

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a General Council held on Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall (Minutes subject to approval at the next meeting of the Committee)

Present: Cllr Connolly - Chairman

Cllrs Adams, Lewendon, Anstey, Hale, Wilson, Earth, Fulford, Perkins

In attendance: Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk
Cllrs A Sevier & R Bellows, New Forest DC
Cllr E Heron, Hampshire CC

1. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Price

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

No declarations made.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2016 and report any matters arising

Cllr Hale proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Anstey and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd February 2016 be signed as a true record subject to the following amendment requested by Cllr Bellows.

Minute No. 8 – District Councillor report to read:

“Cllr Bellows advised that the average New Forest DC portion of the Council Tax bill will rise by 1.76% for the year 2015/16.”

All in favour.

Matters Arising

The Chairman reported that the work being undertaken by John Yeten to set up a fishing club was progressing and volunteers are being sought. The Chairman went on to report that he had attended the WW1 exhibition held in Lyndhurst and thanked Cllr Sevier for her continued hard work and commitment to the project.

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

No members of the public present.

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

No report received.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The Mayor reported the following activities during February

- 12th Meeting of Cottage Hospitals Committee (Temporary representative) – money available from former Friends of Fordingbridge Hospital funds. Cottage Hospitals generally working well.
- 12th Queens 90th Birthday meeting
- 21st Ibsley Church Service

- 22nd Visit by John Crowe President of Gallipoli & Dardanelles International and Dr Haldun Solmazturk, 21.Century Turkey Institute. The Mayor was presented with 2 plaques during the visit.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Heron reported that the HCC element of Council Tax would rise by 3.99% which is less than 80p per week. Cllr Heron added that there would also be a reduction of 37.4% grant received from Central Government and that users will see changes to service provision.

Cllr Heron then advised that the Household Waste Site at Somerley would be operated by a new Contractor, Veolia, from 1st April 2016. The following changes were planned:

- Charge for non-household items such as soil and rubble
- Improved recycling facilities at sites (shops)
- Acceptance of some business/commercial waste for small-medium sized businesses which would be a chargeable service. Businesses expected to recycle more of their waste.

Cllr Heron reported that the changes proposed in the recent Fire & Rescue consultation had been implemented.

The Chairman raised concern over the proposed cuts to the young family support services particularly as this is a service that the Town Council is unable to take over and provide.

Cllr Fulford queried Government Guidance, local Council decisions on cuts, ring fencing, provision of statutory requirements and sustainable provision – the Sure Start project had not been set up in a sustainable way. Cllr Heron confirmed that Adult Social Care and Child Protection services would not be cut.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Bellows had nothing to report.

Cllr Fulford reported on a proposed meeting with the Planning department at which the policy on mobile homes within open fields and the current situation at Marl Lane would be raised.

Cllrs Heron, Sevier & Bellows left the meeting.

9. To receive the following Committee meeting Minutes and any recommendations to General Council contained therein:

- Planning Committee – 10th February – Received Cllr Fulford
- Finance & Policy Committee 24th February – Received by Cllr Connolly

10. To report on any Health & Safety issues

No health and safety items to report.

11. To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies and meetings attended

Cllr Earth reported on a meeting of the Allotment Committee on the 25th February and advised that Peter Taylor, had given up his allotment and committee membership due to ill health. The date for the Table Top Sale was agreed as 21st May 2016.

The chairman reported that Cllr Earth was to become the representative at the Twinning Association and would therefore not be attending Avonway Meetings in the future. It was agreed that a replacement would not be made and the Clerk will write and request that the Town Council are invited to meetings if the Agenda contains any relevant items and receive the minutes of other committee meetings.

Cllr Hale 18th February meeting of the Victoria Rooms Trustees Forest Forge event in January very popular (£400 profit) and bookings going well.

1st March - Fordingbridge Trust for Conservation Volunteers (FTCV) 1st March – Reviewed H & S policies, no changes required; have planted 4 oak trees; membership now at 15 need more working members, will attend Frogham Fair for publicity but not Fordingbridge Festival (insurance costs high). The trust had received conflicting information regarding the water levels and supply at Bishops Pond. Query over supply from road gullies however conflicts with information from Highways - Town Clerk to seek plans of the area prior to the residential development.

Cllr Anstey reported on attendance at a site meeting with the Rugby Club and the proposed supplier's representative on 9th February to discuss the siting of floodlights on the Rugby pitch – an issue had been identified regarding the proximity of the pylons and overhead cables. A further issue had arisen at a meeting between the Rugby Club, Rugby Football Union and Town Council concerning whether the flood lights would be permanent fixtures or could be moved to dummy bases – RFU to provide quote for moveable columns.

9th February – Pitch Maintenance workshop attended at New Forest District Council

17th February Meeting with Whippet Racing Club

18th February – Meeting with Turks FC management team at which time the clubs aspirations for promotion and requirements for facilities were discussed. It was agreed that the Town Council would help and support the club where possible however it was noted that the main pitch at the Recreation Ground was being overused and is in poor condition and other options should be considered. The option of Burgate School had been considered but the football club requirements would need to be balanced with the needs of the school. The Club had not provided the Council with a development plan. Insurance requires for fixtures and events was also discussed.

Cllr Adams reported that the re-wiring had been undertaken in the Town Hall kitchen ahead of the supply of the new water boiler.

12. To note any items of correspondence

The Town Clerk reported on correspondence received from New Forest Night Stop – a service providing accommodation to the homeless – new hosts were being sought – Clerk to distribute to members.

New Forest DC Events – Notification had been received of a cycling event which would be routed through the Town on 9th and 10th April 2016.

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

The Clerk reported on attendance at an event promoting Electronic Document Management and iCloud storage – the Town Clerk is preparing an IT Strategy and this will feed into a Strategic or Business Plan for the Council. Cllr Fulford advised that this had been discussed previously but not progressed however is essential when setting budgets.

The Clerk advised that the Chairman would be unable to attend the HALC Annual Conference on the 9th March and invited members to attend.

It was noted by the Clerk that the Public Toilets at the Recreation Ground were not being opened each day – Clerk to instruct Groundsman to ensure toilets unlocked each morning.

Cllr Perkins reported that the person undertaking rabbit control on Brownsey's Field had advised that this would take place in the near future.

14. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 6th April 2016

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

