that the theft of geese reported under item 61/14 was perhaps more serious than it appeared from the minutes.

### **71/14 Declarations of interest**

Cllr Heren declared his interest as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.  
Cllr Lewis declared his position as a custodian of Fordwich church.  
Cllr Green declared his role with Friends of Fordwich and District and also declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities.  
Cllr Clark declared her position as a custodian of the town hall.  
Cllr Hardcastle declared her position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities and as a member of (and a member of the working group of) the Littlebourne and Stodmarsh Road Community Association. She also declared a perceived pecuniary interest in respect of the matter dealt with under item 78/14.

\*\*\*\*\*

At this juncture the meeting was adjourned to allow comments from members of the public. No matters were raised:

\*\*\*\*\*

### **72/14 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.**

For KCC, Alan Marsh reported:

- 20 mph speed limits were of limited value due to lack of police enforcement. Reducing speed limits was generally difficult to achieve administratively and often of little worth.
- Pot holes: KCC had more money available. Candidates for repair to be reported to KCC and/or Alan.

- Canterbury Plan: approval might be delayed due to issues around KCC approval of the transport strategy, which had yet to be given.
- Mr Marsh is working on plans to save Manston Airport and remains hopeful.

For CCC, Heather Taylor said that with the Chairman's permission, she would comment later in the meeting.

### **73/14 To consider reports from police representatives**

PCSO White reported 5 local thefts/break-ins in recent months. She clarified that the "unsuitable for HGVs" signs were not legally enforceable.

She said it was now too late to take action in respect of the stolen geese. In connection with this, Cllr Hardcastle reported individuals wandering around in the woods behind Stodmarsh Rd properties at night. PCSO White's advice was to call the police on 101.

### **74/14 To consider the appointment of new Freemen of Fordwich**

Cllr Heren proposed to defer this item to a meeting when all councillors were present.

### **75/14 To receive the chairman and councillors' reports.**

Cllr Heren reported that he had attended functions at Brightlingsea and Sandwich and a function hosted by the Bishop of Dover for local mayors. He also reported on the meeting with Tim Middleton of KCC Highways earlier in the day. "Lorry watch" signs had now gone up in the town and residents were urged to report over-sized lorries to KCC. After 3 reports, miscreants would receive a stern letter from KCC. The clerk was asked to check with our insurers that volunteers in suitable "high viz" jackets would be covered by our insurance.

Cllr Green reported that Friends of Fordwich had been successful in their Viridor grant application so the plastering in the Old School Room could now be completed.

Cllr Heren reported that the British Heart Foundation were keen to train a whole town in CPR techniques and Fordwich was under consideration for this initiative.

Cllr Lewis had been surprised to be advised by CCC that planning permission was not required for the installation of uPVC windows in a conservation area. The clerk was asked to seek clarification on this and also as to the rules regarding tree surgery in conservation areas.

Cllr Hardcastle reported potential planning enforcement issues at various locations. She also noted that a planning application for 18 new properties on land at Polo Farm had been approved. She noted that in approving this, CCC

had set aside planning policies; the process had been deemed an “enabling” one and that Heather Taylor was the only one to vote against.

### **78/14 Planning**

The approval of applications CA//14/00858/FUL and CA//14/00855/FUL was noted.

Discussion then turned to Moate Farm. Cllr Hardcastle, having declared a perceived pecuniary interest, left the meeting for this item.

Heather Taylor informed the meeting that she was now a member of the CCC planning enforcement committee and was taking a keen interest in this case. She reported that a retrospective planning application had been received in respect of Moate Farm. This was in the process of being validated.

Mr Heren reported that he had contacted the Environment Agency with concerns about materials used to construct the bund. The EA officer had visited but pronounced himself satisfied. Evidence would need to be provided that materials were brought in from outside the site for further action to be taken by the EA.

Heather Taylor asked for people to send her photographs and said that she was now chair of the CCC licensing committee which might be relevant.

On a separate matter, Ms Taylor reported there had been a number of break-ins in Sturry recently so people should be vigilant and take the usual precautions. Also, watch out for someone driving a noisy “monkey bike”.

### **76/14 Finance**

The Clerk reported the cash book and bank balances as:

Current account: £15,126.49  
Bonus saver account: £3,937.10

The current account bank statement was checked and signed by the Chairman.

The following items were unanimously approved for payment:

- Clerk’s salary (net of tax) and expenses for June £297.69
- Aire sur la Lys twinning event – refreshments £165.00
- HMRC – PAYE April to June £188.80

The clerk reported that the annual return for 2013/14 had been sent to the external auditors.

Cllr Hardcastle said she would like to attend the KALC conference and the cost of this was unanimously approved.

**77/14 Clerk's report and correspondence**

There was nothing further to report at this juncture.

**79/14 Highways and Footpaths**

Cllr Lewis felt KCC should be chased as to the timing of the planned works at the corner of King St/High St. The latest information was that it was planned for August and someone had been seen recently taking measurements at the site.

A serious pot-hole was noted in Spring Lane and similarly, crumbling road edges in Moat Lane.

**80/14 Date of the next meeting**

This was confirmed as 30<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30 pm. Cllr Lewis apologised that he would be unable to attend.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Fordwich Town Council*  
July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_