

FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a General Council Meeting held on 5th December 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

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

In attendance:

Ms K Mason, Town Clerk

NFDC Cllr Sevier

HCC Cllr Heron

Mr A Gordon

Mr I Newman, Burgate School Community Partnership Committee

Mr P Padfield, Burgate School

1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Perkins, Shering, NFDC Cllr Bellows

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2012 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr Price and seconded by Cllr (G) Wilson that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2012 be signed as a true record. All in favour, Carried.

Matters arising

Cllr Fulford reported that the meeting of the Community Management Committee at Burgate in October had not been cancelled; she had been omitted from the distribution list, in error, and not advised of the date.

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

Mr A Gordon advised the Council that the theft from his shop of pictures had been resolved as the pictures were anonymously returned. He had identified the thieves and made it known to them he knew their identity. The Police were aware.

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

No police were present.

Cllr Connolly read out an email from Sgt Freeman who advised he was being transferred to Lyndhurst in December and would no longer be based in Fordingbridge.

6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor.

There was no report given.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

Green Lane – Cllr Heron advised that HCC & NFDC Officers had carried out a site visit. Work to repair the problems would be carried out following the Late Night Shopping on 7th December. The additional costs would be paid by the contractor.

Action for Children Centres – Cllr Heron met with Action for Children who acknowledged there had been initial problems during the handover of the Centres from HCC but these were being addressed. Cllr Fulford concurred that this was the case and she had also met with Action for Children who admitted it had been a poor start to the partnership.

Bishops Pond – Cllr Heron will arrange for a meeting between himself, Cllr Hale & an officer from HCC to discuss water levels in Bishops Pond.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillors

Cllr Sevier had nothing to report.

9. To receive a report from Burgate School Community Partnership Committee on a new Fordingbridge Community Sports Strategy

Mr I Newman, Chair of the Burgate School Community Partnership Committee advised members that the Committee had recognised the need for the school to forge better links with the community of Fordingbridge and surrounding parishes. The School wish to apply for funding for a new Sports Hall which would expand the current facilities for the pupils and also be open for community use as an amenity for the people in the Fordingbridge area. This can only be achieved by working in partnership with the County, District & Town Councils and Fordingbridge Sports Club.

The Committee understood that a new sports facility was being planned for the Recreation Ground and Mr Newman acknowledged that it was important that the two projects worked together to maximise the amount for funding that could be sourced and ensure that both projects complement each other and there is no duplication of facilities. With that in mind the Committee wanted to approach the Town Council and ask that a Sports Strategy for the Town be drawn up.

Cllr Fulford agreed this was a timely discussion and that the Localism Act 2011 encouraged the use of community facilities by all members of the community. A sports strategy could link in with a other strategies on health, leisure and youth to show that proper use was being made of the funding available and that it provided for the needs for the community.

Cllr Connolly acknowledged that this was a new role for the Town Council and advice would be sought from NFDC as to its role and obligations.

Cllr Heron agreed that any action that improved the school and encourages the use of the facilities by the community was a good one and the formation of a strategy was a positive way forward.

Cllr Connolly thanked Mr Newman and Mr Padfield for attending the meeting and advised that the Town Council would contact NFDC to get the appropriate advice on the next step forward. They would then contact the Burgate School Community Partnership Committee for further discussion.

Student Councillors – Mr Newman told members that the Committee was also keen to start the programme of Student Councillors, encouraging pupils to participate fully in the community. The model that was used by Ringwood TC had been very successful. Cllr Connolly said he was willing to take responsibility for the project and that a meeting would be held in the New Year with Ringwood TC to get their advice.

Mr I Newman, Mr P Padfield & Mr A Gordon left the meeting.

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

The minutes will be received at the next meeting.

11. To accept the quotation from Queensbury Shelters for the repair to the bus shelter

It was AGREED to accept the quotation from Queensbury Shelters (to be paid for by HCC).

The meeting was adjourned at 8.20pm to view proposed plans for the Sports Facility at the Receptions Ground.

