

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2016.

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

140/16 Apologies

None.

141/16 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.

142/16 Matters arising

The chairman thanked all who contributed to the success of the civic service, especially the Fordwich Arms for not only supplying the tea but contributing significantly to its cost.

The chairman noted that the Christmas tree had been erected and illuminated.

Lottery.com: the chairman noted that there were now 65 names on the list for this launch and Fordwich residents have been promised a large number of entries for El Gordo. The chairman thought it a good idea to encourage residents to donate a proportion (say 10%) of any winnings to the town. There followed a discussion of likely "good causes" for such a windfall, which included the Town Hall, the church, parking, etc.

Fordwich River Tours: the letter from Cpt Julie Richardson was noted and discussed. It was resolved to offer approval for a limited trial run subject to certain conditions.

143/16 Declarations of interests

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.

Mr David Reekie, the new footpath warden, introduced himself and spoke of his plans to set up a Fordwich walking group. He is proposing January 8th as the inaugural walk for this group. He thought this group might also undertake some footpath clearance and it was proposed to integrate the beating of the bounds event with this group. A member of the public raised the question of the potentially dangerous nature of the path which heads north-east from the foot of Well Lane. Mr Reekie noted this and said he thought this path might be an ancient track.

144/16 To receive reports from CCC and KCC representatives

Georgina Glover (CCC) reported that the 2017/18 budget was under review. The policy of free green bin collection was under threat.

Alan Marsh (KCC) enquired about the town hall lift project. Cllr Heren was able to report that the planning application had just been submitted to CCC.

Mr Marsh said KCC had received extra money for road repairs. He was hoping to have some of this spent on the Thanet Way.

Mr Marsh believed that CCC is to increase its parking charges.

145/16 To receive reports from police representatives

PCSO Mr Nathan Mullins was not present.

146/16 To consider the KCC Volunteer Support Warden scheme.

The clerk had forwarded details of this scheme. The cost would be around £1,000 in the first year and around £500 p.a. thereafter but this could be reduced by sharing a warden with a neighbouring parish. After discussion it was unanimously resolved to contact KCC expressing interest in this scheme. We would prefer to share a warden with Westbere but would take on our own warden were this not possible.

147/16 To receive reports from members

Cllr Heren said that he understood that the two parking spaces near Westfield were still potentially available.

Cllr Clark reported another “stuck lorry” incident. She has arranged a Lorrywatch meeting on January 11th at 10.30 in the Fordwich Arms.

Cllr McCarthy reported that he had spoken to Mr Neame about the repairs to the Drove. Mr Neame had reported problems in dealing with the angling club and Cllr McCarthy will try and talk to them himself. The clerk reported that he had had no reply to his email to Mr Neame.

The chairman noted that sewage pumps had recently failed at Brooklands Close but Southern Water had attended promptly.

The chairman suggested it would be a good idea to set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme for Fordwich.

148/16 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at end-October was £20,582.11. This had been reconciled to the current account bank balance of £21,073.11.

The following payments were approved:

1. Clerk November: £324.69
2. Clerk December (post-dated): £298.04
3. Fiona Cadwallader – civic service flowers: £90.00
4. Fordwich Arms – civic service teas: £100.00
5. Cllr Lewis – Christmas tree and newsletter printing: £127.00
6. Cllr Clark – newsletter postage: £19.80

Budget and precept 2017/18

The clerk had circulated some figures. The outcome for the current year was expected to show a small surplus but if we adopted our own Support Warden then, without a funding increase, a deficit would be likely in 2017/18. But thereafter, we were likely to return to break-even. After discussion, it was resolved to leave total funding unchanged for 2017/18. However, given the 50% reduction in the council tax support grant as advised by CCC, this would imply an increase in the precept of around 2%.

149/16 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

The clerk tabled his report. The following correspondence was noted:

- Emails relating to the river cruise proposal, as discussed earlier in the meeting.
- Email re parish charter consultation
- Emails re dog waste bins. SERCO felt there was one missing and would replace it but members were not sure this would address the issue as reported to SERCO. It was agreed to await action by SERCO and then to review the situation.

150/16 Planning

An appeal had been lodged in respect of the refusal of application CA/16/00446/FUL. After discussion it was resolved to apply for "Rule 6" status in respect of this appeal, jointly with the Friends of Fordwich. Cllr Green agreed to circulate a list of issues relevant to this appeal.

The approval of CA/16/02160/FUL was noted.

151/16 Highways and footpaths

Following the discussion of footpath matters earlier in the meeting, there was nothing further to consider at this juncture.

152/16 Date of next meeting

The next FTC meeting was confirmed as Wednesday January 25th 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____