

## FORDINGBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the General Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in the Town Hall

#### **Present:**

Cllr Connolly – Chairman  
Cllrs Fulford, (G) Wilson, (A) Wilson, Earth, Hale, Anstey, Perkins, Lewendon, Price and Adams

#### **In Attendance:**

Mrs H Richards, Town Clerk  
Cllr Heron, Hampshire CC  
Cllrs Sevier & Bellows, New Forest DC  
PC Deniz

#### **1. Apologies**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Paton

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Adams declared an Interest in Agenda Item 9 Finance & Policy Minutes, Payment of Accounts but remained in the room to speak and vote.

Cllr Perkins joined the meeting

#### **3. To confirm the Minutes of the General Council meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 and to report on any matters arising.**

It was proposed by Cllr Lewendon and seconded by Cllr Fulford and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 be signed as a true record.

#### Matters Arising

Minute No 3 – Lifebuoy Recreation Ground – The Clerk confirmed that the new lifebuoy has been delivered and will be installed shortly.

#### **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**

PC Deniz reported on a recent incident at Stuckton Road Cemetery when padlocks were removed and a vehicle entered the cemetery – this vehicle was then used to perform stunts. PC Deniz advised that he had spoken with both Groundsmen regarding the Town Council considering purchasing a wildlife camera which could be set up and left recording – approximate cost £100 - £120.

There are currently no other concerns or problems – the Riverside Kiosk is doing well and has experienced no further incidents or damage. Problems of anti-social behaviour with vehicles in the car park have stopped and reports of incidents has fallen by a half.

The new proposed date for the team to move to their new offices in Provost Street is 21<sup>st</sup> November.

An incident regarding a fireworks party at Whitsbury Road was investigated last weekend, with the organiser being identified and who has agreed to distribute a flyer next year advising local residents of the event.

Following an earlier report of a drug-related arrest, PC Deniz reported that one person would appear at Bournemouth Court.

Cllr Perkins returned to the provision of a camera and queried what had happened to the camera previously purchased by the Town Council. PC Deniz advised that the Police would need permission to use this covert camera but that the camera should be returned to the Town Council for use. The camera has been used by Ringwood Police – PC Deniz and Town Clerk to ascertain whereabouts and retrieve.

Cllr Lewendon queried a car which had caused an obstruction in the High Street today – PC Deniz confirmed that this had broken down.

PC Deniz updated the meeting on an earlier issue raised by Cllr Perkins regarding parking at the top end of Provost Street, which had appeared to have ceased recently. Cllr Fulford confirmed that the parking further down this road and immediately over the bridge is not Brook Terrace residents – PC Deniz advised that the situation will be monitored and Cllr Connolly advised that incidents/obstructions should be reported through the 101 system.

PC Deniz left the meeting.

## **6. To receive a Report from the Mayor**

The Mayor reported on the following meetings attended during the month:

- 6/10 Art Exhibition
- 9/10 Tree Planting at Fordingbridge Day Nursery
- 16/10 M Weakley, re new Sports Facility & issues at the Concession Building
- 16/10 Late Night Shopping Traders meeting – very low attendance
- 17/10 Trip to Vimoutier, France for a Twinning event
- 23/10 The Fordingbridge Society – concerns raised over lack of progress to prepare Neighbourhood Plan
- 27/10 Rotary Club re Late Night Shopping and Remembrance Parade Traffic Management
- 30/10 Clerks Probation Interview
- 31/10 Poppy Concert with Hyde Band
- 3/11 Lions Club

## **7. To receive a Report from the County Councillor**

Cllr Heron reported on changes to the Hampshire Household Waste Recycling scheme. This will include:

- Introduction of facilities to dispose of Asbestos, Plasterboard and Soil and Rubble. There will be a limit on the amount dumped.
- Introduction of small traders facility at Household Recycling Centres
- Possible change to Opening Hours to operate short Winter hours throughout the year

Cllr Heron reported that Hampshire CC budgets were being finalised for 2015/16 and budgets for 2016/17 would need to be cut by a further £89M. With regard to Neighbourhood Plans, all Hampshire towns except Fordingbridge either had a plan or were preparing one – money is available to help with the cost of Neighbourhood Plans. The Chairman reported that the organisation which the Town Council hoped to employ, had ceased operating, however new consultants had taken over and it would now be easier to prepare a Plan. Item to be put on future Planning Agenda to discuss.

Cllr Wilson gave thanks to Cllr Heron for the £500 grant award towards the Christmas event and also for the works to level the area surrounding the crossings in the High Street. Cllr Lewendon raised concern over blocked highway drains in several locations – this will be reported to Highways.

Cllr Connolly raised concern over flooding on the A338 by pass. Cllr Heron advised that the original drainage scheme put in place when the by-pass was built had always worked well until last winter's severe flooding; at which time pumps needed to be installed to remove floodwaters. Since this time, a problem occurs when the pumps are switched off and even relatively low rainfall causes flooding – investigation into the problem is being carried out.

Cllr Perkins advised that the Highways section together with the Environment Agency would be inspecting the waterway at Redbrook Cottages shortly to try to alleviate flooding problems.

Cllr Fulford raised the provision of the safety bollards in Church Street – Cllr Heron confirmed that an additional post would be provided (3) and that he would contact Highways regarding progress.

