

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th May 2016 in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council)

Present:

Cllr Earth – Chairman
Cllrs Adams, Connolly, Wilson, Hale and Bailey

In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards – Town Clerk
Mrs M Coatham – Finance Officer
Ruth Croker – Footpaths Officer
Cllrs Price, Perkins, Fulford & Paton

1. To elect a Chairman

Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED:** that Cllr Earth be elected as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee.

All voted in favour.

2. To elect a Vice Chairman

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Connolly and therefore **RESOLVED:** that Cllr Wilson be elected as Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee.

All voted in favour.

3. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Anstey

4. To receive any declarations of interest

No declarations given.

5. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on the 16th March 2016

Cllr Adams raised the issue that this procedure was incorrect as the Minutes had been received at General Council.

Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2016 be signed as a true record.

All voted in favour.

Matters Arising

Minute No 8 – Cllr Wilson footpath conditions are bad, particularly at Falconwood Close to Marl Lane, this is one of the main walk to school routes.

6. To receive any matters raised by members of the public

No members of the public present

Cllr Lewendon entered the meeting

7. To report on matters concerning St Mary's Closed Churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery

- Review of Burial Regulations - Cllr Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Burial Regulations remain unchanged.
- Moles - The Clerk advised that a problem with moles digging under and up in the cremation area had been reported which had caused distress to a family member visiting a memorial. The Groundsman had been asked to clear the area and the situation would be monitored.

8. To report on any matters relating to the Town Hall

- Council Chamber Roof Leak – Gutter Clearance and ongoing maintenance
The Finance Officer confirmed that the rear gutters had now been cleared. A quote had been obtained from Arch Property Maintenance for ongoing maintenance at a cost of £150.00 every 8 weeks and the Finance Officer recommended acceptance of this.
Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Wilson and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the quote from Arch Property Maintenance be accepted.
All in favour
- Replacement Tables – The Finance Officer confirmed that four of the hall tables required replacing as the legs were broken or unstable. The cost would be £124.64 each.
Cllr Adams proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hale and therefore **RESOLVED**: that four new tables be purchased.

9. To report on any matters relating to the Information Office

- The Clerk reported that a new casual member of staff had been recruited and was awaiting NFDC training.

10. To agree works to the Memorial Bungalow

It had previously been agreed that 50% of the required works could be carried out this year and a decision was now required as to which works should be a priority.

- Repointing the front of the bungalow
- Replacement windows

11. To report on any matters concerning Footpaths

- Lengthsman – HCC had issued an additional list of tasks which could be undertaken by the lengthsman to assist countryside access and highways to include footpath maintenance and to look at any problems reported on footpaths. The Footpaths Officer was asked to advise of any paths in Fordingbridge which may require attention. It was noted that the finger post at Normandy Way still required replacement and a style at Rose Farm, Stuckton Road was in need of repair. The footpath behind the cemetery required checking. It was noted that care would be required due to nesting birds at this time of the year and additional vegetation cuts should be programmed as and when reported/required.

12. To report on any matters concerning Highways

- Hanging Basket Licence – applied for
- Bunting Licence – applied for
- Cigarette Bin – The Finance Officer suggested that FTC supply/place a cigarette bin outside the bookshop at Roundhill. Members felt that Tesco should be asked to supply a bin or a replacement bin with a cigarette section. The Clerk to write to the Manager of Tesco's.
- Cllr Wilson raised safety concerns regarding the roundabout at the junction of Station Road & Ashford Road – motorists do not slow down or check for vehicles exiting Ashford Road – Clerk to contact Highways.

13. To report on any matters concerning Allotments

- Table Top Sale – Unsure if this would be going ahead on the 21st May as little interest had been shown.
- 6 plot holders had been written to concerning the poor condition of their plots
- Allotment Competition – Cllr Earth to speak to Asst Clerk about dates and judges.

14. To note any items of correspondence

The Clerk advised that the School Patrol Officer for Fordingbridge Infant School had retired and had not been replaced prompting concern from parents about the dangers of crossing Whitsbury Road. The Clerk to write to Hants CC to ascertain if there are any proposals for a crossing or replacement Patrol Officer.

Ruth Croker advised that the footpath from Sandheath was being upgraded as a cycle route which would provide a safe route to school.

Graffiti – Graffiti had been reported at various location around the town. A request had been made by the Council to the NFDC and HCC for this to be removed. The Police had also asked if FTC wished to make a complaint about the tags but as the property involved is not the responsibility of FTC this would be passed to the appropriate authorities above.

The Information Office had received a report of verbal abuse to a visitor to the town by a resident of Riverside Place following a visit to the statue of the Augustus John. Ruth Croker had contacted Cllr Sevier from NFDC as this was not the first time this had happened and was part of an ongoing dispute concerning public rights of way in this area – Cllr Sevier had undertaken to speak with Cllr Heron. Members asked that the incident be reported to the police and NFDC be contacted again concerning the right of way issue and access to public open space – it was suggested that all residents of Riverside Place should be written to with a copy of the section 106 agreement.

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

Nothing to report

16. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 20th July 2016

The meeting closed at 8.30pm