

FORDWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2018.

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

1/18 Apologies

Cllr Green had sent apologies.

2/18 Minutes of the previous meeting

It was unanimously resolved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as tabled. They were duly signed by the chairman.

3/18 Matters arising

There had been no response from the Environment Agency in respect of the fallen willow tree and the potentially dangerous cycle path by the river. The clerk was asked to chase.

The clerk reported he had enquired about buying the phone box but had had no response from BT.

4/18 Declarations of interests

Members declared interests as follows:

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

At this point the meeting was adjourned to allow representations from the public. The following points were raised:

- There were comments about an unsightly waste bin in Brooklands Close.

5/18 To receive reports from CCC and KCC representatives

Alan Marsh (KCC) had heard of possible government funding for an A28 relief road to the north-east of Canterbury. He also referred to proposed parking changes and thought there was some confusion at CCC but Cllr McCarthy said he had made FTC's request absolutely clear.

Georgina Glover (CCC) noted that outline planning permission had been granted at the former Chislet Colliery site. It was likely that Hersden would become a separate parish and this was being consulted upon at the moment.

6/18 To receive reports from police representatives

The clerk reported that it appeared that we have a new PCSO but so far he had been unable to establish the details.

7/18 To receive reports from members

The chairman reported as follows:

- He proposed a resolution to extend a welcome to the new landlords at the Fordwich Arms. This was unanimously agreed.
- He wished to publicise the forthcoming programme of Fordwich Walks and the new book on the town by Roger Clayton.
- Natalie Miller had volunteered to take over as editor of the newsletter.
- The Internal Drainage Board is to take over responsibility for the Stour in the area. This is to be welcomed.
- The civic service would be on the first Sunday in November. The choir from Junior King's School will be coming to sing.
- We should do something to mark the centenary of the armistice. The clerk was asked to contact Sturry PC in respect of the beacon.

Cllr Heren noted the pot-hole situation; someone had suffered a broken axle in Stodmarsh Rd. The clerk would report these matters on-line and to Mr Marsh but reminded everyone to report pot-holes (via KCC web-site and/or Fixmystreet.com) as individuals.

The town hall lift should be installed by February 22nd.

Roger Clayton's book is excellent but Cllr Heren wished to make it clear that he was NOT the source of the Freeman's medallions.

Cllr Clark noted that we had still not received any new Lorrywatch signs from KCC.

The clerk was asked to write to the George and Dragon and the Fordwich Arms asking that deliveries be made in appropriately sized vehicles and that they avoid using the bridge. There is a specific problem with deliveries by Matthew Clark.

She thought the Guardian review of the Fordwich Arms was somewhat disrespectful of the town. The meeting agreed and Cllr Heren said he would write to the Guardian.

Cllr McCarthy noted that some trees in the churchyard were too big. The chairman agreed to look into this.

He intends to speak to Alan Marsh about the portion of King St alongside the church to seek to establish that this piece of road is a KCC responsibility.

8/18 To consider changes to web-site management

A paper was tabled containing quotations from various companies to re-write the web-site. It was unanimously resolved to accept the proposal from Emagine at a cost of £2,395 with a cost for hosting and security of £29 per month.

9/18 To consider a quote for grass cutting

The chairman had obtained a quote from Dan Cannon-Skeet of £41 per cut for cutting all three pieces of grass in public areas in the town. It was estimated this would total around £400 p.a. The meeting unanimously resolved to accept this.

10/18 To consider KCC proposals in respect of riverside benches.

There was no interest in accepting these proposals.

11/18 To consider the implications of the new data protection regulations

The clerk noted that the new General Data Protection Regulations were coming into force on May 25th. The key implication for FTC was the need to appoint a Data Protection Officer and it was apparently not legally advisable for the clerk to hold this office. This meant that it could either be a member of FTC or a third party. The clerk reported that it appeared this latter option would cost around £300 p.a. There was a possibility that the NALC or KALC would enter into an arrangement with a chosen organisation. It was agreed to take no decision at this juncture and to await further developments.

12/18 Finance

The clerk reported that the cash book balance at end-December was £12,289.06. This has been reconciled to the bank balance of £12,594.58. The bank statement was tabled and signed by the chairman.

The following payments were approved:

1. Clerk January	£331.64
2. HMRC	£195.00
3. Cllr Lewis (Christmas tree and newsletter gratuities)	£200.00
4. Fiona Cadwallader (civic service flowers)	£90.00

The clerk noted that national pay scales had increased by 1% last April and his salary payment took account of this.

13/18 To receive the clerk's report and correspondence

The clerk tabled his report. All items had been covered elsewhere during the meeting.

The clerk apologised that a holiday commitment meant he would be abroad for the period immediately before the May meeting. He requested that this meeting be put back, unless someone else was happy to deal with the publishing of the agenda.

14/18 Planning

FTC comments already supplied to CCC on CA/17/02818/FUL and CA/17/02658/FUL were noted and confirmed. There were no objections to CA/17/02797/FUL (Footprints).

The grants of CA/17/02553/FUL (Yew Tree Gardens), CA/17/02570/VAR (former King's School Boathouse) and CA/17/02235/FUL were noted.

15/18 Highways and footpaths

It was noted that parts of the Great Stour Walk were in need of attention.

16/18 Date of next meeting

The next FTC meeting was confirmed as Wednesday February 28th.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Fordwich Town Council

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____

Position _____