

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the General Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Town Hall

#### Present:

Cllr Connolly – Chairman

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

#### In attendance:

NFDC Cllr Sevier & Cllr Bellows

HCC Cllr Heron

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk

1 Member of the Public

#### 1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Adams & Sgt Towler

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations received

#### 3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and report on any matters arising

It was proposed by Cllr A Lewendon and seconded by Cllr G Wilson and **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 be signed as a true record.

Matters Arising - No Matters Arising

#### 4. To receive any Matters raised by the Public

No matters raised by the Public

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

No Police representative present – Sgt Towler had emailed to advise nothing to report.

Cllr Perkins entered the meeting.

#### 6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor.

The Mayor reported on attendance at the following meetings & events:

6th June

Burgate School 12<sup>th</sup> June – Opening of the new Sensory Garden

Twining Association 12<sup>th</sup> June – Boules evening at Sandy Balls – the Association are encouraging younger members to join

Royal British Legion meeting 16<sup>th</sup> June – It was agreed that the RBL Memorial Garden be moved to within the main Memorial Garden at the Recreation Ground – this will be organised following completion of the building of the new Refreshment Kiosk.

Womens Royal British Legion 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Church Service at Ellingham Church

#### 7. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

Street Lighting Replacement – Cllr Heron advised that the works were not yet completed but had temporarily ceased. Complaints were still being received regarding the replacement of heritage lamps and Cllr Heron advised that the list of programmed replacements is referred to and reminded the meeting that some historic lamps had temporary modern fittings at present which would be

changed (in accordance with the programme of works list). Once works are complete a check would be made of correct replacement and lighting periods. The only two listed lamps to be retained as existing are 2 lights at Station Road.

Cllr A Wilson requested an update on Footpath 78b at Puddleslosh Lane. The Clerk advised that she had spoken with the Senior Ranger, HCC today and was informed that the Countryside Team continued to work with the landowners to reinstate the surface of the path to a suitable standard and also regarding the erection of a permanent fence.

#### **8. To receive a report from the District Councillors**

Cllr Sevier reported that the Sequoia Farm Planning Applications were to be presented to NFDC Planning Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2014 with a recommendation for refusal.

Cllr Bellows reported that an investigation was being undertaken by the Environmental Health Team following complaints received regarding ill health after using the Paddling Pool at the Recreation Ground. Further water samples were due to be taken and the report awaited.

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of maintenance (by NFDC) at Sweatsford Water and Cllr Perkins informed the meeting that the Environment Agency had expressed that enforcement action may be taken.

Cllr A Wilson enquired about the positioning of the containers at Sequoia Farm and whether any Enforcement Action had been instigated in this respect. Cllr Sevier responded that she was unaware of the current position but would raise this at the Planning meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> July.

Cllr Sevier also confirmed that clarification would be sought on the clearance of the travellers site on Marl Lane. Concern was expressed that if Sequoia Farm gains Planning Permission that this would enable the travellers to apply again for permission.

#### **9. To receive the following Committee meeting minutes**

Planning Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Amenities Committee – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Finance & Policy Committee – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014

Minutes accepted by the relevant chair of each committee.

#### **Matters Arising from Finance & Policy Committee 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Matters Arising from Finance & Policy Committee 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014

- To finalise the Tender process for the Concession Building

To be discussed in closed session immediately following this meeting.

#### **10. To report on any Health & Safety issues**

Cllr Anstey reported that he had investigated the position with regard to the height of the overhead electricity cables at the Recreation Ground and confirmed that the cables satisfied the Legal Height requirements. However while the cables are high enough not to cause concern for grass cutting, caravan siting and general use of the area, Cllr Anstey raised concern regarding the artic vehicle which was used as part of the Fordingbridge Festival last year – Risk Assessment for the Festival to be checked.

#### **11. To discuss NFDC proposed parking restrictions**

Burgate School - Cllr Connolly reported that he had met with the Mr Gumbrecht representative of Burgate Residents & discussed the removal of the proposed parking restrictions in the approach road to the school. Cllr Connolly will contact the Burgate Fields residents again before the Council

respond to the consultation. If the problems could not be overcome, this would be referred to the Transport Committee. No response to other parking proposals.

Cllr Perkins raised concern regarding parking on the highway and that the parking wardens need to be reminded of their obligations.

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

Cllr Hale reported:

**Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteers  
Management Meeting - Tuesday 10th June**

**Publicity**

*Discussed having a display at the following events:*

*Patronal Festival. Not enough members available to help that day*

*Fordingbridge Festival. Will book a stall*

*Frogham Fair. Would like to attend but have to pay for one-off Public Liability insurance*

**Bishops Pond**

*Surveys being carried out ready for pond restoration project*

*Need gate installed at end of woodland to stop unauthorised access*

*This can be paid for from the Bishops Pond reserves, but who will arrange this?*

It was AGREED that the Clerk would speak with the Finance Officer to establish funding available and liaise with the Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteer Group regarding the replacement of the gate at Bishops Pond.

**Whitsbury Road Site**

*Members are unable to control rapid nettle and bramble growth after flooding*

*Request to Town Council to help with machinery to cut worst areas*

- *Southern end of site. Cut back additional 3m from back of existing verge*
- *Northern end. Machine cut over areas already cleared to prevent grass re-growth*

*If Andy is not able to cut this, will Town Council help with costs to employ contractor?*

It was AGREED that the Clerk would liaise with the Groundsman to see what help the Town Council could provide in this respect.

**Himalayan Balsam Pulling**

*Large amounts noted in Sweatford Water again*

*Members asked to work with Hampshire Wildlife Trust on four dates in July / August*

**13. To note any items of correspondence**

Cllr Anstey advised the meeting of an email with an invitation to the Turks Football Club AGM which was being held tonight. Cllr Anstey has requested that at the AGM an undertaking was made that the club would not charge for parking at the Recreation Ground for any fixtures.

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

Concession Building – the Clerk reported that a further invoice had been received from Mike Castle in the sum of £39,453.00 + VAT.

Fishing Fees – The clerk reported that due to several requests from local fishermen, a new charge would be introduced for monthly fishing fees. This would be discounted at £30.00 (instead of 4 x weekly charge of £10.00).

Hospital Redevelopment – the Clerk informed the meeting that she and the Mayor had attended an information presentation regarding the redevelopment of the old hospital. The proposal is for provision of 11 apartments within the main building and 4 bungalows in the former workhouse buildings. The proposals appeared to be sympathetic, retaining the character of the buildings. Concern was raised regarding parking provision however this will be raised following submission of the Planning Application – anticipated submission in August.

Amenities & General Purposes Site Visits – Cllr G Wilson requested that all Councillors attend the visits scheduled on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014 for both Committees (irrespective of Committee membership). It was agreed that all members would attend all visits starting at the Recreation Ground at 6.30pm. This would include a visit to the kiosk building.

Avonway – Cllr Fulford advised that she is unable to fulfil the role of representative of the Council as she is unable to attend on a Monday evening.

River Avon – Cllr Perkins reported that he had raised concerns with the Environment Agency regarding the recently formed island in the river, near to the bridge in the Recreation Ground. The advice given was that this was not a problem however a representative from the EA would investigate.

Camera – Cllr Perkins advised that he had received confirmation from the Police that the camera purchased by the Council was unusable. However if a covert camera was required, a case should be put to the Police.

15. To note the date of the next General Council meeting as **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014.**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

A closed session then followed to discuss the Tender for the Refreshment Kiosk Concession.