The meeting re-convened at 8.25pm.

12. To discuss a Forward Plan for the Council

Members discussed Objectives as part of the Council's Forward Plan. The Vision statement and Key Objectives were AGREED:

Vision statement

To help create and maintain a sustainable and thriving community, which will be an attractive, vibrant and prosperous town where people will choose to live, work, and visit.

Key Objectives

[in no particular order]

1. We will be open and transparent

- We will be honest, open and consistent in everything we do, so that people can trust us
- We will be accountable and take responsibility for our actions
- We will demonstrate responsive, impartial and fair leadership
- We will make sure we deliver good value for money

2. We will invest in our people

- We will all work as one team
- We will treat all our colleagues with dignity, honesty, fairness and respect
- We will give staff real involvement in service planning, development and improvement
- We will give staff the opportunity to work flexibly to balance their work and family lives

3. We will invest in our community

- We will recognise our role as a community leader and lead by example
- We will focus on the issues of greatest importance to the community we serve
- We will make council services accessible and tailored to the needs of all sections of the community

4. We will aim to be outstanding

- We will become an outstanding council, constantly developing and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our services
- We will embrace change, new ideas and innovation and seek opportunities to work in partnership and learn from others
- We will set ourselves challenging performance targets
- We will work hard to deliver our vision for the benefit of everyone living and working in Fordingbridge.

Members agreed that each Committee needed to determine their aims based on the key objectives And then budgets could be linked to those aims. The whole would then serve as a Forward Plan for the Town Council.

It was AGREED that the Amenities Cmt will meet on the 6th December and the General Purposes Cmt meet on the 12th December to discuss and agree their aims. The budget meetings will take place in early January 2013 in order to meet the precept request deadline of the 31st January 2013.

13. To report on any Health & Safety Issues.

Skatepark repairs - Cllr Anstey asked if the repair to the pole had been completed as it was reported two months ago. The Clerk explained that they had received two quotes for that and other work but were waiting for a third quote which had been queried by members. She would ask the Groundsman to remove the pole.

14. To receive a report on the Late Night Shopping event, 7th December 2012

Cllr (G) Wilson reported that she had collected donations of £1335 from local traders and organisations towards the costs of the event. Solent Radio and other media outlets were advertising the event. Cllr (G) Wilson thanked Cllr Heron for the grant towards the cost of the reindeer.

15. Code of Local Government Data Transparency consultation

Members noted the consultation but had no comments to send.

16. To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies

Cllr (G) Wilson – reported that the Twinning Committee had been advised that the Petanque court would need to be removed to make way for the concession building planned for the children's play area. The Clerk to write to Mr Dennis Bailey to advise.

Cllr (A) Wilson – advised that there were problems with the Friday Youth Club at Avonway.

Cllr Hale – reported that the Conservation Group would have a stall at the Late Night Shopping event to advertise their activities and try and recruit more members. It had been proposed that Bishops Pond be dug out to allow for more water and money held by the Town Council on the groups behalf could be used for this purpose. Cllr Hale will attend the meeting with Cllr Heron regarding water levels at Bishops Pond.

The Victoria Rooms held a Trustee meeting and reported that income from room letting had risen and was now more than annual expenditure. Decorating will take place in mid- January.

Cllr Lewendon reported that there were problems with the heating in Ford Ward which wouldn't turn off and further problems in the old building.

The Mayor reported that Salisbury Bus Station will close in the summer, 2013.

17. To note any items of correspondence

Nothing to report.

18. To receive a report form the Clerk or any other relevant business

Burgate School Annual Community Prize – it was proposed by Cllr Fulford and seconded by Cllr Hale that a prize of £50 be given to each of the two nominees for the Annual Community Prize. All in favour, Carried.

Ford Ward – the annual visit to Ford Ward to give mince pies and sherry to patients will take place on Tuesday 18th December at 3pm. All members are invited to attend.

19. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as Wednesday 2nd January 2013

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.