

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held at 7.30pm on
Wednesday 18th November 2015 in the Town Hall

(Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr (G) Wilson – Chairman
Cllrs (A) Wilson, Hale, Earth, Anstey & Adams

In Attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Mrs D Coatham, Finance Officer
Cllrs Price, Paton, Lewendon & Perkins present in the Public Gallery

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Connolly

2. To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr Adams declared an interest in Item No. 6 – Provision of Water boiler at the Town Hall – as a Member of the Fordingbridge Entertainment Society but remained in the room to speak.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2015 and report on any matters arising

Cllr (A) Wilson proposed and Cllr Earth seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th September 2015 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Minute no. 8 – Falconwood Footpath – Works completed however the handrail is loose.

4. To receive any matters raised by Members of the Public

No matters raised by Members of the Public.

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

- Grounds Maintenance costs – The Finance Officer advised members of the cost for grounds maintenance at both St Mary's Churchyard and Stuckton Road Cemetery. The maintenance at the Cemetery is carried out by a contractor at a cost of £3640.00 per annum and includes the cutting of the grass on the older, church section of the cemetery. A meeting between the Church and the Town Council will be arranged as soon as possible to discuss ongoing maintenance.
- Unauthorised Grave Surrounds – Following investigation by the Clerk on the legal position for dealing with unauthorised memorials or other items, Members agreed that action should be taken as soon as unauthorised items are placed in the cemetery. Town Clerk to arrange for recent unauthorised items to be removed.

6. To report on any matter relating to the Town Hall

- Council Chamber Gutters – Contractor unable to start work on schedule due to bad weather – Clerk to chase.

- Water Boiler – Following a request and details from Fordingbridge Entertainment Society for provision of a fixed water boiler to replace the urns, the Chairman invited Cllr Adams to present details of the boiler – this would cost £800 - £1000 and would be funded by the Entertainment Society, the boiler would be fitted with a fixed filter and economy mode. Concern was raised regarding the practice of users tipping the current urn as due to the design all contents cannot be used in the upright position. Cllr Anstey requested that this practice should cease and that the Clerk instructs all users not to tip the urn. Electrical works to move plug sockets will also be required if the fixed boiler is provided, the cost of which will be met by the Entertainment Society. Cllr Adams to seek further clarification and report back to the Clerk and Committee.

The Clerk requested agreement from members to purchase flasks for transporting hot water both upstairs and into the main hall. (This would alleviate the need to continue to take water boilers out of the kitchen).

Cllr (A) Wilson proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Earth and therefore **RESOLVED** that flasks should be purchased for use in the Main Hall and Council Chamber. All in favour.

7. To discuss work required to the Memorial Bungalow

See Agenda Item 9 – discussed under Budgets

8. To report on matters concerning Highways

The chairman reported that repairs have been carried out to the Highway drain in the High Street which had resolved flooding issues during heavy rainfall. The chairman also reported that works had started on the Footpath leading from Church Street (part of the Avon Valley Path) to enable the path to be re-opened.

Concern was raised regarding an increase in dog fouling, particularly in The Bartons and Parsonage Park areas. Town Clerk to request that NFDC erect more signs and also write to the schools to remind parents walking to school with dogs to clear up after them.

Cllr Perkins entered the meeting

Concern was also raised regarding the uneven paved surface outside of Riverside Place. Town Clerk to chase.

Highways Maintenance Consultation – Defer to General Council on 2nd December 2015.

9. To discuss budget proposals for 2016-17 financial year and make a recommendation to the Finance & Policy Committee meeting on the 25th November 2015

The Finance Officer gave details of the current budgets and proposals for next Financial Year, increased expenditure was discussed for VIC non-staff costs. The budget for the Memorial Bungalow has been set to allow for some of the works recently identified to be carried out next financial year, with the remainder the following year. It was agreed that the window replacement was one item that could be deferred until a later date.

The Town Hall expenditure may increase to allow for essential repairs to the roof/clock tower following completion of guttering repairs. At present the scale and cost of further work is not known.

It was agreed that the recommendations for budgets set out in the Finance Officers report be accepted subject to the results of investigations into any works and spending required to the Clock Tower.

10. To note any items of correspondence

No items of correspondence

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

The Town Clerk had nothing to report and there was no other relevant business.

12. To note the date of the next meeting as 20th January 2016

The meeting closed at 8.25pm