

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2016.

Present: Councillors Patrick Heren (chair), Adrian McCarthy, Philip Lewis, Val Clark, Roger Green. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC) and three members of the public.

14/16 Apologies

Georgina Glover (CCC), Heather Taylor (CCC) and PCSO Radcliffe had sent apologies.

15/16 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was unanimously resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as tabled, without amendment. They were duly signed by the chairman.

16/16 Matters arising

No items were raised.

17/16 Declarations of interest

Members declared interests as follows:

- Cllr Heren declared his position as a trustee of Fordwich United Charities
- Cllr Lewis declared his position as a custodian of Fordwich church.
- Cllr Clark declared her position as a custodian of the town hall.
- 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.

No items were raised.

18/16 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives

No CCC representatives were present.

Mr Marsh reported that as of the next financial year, KCC members' individual grant funds were to be reduced by £5k but Mr Marsh promised a further £3k grant towards the town hall lift.

Mr Marsh speculated as to how the new roads necessitated by the various new housing developments in the district plan would be paid for and whether they would in fact ever be built at all.

Cllr Heren provided an update on the lift project. The latest proposal was for a “scissor lift” at a likely cost of around £32k.

19/16 To consider reports from police representatives

PCSO Radcliffe was unable to be present.

20/16 To consider participating in the “clean for the Queen” initiative

After discussion it was agreed to stick with the original dates of the weekend of March 19th/20th. Cllr Lewis reiterated the previously suggested areas for attention and added the ‘phone box, where a pane of glass needed replacing, and the area around the ‘phone box which could do with tidying. It was suggested that it might be necessary to close Moat Lane in order to carry out work there and Cllr Lewis said he would contact SERCO.

It was noted that April 21st was designated as the day to light beacons to celebrate Her Majesty’s birthday. The clerk to contact Heather Taylor of Sturry PC to whom the Fordwich beacon had been transferred.

21/16 To receive reports from members.

Cllr Heren reported on the BBC features he was involved with in connection with the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death. These would be broadcast in the week beginning March 21st.

Cllr Clark had heard nothing further from Tim Middleton at KCC. She had been trying to get some action taken against one van which was regularly parked in a way which caused an obstruction. Cllr Clark noted that a couple of Lorrywatch signs needed replacing.

Cllr Green noted the layer of leaves in School Lane. It was suggested that this might be another location for action as part of “Clean for the Queen”. Cllr Green raised the subject of Moate Farm. Cllr Lewis said he had heard that CCC had issued an enforcement notice relating to the number of caravans at the site. Cllr Green said that the angling club had agreed to give free membership to Freeman of Fordwich.

Cllr Lewis said he had heard of Fordwich Road residents having difficulty obtaining flood insurance.

Cllr McCarthy noted that some repairs at the Drove end of King Street had now been completed but more work was needed. He suggested a meeting of all interested parties relating to the Drove. March 16th was suggested as a suitable date.

22/16 Finance

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

Current account: £11,662.84

Bonus saver account: £3,960.49

The current account bank balance is higher by £90 due to one unrepresented cheque.

The bank statements were signed by the chairman.

The following were approved for payment:

- Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for January £295.42
- Patrick Heren – reimbursement of civic service teas cost £250.00
- Fiona Cadwallader - civic service flowers (replacement for lost cheque) £90.00

Cllr McCarthy reported that he had not yet been able to deal with the matter of personal identification re the bank mandate. He promised to attend to this as soon as possible.

23/16 Clerk's report and correspondence

As usual, a number of emails had been circulated by the clerk prior to the meeting. The clerk had nothing to add at this juncture.

24/16 Planning

Application CA//15/02744/FUL (20 Water Meadows) had been granted. The clerk made the meeting aware of the documentation relating to the latest planning stage of the Richborough Connection project by National Grid.

25/16 Highways and footpaths

There was no further discussion at this juncture.

26/16 Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as March 30th at 7.30 p.m.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

February 29th 2016.

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____