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

Cllr Sevier reported on recent actions in the Puddleslosh/Marl Lane area

- Travellers Touring Caravan removed
- Article 4 direction in place for the whole area of the original parcel of land, which prevents further enclosures being formed
- Sequoia Farm, Quail House application going to NFDC committee next week
- Small Business Saturday Free parking Day 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014 – all NFDC car parks

Cllr Fulford advised that despite the Article 4 Direction, fencing is still being erected in the area. The situation in the area is very aggravated with residents being intimidated and fearful of complaining further. Cllr Sevier advised that the Officer recommendation to Committee to allow the Head of Planning to grant permission would be challenged but valid Planning reasons were needed to refuse the application. Discussion also took place regarding reported fears to the police, which had been done. One landowner had been given permission to erect fencing to allow vehicles to be parked off of the lane in order that emergency vehicles could still pass. Cllr Sevier confirmed that Fordingbridge would be represented on all issues.

Cllr Bellows reported on a recent meeting regarding the S106 Developer Contributions and confirmed that the portfolio holder had approved the allocations requested – this would be under the heading of "Improvements to the Recreation Ground".

Fly tipping at Sweatsford Water – Cllr Bellows reported that the person responsible had been identified and Environmental Health were dealing with this.

Cllrs Heron, Sevier and Bellows left the meeting.

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

- Planning Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 **RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be received.
- Amenities 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 **RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be received.
- General Purposes 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 **RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 be received.
- Finance & Policy Committee 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014 **RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be received.

Cllr (G) Wilson left the meeting

## **10. To report on any Health and Safety Matters**

Cllr Anstey raised concern that the Lifebuoy still had not been replaced at the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Lewendon raised concern over the condition of the surface of the Recreation Ground car park and the access road thereto. Item to be placed on Amenities Agenda for 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 to discuss options.

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

Cllr Hale

### **Cllr Hale**

#### **Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteers - AGM – Tuesday 14th October**

Graham Long reported on the last year and was pleased with the amount of work carried out on the sites and the wildlife which the sites attract. There had been good progress on Bishops Pond with two surveys carried out, but the group is unable to maintain the Whitsbury Road site properly and many of the plants had been destroyed by the flooding

There had been fewer Himalayan Balsam pulling sessions as there appeared to be less plants this year. This will be monitored and any findings reported to Hampshire Wildlife Trust

There was discussion about low membership and it was agreed the group needs more publicity, but does not have the expertise to set up and maintain its own website. It was agreed that enquiries should be made to include events on the Town Council website

The Group is still looking for more advice on how to restore the pond as this would only be possible if the pond is excavated and lined with clay or a pond liner. Should there be one large pond or smaller ponds of different depths? There should be grants available once these decisions are made

#### **Victoria Room Trust - Trustee Meeting – Thursday 30th October**

John Saunders has written to users asking them not to over-ride the heating controls as this has meant the heating has been left on when the building is not in use. Heating is one of the greatest expenses and users were advised that hire costs would increase if this happened in future

The grant for redecorating the first floor rooms has been paid and work is planned for March 2015

The manufacturer of the stair lift has said that parts are no longer available and it needs to be replaced. Newer versions use a chair instead of a platform and have smaller tracks so this will be a major alteration. John is investigating if grants are available

One of the VR Friends has made a ramp to allow wheelchair access from the car park. Mike Castle has been asked to investigate the front gutters and downpipes. The Trustees agreed to arrange repairs to the front porch

**Cllr Anstey** reported on a Sports Club meeting attended on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 when the following items were discussed:

- Hockey Club – now holding Pilates classes in Sports club
- Sports Club exploring provision of defibrillator

- Hampshire FA Coaching sessions – Cllr Anstey sent charges to Football Club
- Cost of electricity for Rugby Floodlights being met by Town council
- Environmental Health visit to Sports club – 7 Members to attend Food Hygiene course

Cllr Anstey also reported on a meeting with White Star Running Group who are hoping to organise a Marathon in Fordingbridge on the weekend of 26/27<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Would like a list of local organisations/groups, will submit plan to the Council by the end of this month, costs to be discussed at Amenities meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Concern over whether event will be successful as the New Forest marathon did not happen this year. Football and Rugby Clubs aware that Recreation Ground will be unavailable over this weekend.

Cllr Connolly reported that Cllr Anstey would attend the Remembrance ceremony in Belgium at which time the helmet of the late Col Clementi, a former Fordingbridge resident, would be handed over to the Town Council for display in Fordingbridge Museum for a 4 year period, Cllr Anstey confirmed that he was investigating the provision of a modern day helmet to be displayed alongside that of Col. Clementi.

Cllr Wilson suggested that the defibrillator for the Sports Club could be funded by the Friends of Fordingbridge Hospital.

Cllr Connolly reported that both the Fordingbridge Society and the Fordingbridge Royal British Legion were suffering through lack of membership and potentially could cease to exist. Cllr Connolly will take over as Chairman of the British Legion for a temporary period. Suggests a fair could be held in the Town Hall for all local clubs to raise awareness of their activities and recruit new members – the Town Council need to support these organisations as much as possible – agreed to discuss at future meeting.

## **12. To note any items of correspondence**

No items of correspondence.

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

The Clerk reported that the Street Lighting replacement had been completed in Church Street, with the Heritage style lamps – Cllr Fulford confirmed that these were now fully operational. Cllr Perkins reported that the lights in Shaftesbury Street were still of the old type and Cllr (A) Wilson reported that the trees around the lights in Station Road had been pruned.

Cllr Lewendon raised concern over the ditch in Flood Street which now floods and needs clearing and also at Outwick Lane.

Cllr Connolly reminded Members of the Rotary Club Quiz Night (to raise funds for the Christmas Lights). This would be held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014 at the Avonway Community Centre and the Council needed 2 further members to form a team.

## **14. To note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm