

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2016.

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

42/16 Apologies

Cllr Lewis had sent apologies; he was away on holiday.

43/16 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.

44/16 Matters arising

None.

45/16 Declarations of interest

Members declared interests as follows:

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

There was discussion relating to the planning application at Moate Farm. There was general concern about this application and the apparent continuing breach of current planning rights at the site. It appeared that nearby residents had not been informed about the new application. It was reported that representatives of CCC planning would be visiting the site soon.

53/16 Planning

Application CA//16/00446/FUL (Moate Farm). After discussion it was unanimously agreed to object to this application on the grounds of current breaches of planning rights at the site and the feeling that further expansion of the site was not in keeping with area and the rights of local residents. The clerk to draft a response to CCC for circulation and approval.

The chairman urged Fordwich residents opposed to the Moate Farm application to register their objections with CCC, as the larger the number of objections the more seriously the council planners would regard the issue. However, residents of Moat

Lane and Stodmarsh Rd present at the meeting stated their unwillingness to do so if their names and addresses were publicly identified.

46/16 To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.

For KCC, Alan Marsh spoke of the problems of speeding traffic which he felt was now out of control.

For CCC, Georgina Glover passed a report to the clerk which detailed her role on CCC where she is extremely active, having attended 27 council and committee meetings in the last six months alone.

47/16 To receive reports from police representatives

The clerk reported that a new PCSO had been assigned to the area, one Paul Harris. The clerk's contact details have been passed to him by the previous PCSO but no contact has yet been made.

48/16 King St/The Drove: to consider contributing to the cost of repairs.

The previous meeting had approved the making of a contribution and appropriate paperwork was awaited before such a payment could be made.

49/16 To consider the matter of advertising in the newsletter.

A fee scale remains to be proposed. No further action would be taken until the return from holiday of Cllr Lewis

50/16 To consider the Chairman's and coun cillors' reports

On the subject of the proposed town hall lift, the Chairman reported that the architectural survey had been completed and that the architect was now preparing a planning application. He also reported on the recent successful visit of the BBC Countryfile team to Fordwich.

Referring back to the Moate Farm planning application, Cllr Green said it would be useful to know whether the planning officer was minded to recommend to grant or to refuse. Mrs Glover agreed to make enquiries.

Cllr Clark asked about the flood warden role. It appears that no one formally fulfils this role for Fordwich. Cllr McCarthy said that there were noticeable improvements following the work undertaken but the Environment Agency.

Cllr Clark reported on illegally parked cars, especially near the junction of High St and Spring Lane. She had sent pictures to CCC but no action has been taken by them. The clerk agreed that this was a matter of great frustration and suggested that all parties continue to nag the CCC parking enforcement officer.

51/16 Finance

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

Current account: £10,405.57

Bonus saver account: £3,960.83

The current account bank balance is higher by £216 due to two unrepresented cheques.

The bank statements were signed by the chairman.

Given the miniscule amount of interest now being earned by the bonus saver account, the clerk suggested that members might think it sensible to close this account.

The clerk reported that the annual return would be on the May meeting agenda. He would like to have dealt with it at the current meeting but it was not possible, given the timing of the bank statements. He would try and change this. Subject to audit, the accounts for 2015/16 would show a small surplus of £98.

The following was approved for payment:

- Clerk's salary (net of tax) and expenses for January £303.42

52/16 Clerk's report and correspondence

As usual, a number of emails had been circulated by the clerk prior to the meeting. There was no further comment on these at this juncture.

54/16 Highways and footpaths

Cllr McCarthy said a "no parking" notice was needed for the Drove. As this would involve the church, he would need to speak to Cllr Lewis. It was suggested that KCC might be able to provide a formal sign.

55/16 Date of next meeting and of the annual town meeting

The next FTC meeting was confirmed as May 25th at 7.30 p.m. The date of the annual town meeting was confirmed as May 16th. **It was also agreed that the date of the June meeting be moved to Tuesday June 28th.**

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____