

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th September 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

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

In attendance:

Miss D Vine, Asst Town Clerk

NFDC Cllr Sevier

NFDC Cllr Bellows

Mr Paul Armes

Mr Mike Buchanan

Mrs Patricia Earth

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Heron & Lewendon.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Price for Patricia Earth, one of the candidates for co-option as a Councillor is an employee. Cllr Price would remain in the room but would not vote on co-option.

3. To receive applications for co-option as a Member of the Town Council

A vacancy exists on the Town Council following the resignation of Cllr Robbins.

Mr Paul Armes, Mr Mike Buchanan and Mrs Patricia Earth had advised the Clerk they wished to be considered. Each candidate was asked to introduce themselves to the meeting and explain why they wanted to be a member of the Town Council.

The meeting was adjourned whilst Members then voted by ballot paper.

The meeting re-convened following voting and verification.

The following person was co-opted onto the Town Council: Mr Mike Buchanan.

The Chairman thanked the candidates for applying and welcomed Mr Buchanan onto the Town Council.

Mr Armes and Mrs Earth left the meeting

4. To confirm the minutes of the General Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th August 2013 and any matters arising.

It was proposed by Cllr Perkins and seconded by Cllr Paton and RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th August 2013 be signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

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

No public present.

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

There were no police present but Sgt Towler had forwarded a report. Sgt Towler, PC Deniz and PCSO Towers had held regular meeting a patrols at Riverside Place following on-going complaints from residents. There had been some anti-social behaviour and criminal damage to the toilets at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Adams asked what the nature of the damage had been and how often this was occurring. Cllr Connolly advised that the situation was being monitored and if necessary the toilets would have to be locked if it continued. Complaints had been received about noise coming from outside the Kebab restaurant in Provost Street from youths sitting in their cars a playing loud music whilst eating. PCSO Towers to visit the restaurant to see what can be done.

Cllr Fulford was concerned at the lack of police attendance at the General Council meetings as it was an opportunity to build goodwill and to meet with those who looked after the town. It was AGREED that the Asst Clerk would ask for future attendance where possible.

7. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

Cllr Connolly attended the Moto Guzzi Rally over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor

County Councillor not present.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier reported that official notification had now been received regarding the closure of the front desk at Fordingbridge Police Station. Cllr Connolly thanked Cllr Sevier on behalf of the Council, for her hard work and dedication in manning the desk over the years.

The Local Development Plan was coming up for its second consultation but there was no change for Fordingbridge.

The planning application for the development at Marl Lane had been turned down and if an Appeal is lodged it was Cllr Sevier's intention to ensure that this would be heard in Fordingbridge. A meeting with Cllr Connolly had been arranged to discuss this should it occur. The footpath and bridleway at Marl Lane had now been designated as SANGS (Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space)

The grass at Sweatfords Watermeadows has now been cut although Cllr Paton advised that as it had been left for so long it still looked very untidy. Cllr Hale advised that the conservation group had had difficulty pulling the Himalayan Balsam due to overgrown brambles.

Cllr (G) Wilson advised that signage had been erected at Riverside Place indicating that it was private property and that signage erected by the Council indicating the path to the river had been removed twice.

Cllr (A) Wilson asked if Cllr Sevier was aware of the change to a cycle route from Avon Meade to Allenwater Drive making it more dangerous. Cllr Sevier advised that this was a proposal at this stage.

Cllr Bellows reported that parking on Provost Street was becoming a problem and PC Deniz had been asked to monitor the situation.

The kerbside glass collections were due to commence in October with the collection bins being distributed to households from the 9th September 2013. There was no intention to remove the glass collection bins in the car parks at this stage as all glass collected had a value to NFDC once recycled.

Cllr Connolly thanked the District Councillors for their reports.

Cllrs Sevier and Bellows left the meeting.

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

Planning Committee – Resolved: that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 14th August 2013 be received.

Finance & Policy Committee – Resolved: that the minutes of the Finance & Policy Committee held on the 28th August 2013 be received.

There were no recommendations.

11. To report on any Health & Safety Issues

Cllr (A) Wilson raised the issue again of overgrown weeds and vegetation on the corner of Beechwood which was dangerous. This has been reported to HCC but the Asst Clerk to follow up.

Cllr Fulford advised that the notices advising that the Avon Valley Footpath (97) was closed had become weather worn and illegible and some of the tape had also disappeared. Walkers were still using the path possibly unaware of the danger. Asst Clerk to ask for new signs and tape.

12. To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies and meetings attended

Cllr Fulford – Burgate School to hold a community choir evening during September.

Cllr Hale - 3rd September - FCVAG Committee Meeting - thanked FTC for the offer of insurance cover for volunteers and request a copy of the wording before cancelling the policy. Thanks for Andy Lane for cutting the fallen tree and neighbour needs to repair the fence. Seeking advice from HCC with regard to the Pond. Would like to see whether a walkway could still be funded from Developer Contributions.

Whitsbury Road – Assistance required with cutting long grass.

The FCVAG AGM would be held on the 24th September 2013 at the Victoria Rooms.

Cllrs (G) Wilson, (A) Wilson, Anstey, Paton, Price and Adams had nothing to report.

13. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to note.

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

Nothing to report.

15. To note the date of the next General Council Meeting as Wednesday 2nd October 2013

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm