

# **FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014.**

Present: Councillors Philip Lewis (chair), Roger Green, Val Clark, June Hardcastle. Guy Foster (clerk). In attendance: Alan Marsh (KCC) and seven members of the public.

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### **18/14. Apologies**

Cllr Heren had sent apologies: he was abroad on holiday.

### **19/14 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on January 29<sup>th</sup> were approved with one amendment, to note the receipt of apologies from Cllr Hardcastle.

### **20/14 Matters arising**

Cllr Lewis referred to the missing lamp post and thought it ought to be reinstated. The Clerk reported that he had been in contact with KCC but the decision on reinstatement apparently rested with CCC. He would chase CCC about this. Alan Marsh undertook to speak to KCC.

Cllr Hardcastle noted potholes in Moat Lane and Well Lane and Cllr Lewis noted that some pot holes in King Street had recently been filled. Alan Marsh undertook to visit with a KCC engineer to review the pot hole and lamp post situation.

### **21/14 Declarations of interest**

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 the Littlebourne and Stodmarsh Road Community Association.

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

- Sandbags: these are looking messy but further flooding remained a possibility. Cllr Lewis reported that a suitable storage space was to be made available in the churchyard.
- King Street pavement: the paving stones are uneven in places and the path is partly blocked by a tree. The member of the public was asked to supply details of the house to which the tree belonged, notably the agents who are apparently advertising the property to let.
- Ownership of the Drove was queried, this road being in a very bad state of repair. No definitive answer to this query could be given.

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### **22/14 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.**

No one from CCC was present. For KCC, Mr Marsh reported that KCC had been very busy attending to flooding problems and other issues had to be prioritised in light of this.

Cllr Hardcastle referred to the continuing problem of HGVs coming through Fordwich and was under the impression that regulations were about to change which would allow even larger/heavier lorries to use the roads. Mr Marsh suggested writing to our MEP about this.

Cllr Hardcastle also referred to various civic functions that she had attended and voiced the view that FTC members should attend more such functions.

### **23/14 To consider reports from police representatives.**

No police representatives were present.

### **24/14 To consider making a donation to Fordwich Twinning Association**

Cllr Lewis reported an event was planned for 17<sup>th</sup> May when FTC's involvement would be welcome. After discussion, it was resolved unanimously to make a donation of £100 to the twinning association and to spend up to £100 on refreshments for this event.

### **25/14 To receive the chairman and councillors' reports.**

Cllr Lewis reported an occurrence of fly tipping in Moat Lane. The correct action in such circumstances, he now knew, was to report the matter immediately to SERCO.

Cllr Lewis noted that 4<sup>th</sup> August was the date for acts of memorial in respect of WWI and the intention was to hold such an act in the church.

Cllr Green noted that works had taken place at Moate Farm which appeared to extend the caravan site beyond the bund. A letter from CCC was passed by a member of the public. In the letter, CCC said that they intended to ask the owners of Moate Farm to apply for planning permission for the bund.

Cllr Clark noted that no reply had been received from the owners of Walnut Court to the letter asking them to trim their hedge. It was resolved to write to them again, reminding them of the possibility of action by KCC which could lead to the property owners being billed for the work.

Cllr Clark reported that the litter situation was better but not perfect. She also thought that the speed humps needed repainting.

On the subject of traffic, Cllr Clark thought the problem of over-sized vehicles needed to be addressed jointly by FTC/CCC/KCC. She also noted the problem of obstruction caused by delivery lorries at the George and Dragon.

### **26/14 Finance**

The Clerk reported the cash book and bank balances as:

Current account: £5,719.57  
Bonus saver account: £3,926.94

The following items were approved for payment:

- Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for February £318.59
- HMRC (PAYE for October – December) £188.97

The Clerk noted that he had been advised that a grant of £4,794 had been awarded by KCC towards the cost of a town hall lift.

### **27/14 Clerk's report and correspondence**

The Clerk referred to the lamp post issue which had already been discussed. There were no other matters to be brought the members' attention at this point.

### **28/13 Planning**

There were no new applications to be considered nor decisions to be noted.

### **29/14 Highways and Footpaths**

Referring to previous discussions of traffic problems, Cllr Green voiced the opinion that physical barriers were needed to stop large lorries coming through the town.

### **30/14 Date of the next meeting**

This was confirmed as 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm.

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The meeting concluded at 9.00 p.m.

### **Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Fordwich Town Council*  
March 4<sup>th</sup> 2014.

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

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Position \_\_\_\_\_