

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2015.

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

42/15 Apologies

None.

43/15 Minutes of the previous meeting

Cllr Hardcastle requested one or two changes but the majority of FTC resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting of February 25th as tabled, without amendment. They were duly signed by the chairman.

44/15 Matters arising

The following matters were noted:

- The hedge at the top of Moat Lane has been cut back.
- The beating the bounds celebration will be going ahead.
- The clerk had written to Christ Church University about their outside light but had received no reply.
- The drains have, in the main, been unblocked but Cllr Lewis is chasing KCC on one or two outstanding matters.
- Cllr Lewis also reported that KCC had indicated that the poor condition of Well Lane would be repaired fairly soon. Alan Marsh asked that he be emailed regarding these last two points and it was resolved to authorise Cllr Lewis to do this.

45/15 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, specifically on the subject of planning application CA//15/00791/FUL.

Several members of the public voiced objections to this application. The grounds for objection included invasion of privacy, the height of the proposed new houses and the pressure on parking in the town which would result from this development.

53/15 Planning – application CA//15/00791/FUL.

This was fully discussed. The meeting was in general opposed to the application on the grounds of appearance (too high, skylights); parking and traffic movement issues; potential flooding risk; pressure on sewers.

It was therefore resolved to object to this application. The clerk would draft a submission to CCC and circulate to all for approval.

46/15 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives

For KCC, Alan Marsh reminded the meeting of the need to progress the matter of the town hall lift, for which KCC had provided a grant. He also urged all those present to vote in the forthcoming elections.

For CCC, Heather Taylor reported the local Sea Cadets could be available for undertaking community work and perhaps acting as an “escort” for the Fordwich mayor. Heather noted that this was her last meeting before the elections – she hopes to be back post-election!

47/15 To consider reports from police representatives

PCSO Jo White was unable to attend the meeting.

48/15 Annual Town Meeting

The date for this was set as Monday May 18th, at 7.30 p.m. The chairman had arranged for Clive Bowley to speak on the subject of conservation.

49/15 V.E. Day commemoration

Cllr Heren outlined the national proposal but this involved the beacon, which was problematic, given its location. After discussion, it was agreed that it might be more sensible to organise something for the Waterloo celebrations in June, at which time, Cllr Lewis reported, the Royal Artillery were due in Fordwich to honour a local man, Major Scott, who survived the battle and is commemorated in St Mary’s Church.

Various options were discussed in relation to the location of the beacon but no decision was taken.

50/15 To receive chairman's and councillors' reports

Cllrs Heren and Green had nothing further to report.

Cllr Hardcastle reported on the Stodmarsh Road group's deliberations on traffic calming measures, which included Lorry Watch. Cllr Lewis noted that the problem here was that there was no reason for lorries not to use Stodmarsh Road. There was a general feeling amongst those present that the lorry situation had improved recently.

Cllr Lewis reported on the use of the church for "champing", which involved allowing people to stay overnight in the church. The Churches Conservation Trust had been trialling this recently, mainly as a way of raising funds. Cllr Hardcastle was not keen on the idea; she felt it was not an appropriate use for a church. Cllr Lewis said he was happy to take comments back to the CCT.

Before the close of the meeting, Cllr Clark regretted the intemperate and aggressive language used in emails addressed to Cllr Heren and circulated to all councillors. Cllr Heren thanked Cllr Clark and said the issue would be dealt with.

51/15 Finance

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

Current account: £10,309.17
Bonus saver account: £3,958.84

The following were approved for payment:

• Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for April	£321.42
• Kikk – annual web-site charges	£109.50
• KALC – subscription 2015/16	£179.43 (incl. VAT)
• Eric Fewkes – internal audit	£140.00

The clerk noted that the accounts for 2014/15 had been prepared and the internal audit of the 2014/15 annual return completed. This would be on next month's agenda. There was a significant surplus for the year, mainly due to the KCC grant for the town hall lift.

52/15 Clerk's report and correspondence

The clerk reported:

- Letter/email from CCC about gypsy and traveller sites development plan document. They are seeking suggestions for new sites.
- "Adopt a kiosk" letter from BT.

- Letter from CCC about new rules on houses of multiple occupation.

53/15 Planning – remaining items

Cllr Hardcastle, having declared an interest in respect of Moate Farm, left the meeting.

The grants of: CA//14/01255/FUL (Moate Farm), CA//15/00318/FUL (Timbers) and CA//15/00617/LUP (15 Brooklands Close) were noted.

The Moate Farm decision was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Green would draft a “pre-action” letter, as a preliminary action to seeking a judicial review. Such a letter would set out the reasons why FTC thought CCC’s decision was flawed. The clerk would submit the letter when it had been circulated and agreed by FTC members.

54/15 Highways and footpaths

No further discussion at this juncture.

55/15 Date of next meeting

It was agreed to change the date of this from its scheduled date. It would now be held on Thursday May 21st at around 7.35 p.m. At 7.30 p.m. on the same evening, the annual meeting of FTC would take place.

Guy Foster

*Clerk to Fordwich Town Council
May 6th 2015.*

Signed as a true record _____ Date:

Position _____