

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2014.

Present: Councillors Patrick Heren (chair), Philip Lewis, Val Clark, Roger Green, June Hardcastle. Guy Foster (clerk).

120/14 Apologies

Heather Taylor of CCC had sent apologies; she had a prior commitment.

121/14 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th October were approved with one amendment to note Cllr Hardcastle's conflict of interest in respect of Moate Farm.

122/14 Matters arising

None.

123/14 Declarations of interest

Cllr Heren 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 and a perceived pecuniary interest in respect of Moate Farm.

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

124/14 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.

No CCC or KCC representatives were present.

125/14 To consider reports from police representatives

PCSO Jo White was absent. The clerk was asked to contact Ms White to see if it were possible to establish some kind of attendance pattern, Ms White having rarely attended FTC meetings in the recent past.

126/14 Chairman and councillors' reports

Cllr Heren reported he had spoken to Ray Foster of the Environment Agency and the outlook for river clearance locally was less good than had been expected. The clerk was asked to write to the EA expressing our concern.

Cllr Clark reported no more recent volunteers for Lorrywatch.

She felt the roads and pavements could do with clearing and some drains needed unblocking. She noted the uprooted street signs had yet to be replaced.

Cllr Green reported that the plastering in the Old School House had been completed. The painting and flooring would be done soon. Cllr Green had spoken to CCC about the street light in School Lane and will also speak to the affected resident. It is to be hoped that CCC will then fix the light so that the street is lit but the residents are not inconvenienced.

Cllr Lewis referred to Cllr Clark's comments re drains and said he had reported this to KCC. Cllr Lewis was concerned that more local trees should have preservation orders and has asked the relevant CCC officer to visit. In this connection, it was noted that several trees have been removed at Elstone Lodge, apparently without conservation area approval. The clerk was asked to write to CCC noting this.

Cllr Hardcastle reported her attendance at the KALC AGM. She queried whether FTC's membership of this organisation represented value for money.

127/14 Christmas Tree

There was agreement to purchase a tree again and, possibly, more lights. Cllr Heren to talk to Clough's and to hope to get a better deal than last year so as to buy tree and lights for no more than £200.

128/14 Finance

The Clerk reported the cash book and bank balances as:

Current account: £13,007.64
Bonus saver account: £3,958.03

The current account and bonus saver bank statements were checked and signed by the Chairman.

The following items were unanimously approved for payment:

- Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for November £310.69
- Fordwich Arms – civic service tea £250.00
- Kings School (newsletter printing) £19.03
- Patrick Heren – reimbursement re order of service printing £85.00
- Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for December (post-dated) £283.39

129/14 Clerk's report and correspondence

The following items were considered and noted:

- A meeting with contractors re new gas pipes had been arranged for the 27th (i.e. tomorrow).
- It was noted that www.fordwich.net is Cllr Green's site and is live.
- Salt: it was agreed to ask for salt from CCC, preferably to be put in the bins at the Fordwich Arms and at the junction of Moat Lane and Stodmarsh Rd.
- CCC parking review: it was agreed that FTC had no input to provide at this time.

130/14 Planning

Application CA//14/02309/FUL was considered. There were no objections.

131/14 To consider the matter of disabled access to the town hall.

There is no more news on the subject of a lift. Local consultation remains to be done.

132/14 Highways and footpaths

No further discussion at this juncture.

133/14 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as 28th January 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Guy Foster
Clerk to Fordwich Town Council
December 4th 2014.

Signed as a true record _____ Date:

Position _____