

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a General Council Meeting held on 7th March 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Anstey, Fulford, Hale, Lewendon, Paton, Perkins, Price, Shering, (A) Wilson & (G) Wilson

In attendance:

Ms K Mason, Town Clerk

HCC Cllr Heron

NFDC Cllr R Bellows

NFDC Cllr A Sevier

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from:

Cllrs Adams & Perkins – agenda item 8, payment of accounts.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2012 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr (G) Wilson and seconded by Cllr Price that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2012 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

Matters Arising

The Clerk confirmed that the last grant, totalling £1000, had been made to the Fordingbridge CAB in December 2010. No grants had been made in the current financial year.

Cllr Perkins entered the meeting.

4. To receive a report on any matters under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder

No Police attendance.

5. To receive a report from the Town Mayor.

Cllr Connolly had attended the following during February:

5th – the opening of the Rainbow Centre in Salisbury street.

13th – The NFNPA Quadrant meeting held in Fordingbridge Town Hall

29th – Spoke to the Fordingbridge Beavers Group.

6. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron reported that the current drainage issues in Salisbury Street had been caused by a collapsed drain. It had been listed for repair in this year's HCC Major Works schedule.

The management of the Fordingbridge and Ringwood Children's Centres is being transferred to the New Forest West Rural Action for Children charity who have been awarded the contract. Staff have the option to transfer over to the charity from HCC as their employer.

7. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier announced that herself and Cllr Bellows have awarded their annual grant to the Wednesday Youth Club which is run from Avonway Community Centre.

Cllrs Heron, Bellows and Sevier left the meeting.

8. To receive details of Monies collected and payment of accounts

It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Connolly that the details of monies collected be accepted and that accounts be paid. All in favour. Carried.

9. To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 18th January 2012

Noted by Members.

10. To confirm the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on the 29th February 2012 and any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr Adams and seconded by Cllr Paton that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th February 2012 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

Youth Shelter – it is hoped this will be repaired by the Easter School holidays.

Diamond Jubilee – arrangements are going ahead.

Sports Club facility – following a further meeting arrangements are being made for NFDC Planners to visit the site and give informal advice as to what could be built and where. This will then be passed to the two consultants prior to them giving presentations to the group. The Environment Agency have also been informed as the site is adjacent to the river and on a floodplain.

Valuation Officer – the Clerk reported she had met with the Valuation Officer to discuss the storage facility (container) placed on Brownsey's Field. She will be returning to do a full assessment of the Facilities on the current Recreation Ground.

Grants – it was AGREED to defer the CAB request for a £1000 grant to the March F&P Meeting.

It was AGREED to defer the Fordingbridge Junior School PTA grant request to the April F&P meeting.

Fordingbridge Playscheme 2012 – Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Fulford and seconded by Cllr Paton that the Fordingbridge Playscheme 2012 be run under the name of Fordingbridge Town Council Playscheme by Mrs Sue Little in accordance with the budget provided by her. All in favour, Carried.

Citizen of the Year – Members AGREED to nominate Mark Sigson who runs the Wednesday Night Youth Club at Avonway Community Centre.

11. To report on any Health & Safety issues

Cllr Anstey reported that he had received and reviewed risk assessments for the forthcoming firework display at the Rugby Club family day in March and the Party in the Park event in June. The risk assessment for the Skate Park had also been reviewed for the forthcoming Skate Festival in April.

The requirement for fencing around the paddling pool has been reviewed and considered necessary should the pool need to be closed off in the event of glass, debris or poor water quality. It also prevents older children with bikes and skateboards using it.

A review of employees competency and training profile and the identification and allocation of training courses was on-going.

Boules Court – Cllr Anstey explained he had corresponded with an international boules referee who had stated that raising the gravel level to the same as the grass will give the added problem of the boules running onto the grassed area and gravel spilling out onto the

grass. As petanque cannot be played on deep surfaces the hard subsurface would need to be lifted instead of backfilling with extra grit. Cllr Anstey advised members that the trip hazard was low risk and in the years that the court had been in place there had been no reports of persons falling in or out. It was not an H&S issue.

Members AGREED that the court should not be filled with extra gravel but would look into raising the hard surface.

Public Session

No public in attendance.

12. To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies and meetings attended
Cllr Fulford – Comments were received from the Inspector on the Fordingbridge Children's Centre. There was much support from parents for the services provided. The Centre was rated 'very good' with many outstanding features.

HALC Conference – together with the Cllr Connolly and the Clerk, attended the HALC Conference which features presentations and discussions on Planning, Localism and the Lengthsman's Scheme.

Cllr (G) Wilson – with Cllr Fulford met with Access for All, New Forest and walked through Fordingbridge assessing access for disabled and the mobile impaired. This will be discussed at General Purposes Committee on 22nd March 2012.

Attended the Patient Participation Group on 7th March. A public meeting will be held on 22nd March at the Victoria Rooms to update on the NHS reorganisation and discuss the results of the recent patient survey.

Cllr Hale – attended a management meeting of the Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteers. The Site boundaries of Bishops Pond and the Whitsbury Road site have been corrected and both sites have been cleared. New plants have been planted in the Bishops Pond site. The Group is trying to recruit new members.

Cllr Lewendon advised that the Air Cadets are holding a fundraising auction on 30th March.

Cllr Connolly – attended the NFALC meeting in Lyndhurst where a presentation was given by Dave Yates, Chief Executive of NFDC on the Localism Bill. There was also a presentation on the Code of Conduct and new Standards for members.

Cllr Connolly advised that he had invited Dave Yates to attend the Town Assembly on 18th April to speak on Localism.

13. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk reported the Rugby Club had requested that the hedge adjoining the road in Brownsey's field be cut a meter lower so their new fixtures sign could be seen by more motorists as they drive by. Members expressed concern that the sign had advertising on it which was not stated in the planning application. It was AGREED that the hedge should not be cut but would be considered when the sign was changed to the design granted. The Clerk to advise the Rugby Club.

The Clerk reported that the Fordingbridge Society had requested that a plaque be placed on the Town Hall celebrating the Diamond Jubilee. Members did not like the design. The Clerk to discuss further with the Fordingbridge Society.

14. To receive a report from the Clerk or any other relevant business

The Clerk advised that the new website was now live. Could members advise the Clerk of any information they wished to have placed on it or any suggestions.

The Clerk reported that the Rowan tree, in memory of Cllr Jean Willis, has arrived and will be planted in the Memorial Gardens. It was AGREED to have a planting ceremony in April prior to the General Council meeting.

The Sweetgum tree to replace the cork oak has also arrived and will be planted on the Riverside walk.

There is a temporary closure notice on the Avon Valley footpath near the church due to badger excavation which has made the path dangerous. HCC have consulted Natural England for advice.

15. To note the date of the next General Council Meeting as Wednesday 4th April 2012.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm