

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2015.

Present: Councillors Patrick Heren (chair), Val Clark, Roger Green, June Hardcastle.
In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC), Heather Taylor (CCC) and three members of the public.

15/15 Apologies

Cllr Lewis was on holiday.

16/15 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of January 28th were unanimously approved subject to an amendment to item 9/15 to note Cllr Hardcastle's objection to the payment for the civic service flowers.

17/15 Matters arising

Cllr Heren reported that Mr Liam O'Donnell had offered to help with flood defences, which was much appreciated.

18/15 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 the Friends of Fordwich and District 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

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

There is a hedge at the junction of Moat Lane and Stodmarsh Road which obstructs one's view and is therefore dangerous. Similar problems arise from coaches transporting students to and from the nearby Christchurch University playing fields parked nearby.

Could the FTC agenda be posted on the web-site? In theory yes but there was a very limited amount of time in which to do this and the need to involve a third party meant this could never be guaranteed. But the clerk would try. He similarly undertook to make sure all minutes were posted on-line, once agreed. Apparently at least one month was missing at present.

There were problems with building works at a house in the Drove where road closures over several days were planned from March 16th. This would cause a major inconvenience to other residents. Alan Marsh agreed to talk to Kent Highways about this and the chairman agreed to contact the contractors.

19/15 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.

For KCC, Mr Marsh reported:

- KCC council tax rates would rise by 1.99% for 2015/16.
- Mr Marsh had arranged a public meeting at Hersden on March 6th at 7 p.m. to review the Richborough Connection plans. Local MPs were expected to be present.

For CCC, Heather Taylor reported:

The application at Moate Farm would not now be on the March agenda of the planning committee. This appeared to be because CCC needed more time to examine some technical matters.

Community Wardens are being phased out by KCC. Ms Taylor is opposing this. Mr Marsh said that the issue had not been finally decided and there would be more news soon.

A meeting was to be held this Friday, the 27th, to seek parish (and in the case of FTC, "town") views on the Concurrent Function Grant arrangements. Although this was not strictly relevant to FTC (as it receives no CFG), representation from FTC at the meeting would still be welcome. Cllr Heren said he would see if he could be there, commitments allowing. The clerk undertook to circulate the relevant email.

Heather was asked about the closure of Canterbury car parks by CCC. She said she would find out more and would respond to emails on the subject.

20/15 To consider reports from police representatives

PCSO Jo White was unable to attend the meeting.

21/15 To consider scanning historical FTC minutes for reference purposes

This proposal was put forward by Cllr Heren. The idea was supported by those present. The first steps would be to see what was currently available and in what format. In this connection, the clerk undertook to check his own records, to contact the previous clerk and to contact the archives unit at the cathedral.

22/15 The beacon: to consider its re-siting

As the beacon's current site was on private land that is in the process of being redeveloped the beacon would need to be moved, in two months' time, at the latest. It was agreed to carry over the issue to the next meeting to allow for input from Cllr Lewis.

23/15 To receive Chairman and Councillors' reports

Cllr Heren reported an email from someone at Milton Regis near Sittingbourne, who wished to exchange knowledge in respect of historic town halls. Andrea Russo was now in touch with him.

Cllr Heren raised the issue of Rogation Day and potential dates for its celebration, viz beating the bounds. He thought April 26th appeared to be the best date. Cllr Green said it had always been the intention to go ahead with this.

Cllr Clark said she had reported the blocked drains again. KCC had said they would report back to Cllr Lewis, who had made the original report. Cllr Clark had also reported a pot-hole in Spring Lane. There were to be various level crossing closures in the near future. Cllr Clark would put details in the newsletter.

Cllr Green reported that he had checked and no firearms licences were held by residents at Moate Farm or Romany Green Acres.

Would it not be possible to have Well Lane designated as one-way for its entire length? It was suggested the clerk write to Alan Marsh.

The Old School House was nearly finished but Cllr Green's impending absence might delay things for a while. Some furniture had been donated by KCC.

Cllr Hardcastle asked if the newsletter could be circulated to FTC members prior to general publication? Cllr Clark said she would ask Cllr Lewis if he would email it to Cllr Hardcastle.

Cllr Hardcastle said the security light at the Christchurch site was now on permanently. One needed to ask them if this could be adjusted to movement-sensing only. The Clerk would write to Christchurch.

Cllr Hardcastle noted the dreadful pot-hole situation in Well Lane. She also noted that the road hump sign in Moat Lane was still pointing the wrong way.

24/15 Finance

The clerk reported the cash book balances at today's date as:

Current account:	£11,397.31
Bonus saver account:	£3,958.52

The current account bank balance was £175.00 higher due to two unrepresented cheques.

The renewal of the FTC web domain name was approved by all and this and the other items listed were all unanimously approved for payment:

- Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for February £303.22
- Kikk – domain name renewal £28.50
- Ewart Clough – Christmas tree £240.00

25/15 Clerk's report and correspondence

The clerk reported:

- Another pack of information received from National Grid re the Richborough Connection plans and consultation.
- An email received from Peter Waring at the EA, with help re flood plans.
- Notification by email of an impending Fire and Rescue Service strike.

26/15 Planning

Application CA//15/00318/FUL (Timbers): no objections.
The grant of the application at Watergate House was noted.

27/15 Highways and footpaths

No further discussion at this juncture.

28/15 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as 25th March 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

March 9th 2015.

Signed as a true record _____ Date:

Position _____