

# **FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014.**

Present: Councillors Patrick Heren (chair), Philip Lewis, Roger Green, Val Clark, June Hardcastle. Guy Foster (clerk). In attendance: Sgt Chris Gurney, PCSO Jo White and eight members of the public.

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### **56/14. Apologies**

Cllrs Alan Marsh (KCC) and Heather Taylor (CCC) had sent apologies.

### **57/14 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on March 26<sup>th</sup> were approved and signed without amendment. *[Note: there was no meeting in April.]*

### **58/14 Matters arising**

None.

### **59/14 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 65/14.

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

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### **60/14 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.**

No representatives from KCC or CCC were present.

### **61/14 To consider reports from police representatives including discussion of traffic issues.**

PCSO White reported a local burglary and urged vigilance.

Cllr Hardcastle reported a local theft of geese.

Cllr Lewis reported the theft of lead valued at £4,000 from the church roof.

There then followed a lengthy discussion of the traffic problems in Fordwich, which as Cllr Heren noted, were characterised by over-sized lorries trying to negotiate the narrow streets and sharp bends, especially at the junction of King St and the High St. Cllr Hardcastle also made reference to large lorries carrying hardcore along Stodmarsh Rd.

Sgt Gurney sympathised but noted that police resources were stretched and they had to prioritise. She felt that signage was generally good but another appropriate sign might be useful at the junction of Fordwich Rd and Marlowe Meadows.

Sgt Gurney said she would report back to Tim Middleton at KCC. She would note the twisted sign by the bridge; the foliage obscuring another sign; the fact that FTC was interested in pursuing the "lorry watch" scheme and the question as to the legality of lorries using Stodmarsh Rd. She would also see if it was possible to have at least some uniformed police presence in the town. She asked for her contact details to be included in the minutes of the meeting. Accordingly, these are:

Sgt Chris Gurney  
Canterbury Community Safety Unit  
Direct Dial: 01227 868318  
Email: [9022@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:9022@kent.pnn.police.uk)

#### **62/14 To consider the appointment of new Freemen of Fordwich**

There was discussion as to the authority to appoint Freemen and any limits as to their number. Cllr Clark, speaking as a Freeman said she was quite happy for the number to be increased from the current four.

It was agreed to defer further consideration of this subject until the next meeting.

#### **62/14 To receive the chairman and councillors' reports.**

Cllr Lewis reported the lead theft at the church. Additionally, he reported that the recent twinning event was a great success.

Cllr Hardcastle noted that there were possible breaches of planning permission at various local addresses and opined that the planning enforcement division at CCC were not doing their job. She was also of the opinion that lower speed limits were needed on certain roads, notably Stodmarsh Rd. The clerk believed the only way of achieving this was to have the strong support of the local KCC member and to this end, he would write to Alan Marsh.

## 65/14 Planning – Moate Farm

Cllr Hardcastle declared an interest and left the meeting.

In response to previous queries from FTC, an email had been received from CCC Cllr Heather Taylor, who had forwarded an email from the CCC head of enforcement. Cllr Heren read extracts from this email, in which it was said that CCC would visit the owner of Moate Farm to investigate the legitimacy of the bund and to ascertain the number of caravans at the site.

There was also debate as to the nature of the materials being brought to the site and whether there might be a breach of the rules relating to the movement of waste material. Cllr Heren suggested contacting Ray Foster at the Environment Agency as a first step to resolving this issue.

## 63/14 Finance

The Clerk reported the cash book and bank balances as:

Current account: £16,059.13  
Bonus saver account: £3,937.10

It was noted that the current account balance included the 2014/15 precept and the £5,000 KCC grant towards the town hall lift project.

The following items were unanimously approved for payment:

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|--|---------|-----------|
| • Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for May | £304.19 |           |
| • Eric Fewkes (internal auditor):                  | £140.00 |           |
| • Insurance renewal:                               | £310.30 |           |
| • KALC subscription (inc VAT)                      | £178.15 | (inc VAT) |

The approval of the insurance payment followed approval of the quotation from Came & Co.

**Annual Return:** the clerk tabled this and supporting analysis. The clerk noted that the Council was being asked to approve both the accounts for 2013/14 (which showed a surplus for the year of £1,659) and the governance statement. Having considered the contents of the latter, the Council asked the clerk in future to bring bank statements to meetings, where the Chairman could check them. The annual return was duly approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

**Newsletter:** it was unanimously resolved to reimburse the reasonable expenses of producing this.

## 64/14 Clerk's report and correspondence

The Clerk reported as follows:

An information pack and CD had been received from National Grid, in respect of the proposed Richborough Connection. This was passed to the Chairman.

Information had been received and circulated to members about the proposals for reduced street lighting. Cllr Green commented that the street light by the Old School House still needed attention, despite having been reported many months ago. The clerk said it was hard to know exactly who was responsible for this but he would have another go.

**66/14 Highways and Footpaths**

It was noted that there were still potholes in Moat Lane and Well Lane. The clerk undertook to report this to KCC but urged all those present to report any pot holes direct to KCC, either on-line or by 'phone and also to make use of other web-sites such as fixmystreet.com.

**67/14 Date of the next meeting**

This was confirmed as 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm, as originally planned.

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**Guy Foster**  
*Clerk to Fordwich Town Council*  
May 24<sup>th</sup> 2014.

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