

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the General Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall

#### Present:

Cllr Price – Vice Chairman

Cllrs Fulford, Adams, Earth, Lewendon, Hale, Anstey, (G) Wilson, (A) Wilson & Perkins

#### In Attendance:

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk

Cllr R Bellows, New Forest DC

Cllr E Heron

Rev Gary Philbrick

#### 1. Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Connolly, PC Deniz and PCSO Towers

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest

#### 3. To confirm the minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and to report on any matters arising.

It was proposed by Cllr Hale and seconded by Cllr Anstey and **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> August 2014 be signed as a true record. All in favour.

#### Matters Arising

Minute 5 – Footpath No 78b Puddleslosh Lane – Cllr G Wilson reported that the footpath would remain closed until at least January but despite this notices were still being removed and the path being used. The Clerk informed the meeting that the bridleway at Puddleslosh Lane had also been closed to allow for a new water main to be installed.

Cllr Price queried whether information was available regarding byelaws. Cllr Heron responded with reference to the Hampshire CC website which contains all the relevant legislation.

Minute 11 – Lifebuoy Recreation Ground Cllr Fulford reported on an incident involving a junior member of her family who fell into the river and the nearest lifebuoy was missing. Fortunately, her accompanying parent was able to pull her out. The Clerk confirmed that there was still a problem with obtaining a replacement lifebuoy the correct size. Members AGREED that the larger new lifebuoy should be placed in the housing so that lifebuoys are available in all housing units. Town Clerk to action.

Minute 16 – Overgrown Hedges in Fryern Court Road Area – Clerk to chase with Highways.

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

Reverend Philbrick reminded members that services are to be held for all former Fordingbridge residents who were killed in action during the First World War and the first service to be held at the War Memorial was on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 11.00am. Members requested that the Clerk ensure that the Memorial Gardens are tidy and obtain an estimate for the repainting of the Memorial Gates.

**5. To receive a report on any matters under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act**  
No representative of Hampshire Police present and no written report received.

**6. To receive a report from the Town Mayor**  
The Mayor was absent from the meeting and no report was received.

**7. To receive a Report from the County Councillor**  
Cllr Heron reported that Hampshire County Council would be repairing the damaged Finger Post sign located at the junction of Provost Street and High Street. Following discussion Members AGREED that the post should hold signs for St Mary's Church, Avonway Community Centre and the Information Office. Cllr Heron confirmed that bollards would be placed around the sign post to protect it from further damage. Cllr Price requested that business owners in this area be consulted before the siting of the bollards is agreed. Cllr Heron also confirm that bollards are to be placed within Provost Street (next to the bridge) and also in Church Street (at the far end past the church).

**8. To receive a Report from the District Councillors**  
Cllr Bellows reported that the It's Your Choice Youth group was experiencing problems with storage and would like the Council to consider the positioning of a container within the recreation ground or to let the old toilet block to the group once decommissioned. The Clerk advised that the use of the old toilet block for storage (and its letting to the Youth Group) had previously been discussed, at which time the cost of decommissioning and the need for Planning Permission for change of use was raised. Cllr Heron reminded Members that if any funds were to be sought from Hampshire CC that this would need to be as soon as possible as budgets were due to be set for the next financial year. Members AGREED that the requirements for decommissioning of the toilets should be placed on the Agenda for the Amenities Committee at its next meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Cllr G Wilson reported that Cllr Heron had agreed to contribute towards the late night shopping event this year to be held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

Cllrs Heron and Bellows left the meeting.

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

Planning Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Staff & Remuneration Committee 21<sup>st</sup> August 2014

Finance & Policy Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014

**10. To report any Health & Safety issues**  
No Health & Safety matters to report.

**11. To receive reports from representatives on Outside Bodies and meetings attended**  
**Cllr Fulford** reported that as the new term had only began that week, no meeting had yet taken place at Burgate School.

**Cllr Hale**

**FORDINGBRIDGE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS  
MANAGEMENT MEETING – 19 AUGUST 2014**

Two new members so total paid-up members now nineteen  
Group to have stall at Frogham Fair as Jane has arranged insurance at cost of £27 for the day

Bishops Pond. Two surveys to be carried out in preparation for restoration scheme in 2015. Paul Brock to survey insect activity. Mike Allen to undertake core borings on 24 August Whitsbury Road. Lengthsman to clear long grass with machinery as now too thick to cut with tools. Some areas to be marked off to remain for wildlife

Himalayan Balsam. Hampshire Wildlife Trust has cancelled clearing days as not much Balsam found

AGM arranged for 7.30pm on Tuesday 14 October at United Reform Church Hall

#### **BISHOPS POND BOREHOLE SURVEY – 24 AUGUST 2014**

Survey carried out by Mike Allen of Allen Environmental Archaeology. Seven test pits dug within the pond area showed different materials in each and no consistent clay lining. Mike produced an initial report stating that the pond would have been mostly fed by ground water, so lowering of water table explains why the pond has dried up. Mike to carry out more investigation on 21 September

#### **VICTORIA ROOMS TRUST**

##### **TRUSTEE MEETING 21 AUGUST 2014**

Finance and bookings generally good with some one-off bookings for family events

John Saunders has applied for a grant from Entrust to refurbish the first floor rooms. If the funds are available, the work will start in March 2015

Concerns about illegal parking in the small VR users car park by new residents of 18 Bridge Street

Trustees investigating options to repair water penetration in first floor Committee Room

**Cllr Lewendon** reported that the Training Corp would be holding a BBQ on 13<sup>th</sup> September from 11.00am

Cllr Fulford then requested that the procedure for Outside Bodies Reports returned to verbal report (replacing written reports) as more information could be gained from verbal reporting. Members agreed that the District and County Councillors should be requested to remain at the meeting to be present when the Outside Bodies reports are given in order to be aware of community issues.

Cllr G Wilson confirmed that verbal reporting had been replaced as reports took too much time to be presented, which was confirmed by Cllr Adams.

Members AGREED that this should be placed on the Agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Finance and Policy Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Cllr Price reported that the Fordingbridge Carers Group was run by volunteers and funded by donations – he had advised the group that the Council operate a grant aid scheme, for which they could apply. Cllr A Wilson confirmed that the friends of Fordingbridge hospital had given a donation to the Carers group.

#### **12. To discuss participation in Fly the Flag for the Commonwealth Day 2015**

The Clerk reported on correspondence received from NALC seeking participation in the Fly the Flag for the Commonwealth event on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Members AGREED that the Council would participate in the event but concern was raised over the size of the flag available for purchase and its suitability for the flagpole at the Town Hall. Town Clerk to investigate.

#### **13. Correspondence**

The Clerk reminded members of the email distributed recently regarding a Resilience Planning Event due to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 This is Resilience Planning for any

emergency not just flooding as discussed at the Police Liaison Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Members requested to advise Clerk if they wish to attend.

Members discussed flooding issues including the removal of the island which had formed by the Bridge adjacent to the Play Area in the River Avon and also the trees which had fallen over or overgrown into the River in this area.

MIND Andover

The Clerk reported on a visit and correspondence received from a representative of MIND who are seeking volunteers to raise awareness of Dementia throughout Hampshire.

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

The Clerk had nothing further to report and no other business was raised.

**15. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014.**

The Vice Chairman then suspended the Standing Orders in order that Agenda Item 16 to Agree the Terms of the Lease for the Refreshment Kiosk Concession could be discussed in closed session, with Members of the Public and Press being excluded.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm